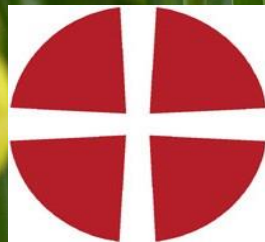


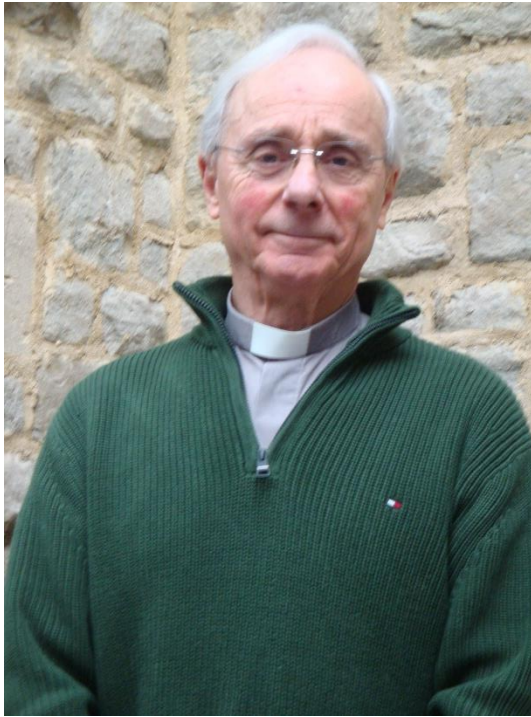
THE INDICATOR

Beckenham Methodist Church

A Christ Centred Community Church



Spring 2024



Rev. David M

Not what but why

Here we are, the end of February as I write this, coming into March again and then a third of the year gone. Our thoughts turn to Easter, to brighter days of spring. But before we get there, it's Lent again. We are encouraged to think about what we are doing, what we have been, how we are going to face the world in future. We find that difficult. It's not so hard to give something up and tell ourselves that we are taking Lent seriously but of course that misses the point. The point is that Lent and Easter inescapably hang together.

Over the last 250 years or so countless Christians have struggled to find a way to articulate their faith against a continually expanding background of improved knowledge and understanding of our place in the physical universe, deeper knowledge of how human beings work both physically and psychologically and, in our part of the world at least, a huge improvement in our material conditions and expectations. As our society has turned away from faith Christians have found it easier to say what we should do than why we should do it. We have been and are still too much Martha and not enough Mary. It is time to redress the balance.

To see what I mean, think about Jesus in the wilderness. In Mark's gospel's account, Jesus after his baptism is driven by the Spirit into the wilderness. 'Driven' note, not invited or enticed. The implication is that this time of intense self examination, this scouring of the personality and demolition of the ego, is not of Jesus' conscious choosing but is a God given compulsion, essential to what is to follow. Jesus has to go through this experience before he can properly serve the God whom he senses is calling him. Before Jesus can address the world in the fullness of who he is, he has to determine who he really is. He has to confront the demons of his personal and cultural world, the siren voice urging him to concentrate on how he might fulfill the expectations of his society to his personal advantage rather than question who he is and what his calling really is and thereby work in God's ways.

We can learn from Jesus' experience. Jesus' gift to us all, in this episode, is to show that knowledge of who we are and why we do what we do is essential to

the integrity and effectiveness of work in God's name. What we do matters in itself, of course it does, but why we do it matters more. Jesus shows us that real knowledge of ourselves, of that dimension in each human being which is so often currently denied and ignored, is the key to life as an authentic human being fit to live in God's service. It is not simply acknowledging God's existence that matters. It is the embracing of his offer of life completely by facing our own demons and false gods that validates our human existence and enables us to turn outward and deal with the world on God's terms. We can skate along the surface of existence for our 70, 80 or 90 years or so without ever having really lived at all. We can be generous, kind, compassionate and well respected but so can many people who never know God at all. Jesus' call as always is 'Do not be afraid; follow me'. To follow Jesus in this experience and then to face the world as his true followers rather than simply doers of good deeds is not easy. It means diving deeply into ourselves, facing the personal and social temptations of an increasingly decadent society, then coming out the other side infused by God's spirit and stronger than we ever imagined we could be.

This challenge is the great gift and comfort of Lent. Jesus' call is to follow him in deep self-examination before God, holding ourselves to account to God for our honesty and our refusal to accept easy solutions and glib answers. God is good but his ways can be hard. We must pray that following the Christ along this first part of the Way will fit us better for playing our genuine part in the world in Jesus' name and bring us with him to the deep truth of resurrection in the true Easter which has its vital roots in Lent.

May God bless us all.

David



EDITORS' NOTE

We hope you find this Spring edition of The Indicator of interest. We will always be pleased to have any articles or suggestions for the future, so please let us have them. Thank you.

Valerie and Christine



We Are Looking For



PEOPLE TO COME FORWARD TO ORGANISE SOCIAL EVENTS FOR 2024

We love getting together but need some new people to arrange our social events. Think...
Coffee Mornings, Quiz nights, Bring & Share Lunches, and new ideas welcomed.

**If that sounds like you,
please speak to Valerie or Christine.**
or email beckenhammethodistsbr3@gmail.com



PRAYER TIME

A small group continues to meet before Sunday morning service – do join us, you would be very welcome.

*O you by whom we come to
The Life, the Truth, the Way!
The path of prayer yourself have trod:
Lord, teach us how to pray!*

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Valerie



"The great gift of Easter is hope"
the late Archbishop Basil Hume

PERSONALIA



Gretta Blacknell: A Thanksgiving Service was held for Gretta on 22nd January when her two sons, Paul and Andy, gave fitting tributes about the life which she had shared with David and the caring mother and grandmother she had been to all of them. If you would like to read the full tribute to Gretta this can be found at blacknellfamilyhistory.co.uk .

Birthdays: We wish Happy Birthday to all those celebrating them during March, April and May.

CLOTHES BANK APPEAL SUNDAY 21st APRIL

I know we have made an appeal for these items before but the need is still relevant. If anyone has any of the following items (clean and in good condition) please remember the Clothes Bank. Many thanks.

MENS': Trainers
'T' shirts
Jeans
Sweat shirts
Tops
Anoraks

Valerie

FROM THE VESTRY

In January, we were glad to have the opportunity to join with West Wickham Methodist Church in their thanksgiving for the life of the church there as they held their last service.

We are so pleased that several members there have decided to join our congregation at Beckenham.

We are delighted that some regular worshippers have decided to become new members too. On Easter Sunday we will welcome new members by transfer or from other denominations.

Rev David Morris has been holding 'Christian Conversations' to introduce people to Methodism or to refresh their understanding with the opportunity to ask questions.

We were pleased to join with Freeman Ghanaian Methodist Church at Clock House for the Circuit Ash Wednesday service. Their Singers will be joining us at Bromley Road for the Circuit Good Friday service and tea at 3pm.

This Lent we are following the liturgy for Year B. We are also beginning the Methodist Bible Study course 'Let Justice Flow' based on the book of Amos. A good number of people have asked for the study guide, so we hope for good discussions.

On Mothering Sunday, we will be distributing posies as usual.

Young people: We are very grateful to two of our teenagers who volunteer as they feel able to read a lesson, prepare a PowerPoint, bake and serve on the coffee rota and to help when Stay & Play is held.

There are now several younger children who attend with their families from time to time. Initially we arranged to hold Junior Church on one Sunday a month (Communion services) to enable their adults to focus on worship. This is now under further review as those who attend on other Sundays need more than a drawing table in the sanctuary.

We celebrated a baptism in December and look forward to a wedding in May.

Jenny (Senior Steward)

ROYAL INSTITUTE for the BLIND

Many of you saved the used postage stamps from your Christmas cards – thank you for that and for continuing to support RNIB which is much appreciated.

Ena



UPDATE ON RECENT AND FUTURE ECO ACTIVITIES AT BMC

Areas the BMC Eco group are currently working on include :-

- Solar photo-voltaic (PV) electricity generating cells for Bevington Hall roof – a timeline for the proposed PV cells will be raised at the February Finance and Property committee. We may need to engage a planning consultant as BMC is in a conservation area.
- Wednesday 13th March, 7.00-8.30pm at The Greener and Cleaner Hub in The Glades, Bromley, a talk entitled ‘**Engaging parishioners and the wider public on Sustainability and Climate**’. All welcome
- Measuring your carbon footprint. See below for two ways of working out your own carbon footprint.

Over the coming years we will all have to do our bit and adjust our lifestyles if we want to reduce our use of carbon-based fuels. But do you know how to measure your own carbon footprint? It’s not easy, however you can get a reasonable idea of your own footprint from either or both of two user-friendly calculators.

Try the World Wildlife Fund’s calculator at <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/> or try the points-based assessment in the form that is copied on the next page (further copies will be available in the Atrium at left-hand end of the serving counter). Answer as honestly you can and then add up the points. The lower the number of points, the better your footprint. Whichever calculator you use, hopefully the questions will prompt you to think about what you can do to reduce your own impact.

PS. The average carbon footprint for an adult in the UK is 10 to 12 tonnes of CO2 per year. We probably need to halve that in the coming years.

Carbon footprint calculator

Answer these questions as accurately as you can, and then add up your points to find out how big your carbon footprint really is.

<p>1. How often do you eat meat or dairy?</p> <p>Never 1 point Once a month 2 points Once a week 3 points A few times a week 4 points Every day 5 points Every meal 6 points</p> <p>2. How much of the food you eat is processed, packaged, or imported?</p> <p>Most 5 points Three quarters 4 points Half 3 points One quarter 2 points Hardly any 1 point</p> <p>3. Do you have electricity in your home?</p> <p>No 0 points Yes 8 points Green electricity 4 points</p> <p>4. How much waste do you produce compared to other people where you live?</p> <p>Much less 3 points About the same 10 point Much more 30 points</p> <p>5. How many people live in your house?</p> <p>1 50 points 2 25 points 3 6 points 4 4 points 5 2 points</p> <p>6. What kind of house do you live in?</p> <p>Detached house 10 points Semi-detached house 5 points Apartment block 4 points Green-design house 0 points</p> <p>7. How often do you travel on public transport?</p> <p>Every day 20 points Most days 10 points Once or twice a week 6 points Once a week 3 points Never 0 points</p>	<p>8. How often do you travel by car?</p> <p>Every day 80 points Most days 40 points Once or twice a week 20 points Once a week 10 points Never 0 points</p> <p>9. How often do you cycle, walk or get around using some other means of self-generated power?</p> <p>Most of the time 0 points Sometimes 2 points Not often 4 points</p> <p>10. How many hours have you spent flying this year?</p> <p>100 or more 60 points 25 30 points 10 10 point 3 5 points 0 0 points</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Now add up all your points!</u></p> <p>How did you do?</p> <p>0-20 → Low Carbon footprint: Brilliant work, you have a low carbon footprint</p> <p>20-100 → Good effort</p> <p>100-200 → Room for improvement</p> <p>200+ → High Carbon Footprint! Try to make some small changes to your lifestyle in order to be more climate-friendly</p> <p>Questions to think about:</p> <p>1) What activity adds the most carbon to your footprint? 2) Name 3 things you could you do to reduce your carbon footprint. 3) How accurate do you think this survey is? Why was it difficult to complete?</p>
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David – Eco Church Team



CATHEDRAL CONFABULATION



The church featured in this article is located in Old Romney Marsh in Kent and is a Grade 1 listed building, Church of England St. Clements, situated in the village. It is claimed to be the best of 14 mediaeval churches and four ruined churches on the Marsh. As the name portrays, this church is dedicated to St Clement, who was a disciple of Peter the Apostle and was

said to have been consecrated by him. He was the first of early Rome's most notable bishops. Clement was imprisoned whilst on a journey to the Crimea. After releasing a gushing stream of fresh water with his pickaxe, this seemingly miracle led to the conversion of large numbers of Romans to the Christian faith and this act led to his imprisonment. Recordings show that he had led a ministry among his fellow prisoners and he was executed, having been martyred by being thrown from a boat into the Black Sea while tied to an anchor. The dedication of this church therefore celebrates its links with the sea and a painting of the Martyrdom of St. Clement by Bernardino Fungi hangs in the York Art Gallery UK.

This church has a small north nave entrance, as though the visitor, stepping inside the church, seems to be already standing in the central nave because the sanctuary is also small. The spatial awareness is immediately dispersed on further observation of the interior because the box pews and gallery are painted in rose pink! Film maker Walt Disney chose St. Clements as the ideal location for the church scenes for his 1963 film 'Dr. Syn, the Scarecrow of Romney Marsh'. For this he required bright lighting and requested that the pews be painted light pink, which request was granted, and thus they have remained to this day. Disney expressed his gratitude with a generous donation, enabling significant restoration work to be completed, saving St Clement for the nation.

Jean



MUSICAL NOTES BY DJ



As I write, many of us have just enjoyed a lovely afternoon concert by the Hammig String Quartet in the church. Quartets by Haydn and Dvorak were beautifully performed and the audience much appreciated the tea and home-made cakes served in the interval. With not a huge number attending, we nevertheless raised over £150 to add to the Organ Renovation Fund.

The South London Singers are practising hard for their next concert of Music for Eastertide. In order to avoid clashes with other events and to encourage more to come and enjoy it, the concert will be held just after Easter at 7.45pm on Saturday April 13th in St George's Church. Music will feature a revival of John Maunder's Sacred Cantata 'Olivet to Calvary'. With soloists and chorus, it recalls simply and reverently the scenes which mark the Saviour's last few days on earth. This work was very popular in years gone by, in Methodist Churches in particular, alternating with Stainer's Crucifixion as a major work with audience/congregational participation at Easter.

The second half of the concert will include other favourites for the season, familiar and not so well-known. Faure's Cantique de Jean Racine will need no introduction and Spirituals from Michael Tippett's "A Child of our Time" will complete the programme. Nicholas Wibberley will conduct with Jack Stone at the organ and tickets will be available very soon via the choir's website ([www. southlondonsingers.org.uk](http://www.southlondonsingers.org.uk)) or as always at the door by cash or card.

The next concert at our church will be the SLS Summer Concert to be held on Saturday July 6th.

DJ



The South London Singers present

SOUTH
LONDON
SINGERS
SLS



CONDUCTOR: NICHOLAS WIBBERLEY
ORGANIST: JACK STONE

- Olivet to Calvary
John Maunder
- Five Spirituals
Michael Tippett
- Cantique de Jean Racine
Gabriel Fauré
- *plus a selection of
choral works for
Eastertide*

Saturday 13 April 2024
St George's Church,
Beckenham
7:45pm

Tickets £15

Under 12s: Free
Ages 12-18: £7.50
Bronze Friends: £10
Silver/Gold Friends: Free

Buy tickets online
www.southlondonsingers.org.uk

South London Singers | Registered charity No. 800934

EASTER 2024



Details of all the services over Easter are given below and we hope to see you there.

We would like to highlight however Easter Saturday morning when, as in previous years, we will decorate a cross for display outside the Church, see how lovely this was.

There will be tea, coffee and hot cross buns available of course to help the morning along. Do join us, bring some flowers, have a chat some refreshments and

decorate the cross. Show Beckenham our beautiful cross of flowers.

The services are:-

28th March – Maundy Thursday 8pm Communion Service at Bromley.

29th March – Good Friday 11am Walk of Witness Starting from St Edmunds

3pm Circuit Service and tea at Beckenham, Bromley Road.

Easter Sunday – 10.30am at Beckenham, Bromley Road.
Holy Communion.

NEWS FROM JOY'S KITCHEN - SPRING 2024

The natural daylight that floods the now three-year-old Atrium, continues to contribute to a lovely environment in which customers can enjoy the plentiful home-made delights of Joy's Kitchen, even in the colder months. We benefit greatly from the baking and cooking skills of both kitchen and church volunteers who regularly provide sumptuous cakes for each week and speciality soups for seasons in the church year, in addition to the usual fare made to order on site. Perhaps these tasty options are among many reasons why Joy's Kitchen continues to spread in popularity by word of mouth. By way of example, a lady from an antique bookshop in Beckenham had heard that the kitchen and dining area is "rather good", and recently visited to see for herself that it was indeed an excellent venue where she and her friends enjoyed lunch.

Customer numbers peak around 16 to 20 on Mondays and Wednesdays, 30 or so on Tuesdays and 45 or more on the much busier first and second Thursdays of the month when numerous organisations on site all come in for lunch, almost overwhelming seating capacity at times!

All our teams work hard to maintain high standards with meticulous cleaning and sanitizing, food preparation and storage and suitable recording and reporting, so that if the environmental health assessors unexpectedly pay a visit, we will be able to maintain our five-star rating granted a year ago.

In the autumn of 2023, the church celebrated harvest. Tables and large boxes were set out in both the café space and the sanctuary so that our congregation and others could contribute to the annual Harvest Festival celebration in support of Penge's Living Well foodbank. For two weeks over that period, Joy's Kitchen reminded people of our harvest thanksgiving by offering crusty bread and home-made vegetable soups. We are doing the same during this season of Lent, connecting our customers with the fact that this is a church café where we recognise God at work in the church year and share the blessings of our faith with others.

During Advent 2023 we offered a variety of traditional Christmas treats from stollen bites and slices to dozens and dozens of home-made mince pies; turkey, cranberry and brie toasties to hot mulled fruit punch. Our Thursday team also catered for 120 Arts Society members (and thus baked 120 home-made mince pies!) in the Wesley Lounge which they decorated festively as part of Joy's Kitchen's contribution to the group's Christmas party.



As we make plans to employ a manager before the year end, there are high hopes of Joy's Kitchen expanding our church's mission so that others may be blessed. It is so good to see customers return regularly to our beautiful Atrium for the delicious food and friendly atmosphere that is such a fitting tribute to Joy and the many others who served in TCs, the precursor to all we offer now.

Laura and Jean



GHANA 2024

In January I was blessed by having the opportunity to join a group from the Methodist Church in Britain to visit the Methodist Church in Ghana. There were 9 of us in our party which was led by Rev William Davis who is supporting the work at Freeman Ghanaian Methodist Church.



In Accra we were able to visit the newly opened 'Wesley Towers' which is the headquarters of the Methodist Church in Ghana and the office of the Presiding Bishop. We spent a day visiting the Rafiki Methodist Orphanage, School and Medical Centre and hearing about the work they do to support children and young people from the age of 2 through to their tertiary education. We were able to

donate a laptop, treats for the children, some stationery supplies and some money to support one of their young people at university.

We travelled from Accra to Cape Coast Castle. The Castle is a place of great importance in the history of Ghana. It was built in seventeenth century and became the place where enslaved Ghanaians were kept before being transported across the Atlantic to work on the plantations of America and the West Indies. At any one time 1000 men and 300 women were kept in the darkness and squalor of the dungeons for 3 months before being taken through the ‘gate of no return’ and onto the ships. It is now a UNESCO World Heritage site and used to educate visitors about the horror and legacy of the slave trade.

We continued along the coast to Takoradi and Sekondi. We visited the Bishop of Sekondi who gave us some Ghanaian chocolate and told us about the work of the diocese. There are 18 circuits, 300 societies (churches), Methodist schools, hospitals and clinics and even a rubber farm that raises money to fund the Church’s work. We visited the Bethany Methodist School to present them with a printer and laptop and we also visited the Bethel Methodist Primary Care Clinic. In the evening our official welcome service was at St John’s Church, Apowa. We began by meeting their Boys’ and Girls’ Brigade band in the school field. On the edge of the field they are building a new church because the existing building is too small. The band led us along the road to the church where we joined in the worship and presented the band with new instruments. We were presented with Ghanaian tunics and beads. The service was joyous and lasted about 3 hours but every so often the Ghana v Egypt football match was shown on the screen so everyone could keep an eye on the score!



We returned to Accra and met some interesting people along the way including one of the first female Ghanaian Anglican priests who was ordained in 2011 and our administrator Gifty’s brother, Francis.

In Accra we attended the Diocesan presentation ceremony for Sunday School Teachers. The teachers received citations and awards for the service they had given. The longest serving teacher had given 56 years' service!

On the Sunday morning we met at the Mount Olivet church in Dansoman. The church has 1800 adults and 600 children attending. The church was celebrating its 50th anniversary and after we had viewed their anniversary exhibition our group divided up. I went with a couple of others to Christ the King church where I preached. We returned to Mount Olivet for lunch before flying to Tamale in the north of Ghana.

Tamale and the northern region is on the edge of the Sahara and is much more rural and less developed than the southern part of the country. Many of the people who live in that area are farmers whose existence is very dependent on the balance of the climate and the weather conditions.



From Tamale we visited Nalogni where there is church and a Methodist School. We were given an incredible welcome by the school children, teachers and local residents. We were invited to meet with the chief of the village who welcomed us and explained some of the challenges facing the village. One of these is that there is no

health facility in any of the surrounding ten villages and anyone needing urgent medical or maternity care has to travel, often by motorbike, along very bumpy roads 15 miles to the nearest town. There is a trained nurse living in the village but they have nowhere suitable to treat people. The chief asked for our support in building a simple clinic that would provide a safe and appropriate space for health and maternity care. I hope that our circuit, along with the others represented on our visit, may be able to hold a collection to help them.





We then visited the school. In Ghana a primary or basic school goes up to the age of 14 years. The school at Nalogni serves a wide area with children walking up to 5 or 6 miles there and back again each day. We were welcomed at an assembly held under the shade of the trees. The school was presented with

some laptops as without passing the ICT element of their school certificate the children cannot get their school leaving qualifications. We also gave them some musical instruments which has been donated following the closure of a BB band in the UK. These gifts were received with much rejoicing and gratitude.



I chatted to some of the children about their experiences at school and their hopes for the future. In conversation with them and the local minister's wife we became aware of the serious issue of period poverty faced by the girls and women of the area. It is almost impossible for them to access the supplies they need. Therefore the female members of our group and I felt we should hear their concerns and try to respond. We are hoping via the minister's wife to give pairs of period pants to the girls and women of the village so they can study, work and play in security and comfort. We feel this is also a sustainable and environmentally friendly solution. One pair costs around £5 so if you would like to contribute to this appeal please let me know.

Before we returned to Tamale we were presented with yams and chickens and a guinea fowl as a sign of hospitality and friendship.



We went back to Accra and had the opportunity to visit the museums and learn a little more about the history of Ghana before we returned home. These are just some of the highlights of my trip to Ghana, there are other stories to tell which I will share on other occasions. Thank you very much for supporting my trip and for keeping us in your prayers. We were

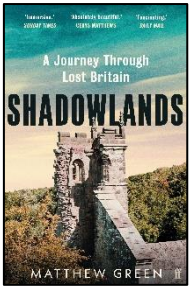
moved and humbled by the welcome we received and by how we saw God at work in so many different ways in and through the church there.

Rev Karen G

BOOK SHELF

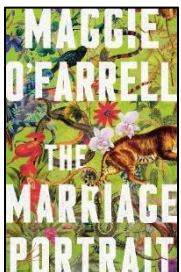


Last time, in Book Shelf, I mentioned a book I was about to start reading, ‘**The Master & Margarita**’ by Ukrainian writer, **Mikhail Bulgakov**, recommended by Ukrainian friends from the English conversation classes held at Bromley, so I thought I’d start with a quick review of that book. The novel has two settings, which may or may not be related. The first is the story of a visit by the devil and his entourage, to the Soviet Union of the 1930s and the ensuing chaos they bring, particularly to corrupt establishment figures. The second setting is Pontius Pilate’s Jerusalem and Pilate’s seemingly reluctant part in Jesus’ trial and execution. It isn’t always obvious which time setting we’re in and who the ‘Master’ and ‘Margarita’ might be. The book has quite a lot of supernatural elements, plus lots of very dark, satirical comedy and even snatches of Christian philosophy too. It certainly wasn’t an easy book to read and I would probably benefit from reading it a second time, to fully appreciate it. Incidentally, although the novel was finished in 1940, it wasn’t published until 1967 and then only in Paris, not appearing in Russian until 1973.



My second choice is a non-fiction book, by **Matthew Green** entitled ‘**Shadowlands**’. Matthew describes the story and then the fate of eight once-thriving communities, which, for a variety of reasons, no longer exist. Some fell victim to the forces of nature, others to changes in economic circumstances and some to deliberate destruction. The author himself writes: *‘In 2016 during a period of instability and “emotional turmoil” in my life, when my father died and my wife left me, I was determined to discover how our country has come to be shaped by absences, just as my life had come to be defined by what was no longer there.’*

I attended a talk and signing by the author at the Kirkdale book shop in Sydenham and wasn’t really expecting much, however, Matthew himself was extremely engaging and really enthusiastic about his topic. In spite of the somewhat sad origins of the book, it was a surprising delight and a real pleasure to read. Although non-fiction, it is written almost as if it is a work of fiction and I couldn’t put it down. This book ended up being my ‘Book of the Year’ 2023.



Set in 16th century Florence, ‘**The Marriage Portrait**’ by **Maggie O’Farrell** tells the imagined story of Lucrezia de Medici and how she becomes a pawn in the machinations and the politics of the men of the time. A protected, largely idyllic childhood comes to an abrupt end, when Lucrezia’s older sister dies on the eve of her wedding. So as not to jeopardise the alliance between the two families, although still really a child, Lucrezia is then forced to marry the man chosen for her sister, Alfonso d’Este. Alfonso commissions a portrait, to mark the union, hence the book’s title. Lucrezia struggles to adapt to her new married life and when no heir appears, the outlook for Lucrezia is not good. I’m not going to spoil how things end, although a neat plot twist leaves you feeling somewhat relieved. This book is beautifully written, with lots of period detail and is very easy to read.

Sandra



CHURCHES TOGETHER in BECKENHAM

As reported in the last Indicator there have been lots of changes within the local clergy over the last few months. Rev Andrew Jones has stepped down as Chair of CTiB and his final service at Avenue Road Baptist Church will be held on Sunday 16th June followed by a farewell lunch.

During the upcoming months our first joint venture will be the Good Friday Walk of Witness. This year it is hoped to provide the day as previously done which had to change in recent years due to Covid and traffic issues. The first short service will be held at St Edmunds at 11am and the walk will then continue from there concluding with a short service on Beckenham Green. Full details will be in the weekly notices. Stewards are still being sought to assist at the walk and if you can help please see David or I **today** so we can pass your name forward. This is a good day when we come together to show Beckenham the Churches are here and we hope as many as can will join us.

CTiB's Lent course in recent years has been very well received but it has been decided to do this on a bi-annual basis and so the next course will be held in 2025.

A summer picnic has also been arranged and this will take place on Sunday 7th July at St Paul's Church, Brackley Road. Should the weather not be kind the date will change to 15th September. As usual details will be in the notices.

We look forward to working with the other churches to make sure all these events happen.

David Keall and myself continue to represent our church at CTiB and are happy to talk to you at any time about CTiB and its activities.

Christine



ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Action for Children donations for this past year amounted to £470.00 + Gift Aid. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Ingrid and Judith.

FUND FOR HUMAN NEED



NEWS FLASH! In the current newsletter from FHN it is reported that for the year 2022-2023 the applications covered **1,459 individuals, a third of whom (481) were children.**

While the grants are modest, responses received often express appreciation of the money given which for many is a life-line when they are so desperate. **As important as is the money, which provides vital, short-term help, is the knowledge that through the generosity of our supporters we have been able to show concern, give hope and share God's love.**

The applications often describe the extreme poverty, abuse and despair experienced by people. **What should encourage all who contribute to their relief by supporting the Fund is the sincerity of the gratitude of those who have received grants for the help they have been given.**

Working partners: Cross Ethnic seek to relieve poverty through empowering members of the diverse communities in Glasgow in their engagement with community initiatives empowering a voice for these groups and assisting in helping them to develop relevant skills in this respect as well as to provide humanitarian assistance.

One recent application was for a new Asylum seeker housed in a temporary hotel. He was due an asylum allowance of £9 per week for essentials but this had not yet been set up. Having arrived with very little his most immediate need was for warm clothing. FHN made an award of £100 and afterwards heard from him. In his own words. **“I left my home in eastern Sri Lanka due to persecution and poverty after a dangerous journey through many countries reached UK. Safety and seek asylum in UK. The money I got from FHN is helping me to buy food as I am getting very little support from authorities also its help to buy a winter jacket to face the severe Scottish winter”.**

So you can see giving a little for your tea or coffee to FHN each Sunday makes a difference to someone in real need. If you feel you would like to help FHN in supporting individuals who have no access to relief funds or benefits by donating on a regular basis you can contact them at: fundhumanneed@gmail.com

Valerie



GARDEN AT BROMLEY ROAD

About 40 years ago I was a Church Steward. Church Stewards are always very busy people and then, at times, we had 3 Church services a day, with 8am Communion, although once a month, and for most of my time as a Steward, a morning and evening service. Also, we had to sort all the offertory cash, and there was a lot of that then. I used to look at our garden at Bromley Road, which was much bigger then, and despair at the amount of weeds we were growing.

When I completed my year as Senior Steward I started trying to sort out the garden. Colin Wilson and I devised a system where each member of the team had their own little area to look after. This did not always happen, but we had 2 sessions usually in the Spring and Autumn when we did a general tidy up. We recently acquired a lot of plants from Coolings for the area just outside the Atrium.

However, as a team, we are now struggling. Some of the team, for various reasons, are not able to help or are limited in their ability to help. I have been looking for someone to do my job as "Co-ordinator" for 2 or 3 years, without success.

We could pay for someone to look after our garden, but the Church might not approve of that!

Therefore, I say again, if anyone can help in our garden, this please is the time to have a word with me. It is not onerous. You do not have to know much about gardening although that could help.

Our garden is our shop window. If it is a mess, the public might take the wrong view about our Church. At the moment, people walking past have complimented us on our garden. May this long continue.

David K

FLOWERS IN CHURCH



Many thanks to all those who arrange and distribute the flowers each week.

ROTA for March, April and May

Sunday 3rd March

Margaret Hazlewood

Sunday 10th March

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Sunday 17th March

Comfort Lawson

Sunday 24th March

Christine Handel

Sunday 31st March

EASTER

Sunday 7th April

Mary Jackson

Sunday 14th April

Valerie Wilson

Sunday 21st April

Diane Chorley

Sunday 28th April

Sunday 5th May

Ena Hamblyn

Sunday 12th May

Christine Handel

Sunday 19th May

Sandra Storch

Sunday 26th May

June White



SUNDAY SERVICES

Bromley Road at 10.30am (unless otherwise stated)

Sunday 3rd March Mr Jim Holman
Sunday 10th March Rev David Morris +
Holy Communion
Sunday 17th March Deacon Laura MacBean
Sunday 24th March Rev Karen George
Sunday 31st March **EASTER DAY** Rev David Morris +
Holy Communion

Sunday 7th April Mr Mike Tinson
Sunday 14th April Deacon Laura MacBean
Sunday 21st April Mr Bennie Harms
Sunday 28th April Rev Karen George/
Deacon Laura MacBean

Sunday 5th May Rev David Morris +
Holy Communion
Sunday 12th May Mrs Christine Messenger
Sunday 19th May Mr Richard Baker
Sunday 26th May Mr David Lemmon

ADDITIONAL AND CIRCUIT SERVICES

28th March **Maundy Thursday 8.00pm**

Communion Service – Bromley Rev Karen George/
Deacon Laura MacBean

29th March **Good Friday 3.00pm**

Circuit Service and tea – Beckenham Mr David Lemmon/
Freeman Ghanaian Singers

19th May **Pentecost 6.00pm**

LP Accreditation Service for Roli Degazon Johnson

Bromley (preceded by tea from 4.30pm)

USEFUL CONTACTS

Beckenham Methodist Church

(Registered Charity No. 1138006)

Bromley Road Church BR3 5JE

0208 650 2763

Minister having Pastoral care: Revd David Morris
david.morris@methodist.org.uk

Senior Steward: Jenny Nichols

Church Administrator (including room bookings):

Sarah Reed **Tel:** 07570 230555

Email:- beckenhammethodistsbr3@gmail.com

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

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

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

