

THE INDICATOR

Beckenham Methodist Church

April - May 2016



Where lies the sin?

One Sunday morning in Lent at Bromley Road we were reflecting on sin. Just a brief look back in time reveals that what the church considers to be sinful has changed dramatically over the years. I remember seeing a film in 2002 about three teenage girls in Ireland sent to one of the Magdalene Asylums. These were laundries run by the Magdalene sisters for ‘fallen’ girls or young women. Life was cruel and harsh and when the woman’s baby was born the infant was immediately given up for adoption. The woman had no rights over her own child. One survivor of a Magdalene Asylum describes her experiences as being much worse than even that portrayed in the heart wrenching film. Christine Gaskin reminded me of a more recent film ‘Philomena’ starring Judi Dench which came out in 2013.

This was a true story of a woman in later life trying to find the baby she had mourned for so many years. The baby on becoming an adult had tried to trace his mother but the abuse continued as, on travelling to Ireland from the US, he was denied the information he craved. So, we ask ourselves ‘where lies the sin?’ These teenage girls, many entirely ignorant of the facts of life, many sexually abused and raped, were they sinful as the church labelled them or were they victims? Did not the sin lie with the abusing power, namely the Church? Only in recent years has the sin of the Church been recognised. And, in case we think abuse happened only in other denominations, in 2015 the Methodist Church published the report of an independent review of past safeguarding cases related to the Church from 1950 to 2014.

Speaking on behalf of the Church, the Secretary of the Methodist Conference and General Secretary the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins has issued a full and unreserved apology to survivors and victims of abuse in response to the report:

“On behalf of the Methodist Church in Britain I want to express an unreserved apology for the failure of its current and earlier processes fully to protect children, young people and adults from physical and sexual abuse inflicted by some ministers in Full Connexion and members of the Methodist Church. That abuse has been inflicted by some Methodists on children, young people and adults is and will remain a deep source of grief and shame to the Church.”

“We have not always listened properly to those abused or cared for them, and this is deeply regrettable. In respect of these things we have, as a Christian Church, clearly failed to live in ways that glorify God and honour Christ . . . The Methodist Church has already taken measures to improve safeguarding across the Connexion and implementing the learning from this review will be the next step to ensuring that the Church can be a safe place for all.”

Our understanding of ‘sin’ has changed so much in recent years and on so many issues. The Church seeks repentance for the pain and suffering inflicted on those it declared to be sinful, namely unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, gay people and many more who were targeted and excluded.

If we, the Church, have been so wrong in the past what about today? What collective sin might we point to today? Our support as a nation for nuclear weapons?

No faith in Trident

On Saturday 27th February there was a huge trident rally, the biggest anti-nuclear march in a generation. At 11am Hinde Street Methodist Church was packed out as Christians of all denominations gathered together in worship and prayer. We sang, spent time in silence with prayers for peace. Later we joined the many thousands of others to begin the rally walking from Marble Arch to Trafalgar Square.



The British Methodist Church has a long-held position against Trident. Along with the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church a statement was issued saying that the use of nuclear weapons ‘violates the principle of dignity for every human being’. So the Methodist Church, along with so many others recognises the nuclear deterrent as sinful and is committed to work to develop a robust plan of action that will lead us to a world free of nuclear weapons.

The government's response to the huge support for the anti-trident rally was this:

'Michael Fallon, defence secretary announced on 3rd March a further £642 million in further spending on a replacement for Trident nuclear submarines even though parliament is not scheduled to vote on whether to go ahead with the programme until later this year.

The move will make it harder to pull out of the project as substantial sums have been spent already. So far £3.9 billion. Total cost of the programme, which has risen steadily, is estimated to be £31 billion.'

The Guardian Friday 4 March 2016

Lent 2016 has been a special time when we have taken the opportunity to reflect on some of the troubling social issues of our time. In our midweek services at Bromley Road we have followed the Lent course provided by the London district of the Methodist Church. Each week we have been presented with a different issue: Health, Housing, the Environment . . . We have reflected theologically on these issues and our response as Christians.

The problems of our world may seem intractable, but the sin is to believe that there is nothing we can do.

Revd Barbara Calvert

A prayer for vision

Lord:

*Help us to see in the groaning of creation
not death but birth pangs;*

*Help us to see in suffering a promise for the future,
because it is a cry against the inhumanity
of the present.*

*Help us to glimpse in protest the dawn of justice,
in the cross the pathway to resurrection,
and in suffering the seeds of joy.*

Amen

An Orcadian evening

with

Barbara Calvert

6pm Saturday 18th June 2016

Beckenham Methodist Church, Bromley Road

Talk and slides of Orkney

Scottish hot supper

Proceeds to The Mission to Seafarers

Tickets £6



The Mission to Seafarers

Caring for seafarers around the world

On the night of June 4th/5th I shall be cycling all night. I am taking part in the charity event Nightrider and raising funds for The Mission to Seafarers. Our route is 100km in and around London.

I shall be visiting family in Orkney again in May. In Orkney the sea has a dominant presence. One of my cousins who lives on the mainland at Scrabster, (not far from the former holiday home of the Queen Mother, Castle of Mey in Caithness) has been involved with the work of Missions to Seafarers for many years.

Piracy, shipwreck, abandonment and separation from loved ones are just a few of the problems merchant seafarers face. Around the world, the Mission to Seafarers provides help and support to the 1.5 million men and women who face danger every day to keep our global economy afloat.

The Mission to Seafarers work in 200 ports caring for seafarers of all ranks, nationalities and beliefs.

Through their global network for chaplains, staff and volunteers they offer practical, emotional and spiritual support to seafarers through ship visits, drop-in-centres and a range of welfare and emergency support services.



The new Rector at St George's Church

On Thursday 17 March St George's entered a new chapter when the Rev Jeremy Blunden was welcomed and inducted as the new Rector. This is called a Collation. This involves us all, as St George's is part of Churches Together in Beckenham of which our Church is also a member. I can speak as a full member of the Methodist Church, which I joined in March 2003, and I also remain a full member of the Anglican Church.

The inspiring service was led by the Bishop of Rochester, Rt Rev James Langstaff and the Venerable Dr Paul Wright, Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley. They were supported by the resident team of curates and lay readers at St George's which we have had the pleasure of knowing over the last few years.

After introductions Rev Jeremy Blunden swore allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen and obedience to the Bishop. The Church of England is part of the one holy Catholic Church so Jeremy declared his faith in the Holy Scriptures, the Book of Common Prayer and the creeds. The service continued with parishioners presenting the new Rector with a Bible, a Service Book and other symbols of our faith.

Other members of the congregation voiced their support, including a child representing the young people. All finally came together with an act of Communion.

Churches Together in Beckenham were represented at the service despite other commitments for some on the night. Afterwards there was time to enjoy refreshments together and I was pleased to be able to speak to the new Rector's wife. We look forward to welcoming the whole family during the coming months.

Christine Gaskin

TCs NEWS

Staffing: At present, as you know, we are open each weekday between 10.30am and 2.30pm, but in the future it could well be a realistic possibility that we will be closing earlier due to lack of regular staff and accounting for slack periods.

We are very grateful to the two new volunteers, i.e. Revd. Barbara Calvert and David Keall who have been helping us over recent weeks.

I would ask you to be aware that from September I will no longer be responsible for staffing. Who would like to take over please? If no one comes forward, with co-operation and goodwill, the volunteers will have to work out duties between themselves when gaps in the rota, due to holidays and emergencies, occur.

Cake Making: Two or three members have kindly come forward and made delicious cakes which have been well received! Thank you to them. If anyone else can help us with this task please have word with me. As has been stated, the cost of ingredients will be reimbursed as required.

Thank You: My thanks, again, to all our volunteers who have served TCs for many years, enabling us not only to donate to many causes, but providing all our customers with cheerful service and a safe environment.

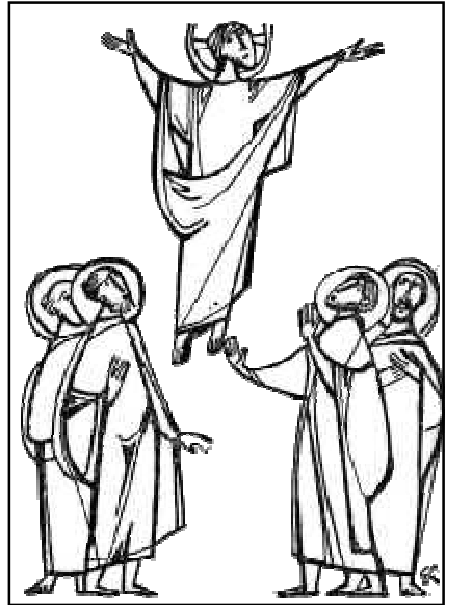
Valerie Wilson

LOOK!

The new TRAUDCRAFT, EMBRACE and LEPROSY MISSION catalogues are now in TCs.

Please look at the Notice and Order Forms which are in the New Room at Bromley Road. Thank you.

Wendy



What a Day!

**Sunday 15th May 2016 is:
A United Service at Bromley Road at 10.30am**



and

Gift Day

Christian Aid Sunday



=====

12 Noon General Church Meeting

**Please attend to elect your church representatives and see
the presentation of draft plans for the redevelopment**

=====

1pm join in Fellowship over Lunch

Kim's Window

There is a special window
from which God calls to me.
It's while I'm relaxing,
having a cup of tea.

I often just tell him the words
"I am here".
He whispers those words right back to me,
for I know that he is near.

Dear God I thank you
upon your mountain high
for the special window,
the window to the sky.

And when the church was built
and they placed that window in,
I wonder if they said,
"We'll put it there for Kim".

So next time you're in the tea room,
resting your feet for a while,
look up to the special window
and have a little smile.

Written by Kim Walker, on looking from TCs [Bromley Road Church] at the circular stained glass window above the organ.

Get your Indicator by email

Should any person wish to receive an electronic copy of the Indicator rather than having a printed version, please do let Jenny Nichols know on:- jenny.nichols1@ntlworld.com

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

BECKENHAM: Clothes Bank at Holy Trinity Church

BROMLEY: Night Shelter at Baptist Church

UK: Methodist Fund for Human Need

As you will see, there are **three** areas where our church is endeavouring to make a difference with regard to those who are in need in our local community and in the wider community.

- **THE CLOTHES BANK:** is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 10.30am—12 noon and we are able to give out various items of clothing and toiletries collected, not only from our church but from other churches in the neighbourhood, to those, mostly men, who come to see us; they are most grateful and appreciative.

Thank you to all who are kindly putting items of clothing and toiletries in ‘that box’ in the New Room.

- **THE NIGHT SHELTER:** this plays a similar role in helping those who come to them by providing clothing and toiletries.

Colin & Valerie Wilson

- **THE METHODIST FUND FOR HUMAN NEED:** is administered by Trustees and chaired by Revd. Roger Cresswell and helps the many urgent and often desperate cases which come to them (around 40 requests every month) by giving grants from this fund.

An appeal was made in January through the Methodist Recorder for the reintroduction of the Benevolence Fund in churches so that donations could be made from this fund to FHN to help to maintain this vital work in the UK.

Our Church Council members have agreed to give a donation of £700.00 from our Benevolence Fund to this cause, while leaving a suitable amount for local disbursement by our Minister, locally, as and when needed.



Do you knit? (or would you like to learn?)

Our Knitting Group has been running for a few weeks now.

When Irene Antwi, a Health Visitor and member at Clock House, heard of our Knitting Group she immediately asked if we could knit breasts which are used by health visitors and midwives to show young Mums how to breast feed.



A dozen breasts have left our busy needles so far!

Our next request from MHA (Methodist Homes for the Aged) is to knit Twiddlemuffs.

These are knitted hand muffs with items such as ribbons, large buttons, beads, zips, pompoms, crocheted flowers or textured fabrics attached. They can provide a source of visual, tactile and sensory stimulation at the same time as keeping hands snug and warm.



People with dementia often have restless hands and like something to keep them occupied but in some circumstances they can also be calming for others who may be experiencing anxiety.

Knitting is also needed by hospitals, women's refuges, refugee drop in centres, prisons, community groups, and hospices as well as in developing countries. Warm adult clothes, children's cardigans and jumpers, baby teddies and jackets, bed socks, scarves, adult hats and large sized blankets. Patterns, wool, needles provided ...or bring your own.

Come along to knit, to learn to knit – or just to enjoy a cup of coffee - and the company of knitters. It is fun!

**10.30 – 12 noon Wednesdays
at TC's Community Café,
Beckenham Methodist Church,
Bromley Road**

P.S. Many thanks to Ben's mum who has given us some lovely hand knitted blankets and soft toys to bring comfort to those in need.

Ascension Day

Thursday, 5th May at 8.00pm

In the early 1960's, the Revd. Ken Pillar (then Vicar of St. Paul's) and the late Revd. Harold Wood (then Minister at Bromley Road) and their two congregations undertook a week long Mission to Larkfield, a village further out in Kent, which was an amazing experience for all those who took part, and cemented a friendship which has lasted to the present day.

Another result of this partnership has been sharing a Service on Ascension Day, including Holy Communion, in each other's churches together with an exchange of pulpits. This is a happy example of two churches coming together for worship.

As we are hosts this year we invite as many of our members as possible to be present to welcome our friends from St. Paul's together with their Vicar, Revd. Vinc Short. The Service is followed by refreshments and conversation.



OPEN DOOR

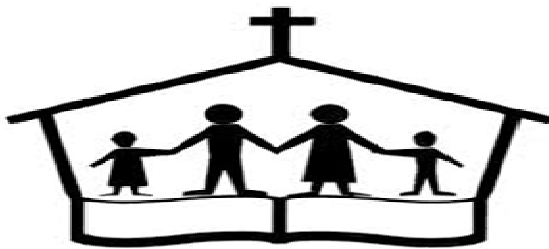
**Mondays 2 to 3.30pm in the Wesley Lounge at
Bromley Road.**

APRIL

- 4th** **Revd Barbara Calvert**
- 11th** **Games Afternoon**
- 18th** **Meet the Midwife - Mary Sawyer**
- 25th** **Telling the story of Easter to Pentecost
through Art posters**

MAY

- 2nd** **No meeting - BANK HOLIDAY**
- 9th** **Revd Jack Beeson**
- 16th** **Revd Barbara Calvert - Christian Aid**
- 23rd** **Deacon Pat Soule**
- 30th** **No meeting - BANK HOLIDAY**



NEWS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

David Jackson: We are so glad to report that following his heart attack David is home again and with Mary's care and the help of medication is recovering.

David Hancock: is continuing to struggle with various health problems and we will continue to remember him in our prayers.

Dmitry Oniye (aged 7): was baptised on Sunday, 13th March and we rejoice that he has started on his Christian journey to confirmation.

Paulette Tomlinson: also on Sunday, 13th March was received into Membership and we welcome her into our Church Family.

Gordon Wilson (Scout Leader): We are sorry to learn that Gordon has broken a bone in his ankle and we wish him a good recovery. At the time he slipped on muddy ground and fell he was undertaking his assessment for the Countryside Leader Award to run Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme expeditions, which he passed, but at what cost — six weeks in plaster!

BIRTHDAYS

To all those celebrating birthdays in April and May, we wish them an enjoyable day!



MEN'S FORUM - PROGRAMME 2016

Our Men's Forum meets monthly on the second Saturday at our Clock-house Road site to provide Christian fellowship based upon presentations of interest followed by discussion.

We are pleased to join in witness with our brothers and sisters at Bromley Methodist Church at their Thursday Lunch Time Services.

All interested to join our group are asked to contact **Graham McLeod** on 0208 325 5243 or 07534 184471 or join us at any of our meetings.

- Saturday 9th April 11.00 Cliff Watkins - celebrating persons associated with Clock House Road
- Thursday 14th April 12.15 Lunch at The Warren to remember Alan Durston's contribution to The Men's Forum
Guests welcome
- Thursday 28th April 12.15 Bromley Methodist Church followed by lunch at The Bricklayers, Chipstead
- Saturday 14th May 11.00 David Keall recalling exceptional cases with which he has dealt
- Thursday May 26 12.15 Bromley Methodist Church followed by lunch at The Kings Head, Leaves Green
- Saturday June 11 11.00 Martin Ball at the organ at Bromley Road

Clock House Road Services

The 4.00pm Sunday Service followed by Tea at Clock House Road has now been taking place for a month and it is hoped that numbers attending will continue to grow.

Clock House Road now has a new Facebook Page — please take a look if you are able.

Beckenham Methodist Church

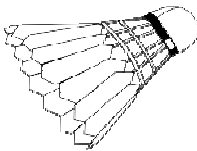


Olympics
at 5pm on Saturday 14th May 2016



*Fundraising for
Christian Aid*

Save the date! Saturday 14th May from 5pm onwards at Beckenham Methodist Church Bromley Road. All are welcome to participate or come as spectators for this social event for all ages as part of the Church anniversary weekend. We plan to have tournaments of a variety of games to suit all abilities such as:



Badminton



Scrabble



Table Tennis



**Aware (Traditional
African Game)**



Quiz

Refreshments will be available for sale. If you would like to volunteer to help organise this event please let Judith Reep or one of the Stewards know.

Thank You.

CHURCHES TOGETHER in BECKENHAM

Welcome to Beckenham:

On 17th March, Revd. Jeremy Blunden was inducted as the Rector of St. George's. One of our members attended this service and has written about it for us. You can find this on page 6 of the Indicator.

Farewell:

Our good friend Sr. Jo Harvey, along with the rest of the congregation of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, will be leaving Beckenham to go to St. John's Wood. All are welcome to their Farewell Service on:

**Saturday 2nd July 2016 at noon at St. Edmund's RC
Church, Village Way, Beckenham**

Future Events:


During the year ahead another joint picnic will be held by CTiB, this year in September. Please watch the coming Indicators and Sunday Notices for more details in due course.

Maureen Bull & Christine Handel

Please send articles for the next Indicator, covering June and July 2016, to :-

**Jenny Nichols - e-mail: jenny.nichols1@ntlworld.com or
Christine Handel - e-mail: christine.handel@ntlworld.com
by Sunday 22nd May 2016 at the latest for distribution
on Sunday 5th June 2016.**

Volunteers are requested to join the Folding and Stapling Party at 10.00am on Thursday 2nd June in the Wesley Lounge at Bromley Road.



Church Flowers - Bromley Road

April	3rd	Mary Cook
	10th	Valerie Wilson
	17th	Diane Chorley
	24th	Margaret Hazlewood
May	1st	June & Ken White
	8th	Christine Handel
	15th	Joy Huggett
	22nd	Ena Hamblyn
	29th

Church Flowers - Clock House Road

April	3rd	Venus Leon
	10th	Mary Sawyer
	17th	Lum & Roy
	24th	Irene Antwi
May	1st	Maureen Bull
	8th	Venus Leon
	15th	Mary Sawyer
	22nd	Lum & Roy
	29th	Irene Antwi

If anyone wishes to join in these Rotas please contact Margaret Hazlewood for BR or Irene Antwi for CHR

PONDERISMS

Can you cry under water ?

Why do you have to “put your two pennyworth in”...but it’s only a “penny for your thoughts” ?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box ?

What disease did cured ham actually have ?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage ?

Why is it that people say they “slept like a baby” when babies wake up like every two hours ?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground ?

Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat ?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours ? They’re both dogs!

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from ?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog’s face he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out of the window ?

[The conclusions of the Editing Team on the above issues can be found on page 25!!]

Sunday Services

Bromley Road at 10.30am

Mr David Lemmon

3rd April

Revd Barbara Calvert

10th April

Mr Jim Holman

17th April

Major Cliff Kent

24th April

Revd Barbara Calvert
Holy Communion

1st May

Mr David Dingley

8th May

**** 15th May ****

Revd Barbara Calvert - Church Anniversary - United Service
10.30 am at Bromley Road Church

Mrs Maureen Bull

22nd May

Mrs Margaret Smith

29th May

Clockhouse Road at 4.00pm

Revd Barbara Calvert
All Age Worship

Mrs Margaret Smith
All Age Worship

Revd Barbara Calvert
All Age Worship

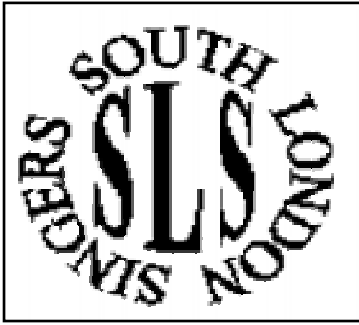
Revd Karen George
All Age Worship

Revd Barbara Calvert
Holy Communion
All Age Worship

Deacon Laura MacBean
All Age Worship

Revd Barbara Calvert
All Age Worship

Mr David Lemmon
All Age Worship



As announced in the last Indicator the next SLS Concert will be held at Bromley Road on **Saturday April 9th at 7.45pm**. An exploration of the European Tradition of Sacred Music will involve the choir singing in French, Latin, German and Russian! As usual well known pieces like Mozart's **Ave Verum**, Franck's Panis Angelicus and Fauré's **Cantique de Jean Racine** will be heard alongside less familiar pieces by the

likes of Telemann, Grieg, Rachmaninov, Bach, Palestrina and Mendelssohn. The first half will conclude with Haydn's **Little Organ Mass**, a glorious piece which was recently featured in the Easter Morning Service broadcast on BBC Radio 4.

The choir is delighted to have two eminent violinists accompanying some of the works with David Thorne providing organ continuo as well as a solo piece of his own. The violinists will be playing Vivaldi's Concerto in A Minor for Two Violins. One of them, Rosemary Lock, grew up in Beckenham and was a member of the Wesley Youth Club at this church before becoming a professional violinist and playing for many years with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, often seen on the Last Night of the Proms. Tickets are now available from TCs or choir members including Carol Jefferies, Comfort Lawson, David Jackson and Mary Cook.

Answers to 'Cuba Quiz Time' from Feb/March 2016 Indicator

1. What is the capital of Cuba? *Havana*
2. What are the colours of the Cuban flag? *Red, white and blue - like the Trogon Bird, the Cuban National Emblem*
3. What is the chief export of Cuba? *Sugar*
4. How many people live in Cuba? *About 11,500,000*
5. What animal does the map of Cuba look like? *Crocodile*
6. What flower is the national emblem of Cuba? *White butterfly jasmine*
7. When was the revolution in Cuba? *1959*
8. Who was the first European to reach Chile? *Christopher Columbus*

USEFUL CONTACTS

Beckenham Methodist Church

(Registered Charity No. 1138006)

Bromley Road Church BR3 5JE & Clockhouse Road Church BR3 4JP
0208 650 2763 0208 663 6149

Minister in Charge: Revd. Barbara Calvert 8658 6484

Senior Steward: Jenny Nichols 8460 6713

Church Council Secretary: Sheila Priestman 8460 1091

Church Treasurer: Mark Cheesman 8249 5522

Junior Church Co-ordinator: Mary Cook 8656 2815

Flower Secretaries: BR - Margaret Hazlewood 7733 6116
CHR - Irene Antwi 8778 2124

Property Co-ordinator: David Jackson 8656 2815

Property Stewards: Colin Wilson 8464 3768
David Jackson 8656 2815
Barry Stewart 8325 8861
Roy Charles 8402 5562
Graham McLeod 8325 5243

Room Booking Officers: BR David Jackson 8656 2815
CHR Graham McLeod 8325 5243

Brownies: Carole Dewar 8650 9027

Guides: Karen Millican 8650 6248

Beavers: Mandy Sarhane 8650 4822

Cubs: Steve Shirley 8650 0330

Scouts: Gordon Wilson 8650 1035

Web Site: <http://www.beckenhammethodistchurch.co.uk>

Circuit Web Site: <http://www.bromleymethodistcircuit.org.uk>