



THE INDICATOR

Beckenham Methodist Church

Autumn 2026

Dear Friends,

Like me, you may be thinking that we've been here before. Let me explain what's happening. It was four years ago that I first stepped up from the back benches to take on the job of looking after this congregation. That was because there wasn't a minister available from the pool of those in what The Methodist Church calls 'the active work' (generally ministers under retirement age). Now, here we are again. There isn't a minister in the active work available so it's up from the back benches again for me and we hope that there will be an active work minister available next year.

Methodist Church rules don't allow a supernumerary (retired) minister like me to be 'in pastoral charge', i.e. officially responsible for a congregation, so the arrangement is that Rev Karen George is the Minister in Pastoral Charge at Beckenham Methodist Church while I am the everyday 'go to' minister for whatever arises but particularly for all aspects of pastoral care. This is almost the same arrangement that we had in 2022-24 except that we then had Deacon Laura involved as well. When we remember that, due to the shortage of ministers in the active work, Karen is both circuit superintendent and in pastoral charge of nine churches, we can see that she has more than enough to be getting on with and can't be everywhere all the time, hence the need for people like me. I'm also doing a similar job at Chislehurst Methodist Church for the same reasons.

It's not just the church that's having to make adjustments in the face of adverse circumstances. You won't need me to tell you that we live in what (apparently) the Chinese call 'interesting times'. Unpredictable, whimsical or plainly homicidal world leaders, heat waves, wild fires and much more; it is a frightening and hostile world for many people. There is an important place for people of faith in times like these; we can show the difference our faith makes in the way we live and work together. It is collectively that we are the body of Christ in the world. Within that collective identity it is through each of us doing whatever is within our compass as need and opportunity arise that the body of Christ functions properly; that's how we show a fractious and factional world the

difference faith makes. The year ahead will be busy, interesting and, I believe, exciting. There will be lots of opportunities to make a difference in the world and in our church where we regularly need church officers like stewards. Let's grasp the opportunities together, as the body of Christ.

Every blessing

David

John Wesley's Manifesto

1. *Reduce the gap between rich people and poor people*
2. *Help everyone to have a job*
3. *Help the poorest, including introducing a living wage*
4. *Offer the best possible education*
5. *Help everyone to feel they can make a difference*
6. *Promote tolerance*
7. *Promote equal treatment for women*
8. *Create a society based on values and not on profits and consumerism*
9. *End all forms of slavery*
10. *Avoid getting into wars*
11. *Share the love of God with everyone*
12. *Care for the environment*

FROM THE VESTRY

Hello again from the Vestry and the stewards (Judith, Margaret, Janet, Kojo, Barry & Sandra)

It's the time of year when we look forward to what the new connexional year has in store and also when we look back at the year that's just gone. We've now said 'Farewell' to Duncan and Laura and it was good to see Beckenham well represented at their leaving service at Bromley, back in July.

Since the last 'From the Vestry' in May, it's been confirmed that Rev David Morris has kindly agreed to look after Beckenham for the next year and the stewards are very much looking forward to working with him for the next 12 months.

You may remember that in the last 'From the Vestry', I mentioned that we were planning to increase the stewarding team to eight people, rather than six, for one year, to support whichever minister would be looking after Beckenham. This is now David, rather than Rev Karen and David is no stranger to Beckenham and its ways, however, the aspiration is to still have a stewarding team of eight for the year. To date, no new stewards have been found, but the search continues and this is particularly important, as four of the current stewards will be stepping down in August 2027 and I'm sure Kojo and Janet won't want to be left on their own after that. Watch this space.

In the meantime, Judith Reep will become Senior Steward for the next year. Please keep Judith in your thoughts and prayers as she takes on this important role in the life of our Church.

Do also keep reading the weekly notices for details of special services and other events that come along. There might be a pleasant surprise one week.

Sandra – Outgoing Senior Steward

EDITORS' NOTE



We hope you enjoy this copy of The Indicator. You will see that this quarter there are articles from some church members that will interest and inform and we hope you enjoy them. We are always pleased to receive contributions. Please speak to either of us if you would like to provide an article or suggestion for future magazines.

As usual our thanks to Sarah for all the help and support she provides towards the production.

Valerie and Christine



PERSONALIA



We are very saddened to have to report the sudden death of one of our organists, Dr Harry Brama, last weekend in his home at Chislehurst. I had only been talking to him on Friday morning about future organ playing dates and his preparations for his ninetieth birthday celebrations in November.

We were very fortunate to have known him and had him play for us here at Beckenham where he felt very welcomed and part of the family. He was a great fan of our organ and enjoyed playing it. We will miss him.

Shortened version of announcement in last week's notices
DJ

A FAREWELL FROM DUNCAN AND LAURA

The circuit said a formal farewell to Duncan and Laura on Sunday 12 July. We are sorry to see them leave but hope they will be very happy in their new postings in Broadstairs. For those of you who were not able to make it on the day here are a couple of pictures Brenda took.



Dear friends,

It has taken me a while to get the headspace required to process the many kind words and generous gifts from so many people across the circuit. To misquote Elton John, 'Goodbye' seems to be the hardest word. After our final Sunday services, Laura and I sat down to a Full English breakfast on Monday morning (at Raife's in West Wickham - lovely food). We talked about the 'long farewell' and Laura said that it has been a good ending. It has indeed been good, and I remain grateful for the kind words, kind gifts, and genuine love shown to our family.

To quote John Wesley, 'Best of all is, God is with us'. It has been a joyful journey with all of you, and finding and celebrating the presence of God has been the best part of it.

Goodbye and thanks for all the fish.*

Yours,
Duncan

(*Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy)



PRAYER TIME

Prayer Time meets on Sunday mornings before Service in the Wesley Lounge between 10.10 a.m. and 10.25 a.m.



ZIMBABWE PRAYER FOCUS – AUGUST 2026

Whatever you do, give thanks

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”.

COLOSSIANS 3:17

Paul’s words to the church at Colossae are a reminder that thanksgiving is not something we save for the good years. It belongs in everything we do (in word and deed) and it belongs to God, whose provision lies behind every sack of mealie meal, every seed planted and every vegetable grown. As we look at the work in Zimbabwe this year, we find much for which to thank Him.

With grateful hearts, giving thanks:

For the ability to continue our relief feeding programme, delivering at least 10 tonnes of mealie meal every month to the most desperate areas. In places such as Lupane, high levels of kinship care (children raised by elderly grandparents) and deep poverty mean growing enough food is simply not possible and the monthly delivery continues to be a lifeline.



For the continued flourishing of the Intuthuko Nutritional Garden. More than 20 families have now taken ownership of the project, a regular market has been established for the vegetables they grow, and a free-range chicken project is being developed thanks to the generosity of one of our longstanding partner churches.



For the 18 tonnes of seed maize recently donated by the Mike Campbell Foundation, which will be distributed in good time for planting later this year and which we pray will bring a harvest to feed recipient families into

2027.

The need, however, remains great:
Please pray for:

The estimated 100,000 Zimbabweans who have returned home following (some violent) anti-foreigner protests in South Africa. They have left behind jobs and income to return to high unemployment and no support.

For protection from another severe drought in 2026/27 which is a real possibility given the predicted return of the El Nino weather phenomenon.

For wisdom for the ZVSF team and trustees as we explore a new project with Bulawayo Projects Centre to upskill young people from the Lupane area, enabling them to earn money to support their wider families at home.

For an end to the ongoing political turmoil and corruption which have a daily impact on the lives of ordinary Zimbabweans.



The ZVSF team and trustees

MUSICAL NOTES BY DJ

The South London Singers begin their 45th season with what they hope will be a very popular concert. Just for a change , they will be performing on a Sunday afternoon, November 1st at 4 30 pm in the church at Bromley Road. The programme will be Mendelssohn's "Hear my prayer" (O for the wings of a dove), Five Mystical Songs by Vaughan Williams and Faure's Requiem. Soloists are yet to be confirmed but it's guaranteed to be an afternoon of beautiful music. Tickets will be available through the SLS website but also, as always, by cash or card at the door. The choir hope that the afternoon start will be more attractive to music lovers as the evenings start to draw in. Do come!

Following that, it will be time to start thinking of Christmas and the choir will begin to rehearse for a programme of Carols and seasonal favourites, with some audience participation, ready for Saturday December 12th at 7pm. New members are always welcome and rehearsals will now begin at the earlier time of 7 30 pm, starting on Monday September 7th in our church for the Faure and November 9th for Christmas with special deals for newcomers.



DJ

BIRTHDAYS

To all those celebrating a birthday in September, October and November we wish them a very enjoyable day.

The same God who hung the stars knows your name.

TOKYO 2026

We left Heathrow on 18 March for another trip to Japan, to spend time with our family and explore the Tokyo area.

We arrived in time to see the cherry blossom, when families and friends picnic under the trees. The trees near the river were lit up and with our family we joined others sampling the food stalls. Celebrations continued as long as the blossom.



Our Grandchildren -Maya 13 and Kazuya 10- were at school part of the time, but we played UONO and board games in the evening. Maya enjoys helping make salads, I took a recipe for flapjack which she made. Kasuya is in a volleyball team with lots of training and we watched a tournament.

We explored local shops and cafes where you could watch the bakers making bread and cakes - and we sampled them!

We went to a 8.30 Communion service at Tokyo Union Church, the congregation was British, American and Japanese. The choir was robed, sang well and had a conductor and separate pianist. There was another service at 11pm and lots of activities in the week.

We stayed only 7 minutes walk from the station which was convenient. Travel on trains was usually easy, signs were in English. The larger stations could be confusing so our son and daughter in law took us to Tokyo station to catch the Shinkansen.

We booked a trip by Shinkansen which started in Tokyo and last stop Kyoto before returning to Tokyo. On route we made 3 stops. We saw the Hokusai museum in village of Obuse -he was known for paintings of waves but had decorated festival carts and did a painting of the Phoenix for the local temple.

Our second stop was to Kanazawa which had a restored castle, and we found Tourist Information helpful with maps, bus passes, where to eat and good English! The next day we visited famous Kenrokuen gardens with ponds, big fish and pruned trees. David had read about a Museum for a philosopher A T Susuki which had photographs about his life and shallow water outside with ripples- very peaceful.

We had been to our last stop Kyoto before and were disappointed how crowded it was now. To visit the Ryoanji temple we took a bus at 7.15am and arrived when it opened with just few people. When we left at 8.35 4 full coaches had arrived.

The temple is famous for its rock garden with 15 stones but wherever you sit you can only see 14. there is also raked gravel and a moss garden.



It is easy to eat in Tokyo with pictures of the food, places like Macdonalds and Starbucks or noodle bars, Pizza and Italian restaurants etc. A

traditional dish is Okonomiyaki, made in front of you with egg, cabbage, bits of pork or chicken all in a batter sandwich. We don't enjoy Japanese breakfasts so have muesli and yoghurt or we go to Starbucks! Eating with our family can be Japanese or English - chopsticks or knife and fork.

Tokyo is short of space so Sky or Rock gardens are common. We went to Meguro Sky Garden on 9th floor of the Meguro tower - lots of trees, bushes, paths and places to sit. There are also many beautiful ponds with fish, trees and flowers scattered around Tokyo.

We hope our family will come from Tokyo to London soon, to visit us, their cousins and aunt and uncle. In the meantime we recommend Tokyo to everyone.

Jacky

FUND FOR HUMAN NEED



How you have helped.

Compass Collective are an arts charity supporting young refugees and asylum seekers through creative projects and arts-led professional development programmes. They are based in London and work across the UK, both online and in person. They work directly with around 250 young people each year, helping them build skills, confidence and community, and to access further opportunities for study, volunteering and work. In February they applied for 2 young people.

RB was an asylum seeker but the evidence in support of his claim of persecution in his home country was refused as it had not been translated by an authorised translator. The cost for the authorised translator was £210. They had raised some but RB was only on £9 per week asylum allowance. If the information was not provided promptly the claim would be refused and he would be back to the beginning with a new submission. Award of £100.

KS had recently been granted his leave to remain in the UK, this as usual came with an eviction notice from his furnished accommodation. Fortunate enough to find a room for rent he was in need of some household basics including some bedding and cooking pots. Having only had an allowance of £9 per week he had no opportunity to get stuff together to move on. Award of £80.

FURTHER GOOD NEWS – Your donations for Sunday teas and coffees for August 2025 – August 2026 raised £1158.99.

Again, many thanks.

Valerie

LIVING WELL FOODBANK HARVEST APPEAL

SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER

You are invited to celebrate this occasion by bringing gifts of food. A list of gifts most needed at this time will appear in the Sunday notices on the two Sundays prior to this date.

Your usual support will be much appreciated by the team.

THANK YOU



NEWS FROM JOY'S KITCHEN –

Autumn 2026

We are delighted to welcome you all back to Joy's Kitchen after our summer break. We had a rather hot summer term at Joy's before we closed and iced coffees were very popular. On Tuesday 30th June we had a spot inspection by Bromley Environmental Health where we achieved a 5-star hygiene rating. Well done to the whole team!

On Saturday 11th July, we held our AGM and in addition to official business, we had a lovely celebration of the year at Joy's Kitchen and also a farewell to Deacon Laura. It was great to welcome some church council members to celebrate with us. We also met Chris Price, who will be taking over as Chairperson of the Joy's Kitchen committee for the next year. As well as being a local preacher, Chris also has experience as a local councillor and we are very grateful that he has agreed to take on this role.

Over the autumn term there will be homemade soup on the menu – back by popular demand! If there are any budding soup makers out there, we can accept donations of soup. If transporting it is a problem, we can accept it frozen. We will also be trialling omelettes on the autumn menu, so make sure you come down, try one and let me know what you think.

Chloe, Joy's Kitchen Manager



*Joy's Kitchen is back
Monday-Thursday*

10:30-14:30

Term Time only



***Homemade soup available
throughout autumn.***

We look forward to seeing you!



SENsational Church Update

Growing Together



to everyone who has supported SENsational Church. The project began as a New Places for New People (NPNP) circuit project hosted at Bromley Methodist Church. Your encouragement, prayers, volunteering and generosity have helped us take exciting steps towards creating a welcoming, inclusive community.

SENsational Church exists primarily for families with children, young people and adults with special educational needs and disabilities, while offering a place where people of all ages and abilities can belong, worship and enjoy fellowship together.

Since launching our monthly gatherings in January, we have been delighted to welcome both familiar and new faces following our 4 taster sessions last year. Our sessions include a short, accessible time of worship followed by a range of activities in different spaces, allowing everyone to take part in ways that suit them best. It has been wonderful to see friendships beginning to grow and families finding a place where they feel accepted and valued.

We are grateful for the seed funding we have received through the London Methodist District's New Places for New People programme, alongside the money raised through the sponsored walk by our Circuit Stewards, Jim and Sharon and a small sum from a trust fund that was part of West Wickham Methodist Church when it closed. These funds enabled us to build up suitable resources to get the project going and we are now planning how we will fund the project for the next year and beyond as well.

We are currently working on a simple video introducing parents and carers to the space we use and how SENsational Church works. This will help families know what to expect when they arrive. This will be

uploaded to the circuit website. In the meantime, do take a look at the Widmore Methodist Circuit website using link <https://widmorecircuit.com/sensational-church/> and see what our webpage looks like so far.

The London Methodist District is also planning to make a short promotional video about SENSational Church as an NPNP for use on tis social media. Keep an eye on the website as we hope to upload it there too when it is ready.

A colorful poster for SENSational Church. At the top, the title 'SENSational Church' is written in large, multi-colored letters. Below it, a logo shows three stylized figures in green, orange, and blue, with one figure in a wheelchair. To the right of the logo is a large black cross. Text below the logo reads: 'A welcoming church service with activities for people with special educational needs and disabilities, their families, friends and carers.' Below this, a purple banner says 'SUNDAYS • 2:00PM~4:00PM'. The poster is divided into two columns for the years 2026 and 2027. The 2026 column lists dates: 20 September, 18 October, 15 November, and 'No meeting in December'. The 2027 column lists dates: 17 January, 21 February, 21 March, 18 April, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July, and 'No meeting in August'. A QR code is on the left with the text 'Please scan for more details or contact us:'. Below the QR code is the email 'widmorecircuit@gmail.com' and the phone number 'or call 07835 809 967'. At the bottom right, it says 'EVERYONE IS WELCOME!' and 'Bromley Methodist Church, College Road, Bromley, BR1 3NS'.

As SENSational Church grows, so does our need for volunteers. If you would like to be part of the Sunday team, or simply come along to see what we do, we would love to welcome you.

We are also looking to strengthen the spiritual support behind the project. We would love at least one Prayer Friend from each church in the circuit to join our prayer team. Prayer Friends can support the ministry by praying regularly for SENSational Church and, where possible, joining monthly prayer meetings either on Zoom, WhatsApp video or in person. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who may not be able to volunteer on Sundays but would like to play an important part in this growing ministry. We hope that our new deacon will be able to develop this part of the project further.

If you would like to volunteer, become a Prayer Friend, or find out more about SENSational Church, please leave a message for Ann Woollins via the circuit Administrator, Joanne, on 07835 809 967 or send an email to widmorecircuit@gmail.com. Joanne will pass it on to her and the rest of the team.

With every blessing,
Deacon Laura MacBean and the SENSational Church team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27th September 2026

Church Anniversary and Gift Day

11th October 2026

Harvest Festival

21st November 2026

Beckenham Junior Choir Concert

13th December 2026

Christmas Gift Service

20th December 2026 (Evening)

Carol Service

Further details about each day will of course be given in the weekly notices.



OUR LORD

How great is our Master and King
Let us all dutifully praise Him and sing
For all the love He shows and brings
And the changes he has wrought and rings
For me and you he faithfully cares
Our worries and joys he lovingly shares
He wants to wipe away our childish tears
As He helps us with our needless fears
He fights for us – even when we are cowards
Our sins he forgives and our fears He mightily
over-powers
He delivers His love – hour by hour
Because we are His ‘seeds’ – and he sends us sunshine - and showers!

June G

FLOWERS IN CHURCH



ROTA for September, October, November

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 6th
Sunday 13th
Sunday 20th
Sunday 27th

Flowers provided by:

Ena Hamblyn
Mimi Faulkner
Mary Jackson
Wilson Family

Flowers arranged by:

Richard Phizacklea

Sandra Storch

OCTOBER

Sunday 4th
Sunday 11th
Sunday 18th
Sunday 25th

Flowers provided by:

Christine Handel
HARVEST
Celia Thomas

Flowers arranged by:

Richard Phizacklea
Margaret Hazlewood

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st
Sunday 8th
Sunday 15th
Sunday 22nd
Sunday 29th

Flowers provided by:

Margaret Hazlewood
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
Diane Chorley

Sheila Priestman

Flowers arranged by:

Richard Phizacklea
Mary Jackson
Margaret Hazlewood

Flowers arranged by providers unless otherwise stated.

Beckenham Methodist Church, Bromley Road
at 10.30am (unless otherwise stated)

Sunday 6th September	Rev David Morris <i>Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 13th September	Joan Mayes
Sunday 20th September	Alison Driscoll
Sunday 27th September	Rev Alex Terrett <i>Church Anniversary & Gift Day</i>
Sunday 4th October	Rev David Morris <i>Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 11th October	Rev Mike Cassidy <i>Harvest</i>
Sunday 18th October	Jim Holman
Sunday 25th October	Deacon Jessica Dalton
Sunday 1st November	Rev David Morris <i>Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 8th November	Chris Price
Sunday 15th November	Rev David Gillman
Sunday 22nd November	Rev Mike Cassidy
Sunday 29th November	Dr Clive Timehin

The same God who hung the stars knows your name.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Beckenham Methodist Church

(Registered Charity No. 1138006)

Bromley Road Church BR3 5JE

0208 650 2763

Minister: Rev David Morris

minister@bmcb3.com

Senior Steward: Judith Reep

judithreep@msn.com

Church Administrator (including room bookings):

Sarah Reed

Tel: 07570 230555

Email:- office@bmcb3.com

*n.b. Normal working week is Tuesday to Thursday 10.30am to 2.30pm,
with Mondays from home.*

Website: <http://www.beckenhammethodistchurch.co.uk>

