

# **THE INDICATOR**

**April/May 2014**



***Beckenham Methodist  
Church***



Dear Friends,

It's easy to celebrate Christmas, even if it is sometimes a little hard on our pockets. It is, after all, such a romantic story. But there is nothing romantic in the events that led up to Easter - and that is probably why people have relegated Easter in the festival-stakes, unless you're a big fan of chocolate! A man tortured and broken, spat upon and whipped until his back is just a mass of bloody flesh; a man with a cap of thorns pressed fiercely over his head is forced to carry the means of his own execution to the town rubbish dump. There he is stretched on a Roman cross and iron spikes are hammered through his wrists and ankles. He is hoisted up in a fly-infested, stinking landscape and left to die, choking on his own vomit, until his heart and lungs collapse under the strain. No, there's nothing romantic about Easter. But wait a minute. Is this Easter?

It is true that without the events of Holy Week, and of Good Friday in particular, there can be no Easter Day. It is true that without the Cross there can be no crown of glory. It is true that the events of Good Friday are so ugly and so appalling that we can hardly contemplate them without a deep sense of disgust and horror. But that was Friday - Sunday is coming!

On Sunday, the worst that human beings could do was transformed into the best that God could do. The tomb was empty. The crucified man had overcome death itself. But this isn't the end of it.

David Jenkins, the controversial ex-Bishop of Durham, has quite rightly said that the Resurrection is not just a "conjuring trick with bones". It is pointless to view the Resurrection as a doctrine to 'prove'. It is not a 'problem' to be solved. The fact that a man rose from the dead nearly 2000 years ago is, to say the least, very interesting historically and biologically - but that is not the end of it. Unless you live every day now with the Lord Jesus what happened to him 2000 years ago can be very distracting from what it all means.

For this is what Easter means: not that a man somehow cheated death, but that the man who died continues to live, continues to rise triumphant over all the little deaths that are a part of mortal life, and continues to love when evil has done its worst.

The Resurrection is the fruit of that unconquerable love. It is a reality which can be experienced by each and every one of us: it is the life and action of the Risen Christ alive in us; it is the liberation from the oppression of all those things which make life difficult and sometimes agonising; it is the experience of new life, new hope, new love in people and places which seem lifeless, hopeless and loveless.

Most of all it is living every day with the Lord of Creation and Redemption. Surely that is worth celebrating!

**Happy, happy Easter!**

*Mike*

*Advance Notice*  
*Church Anniversary and Gift Day*  
*Weekend*  
*Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8 June*

As usual our Anniversary will be celebrated at Pentecost which, this year, falls on **Sunday 8 June**. In addition to our own events during that weekend there will also be a Churches Together in Beckenham (CTiB) event on the Sunday afternoon.

In our own churches the programme will be:-

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** A Barbeque at Clock House Road - more details will follow later in the Weekly Notices

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>** A Joint Service will be held at Bromley Road.

During this weekend it will also be the Gift Day and an individual letter will follow to all.

On Sunday (Pentecost) CTiB will be holding an informal picnic on Beckenham Green to which all churches are invited. It is proposed that everyone brings their own food plus a little extra so that food can be offered to any passers by.

After lunch a service will be held from approx. 2.30 to 3.30 at which various people will speak and there will be lots of interesting things going on all around. Again more information will be available nearer the time.

*Christine Handel, Senior Steward*

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive and comes to bring  
Good news to this and every age,  
Till earth and sky and ocean ring  
With joy, with justice, love and praise.

StF 297

*Brian Wren*

**Church Flowers**  
**(at Bromley Road)**

April 6th Mary Cook  
13th Valerie Wilson  
20th **EASTER**  
27th Gordon Hughes

May 4th June & Ken White  
11th Christine Handel  
18th Joy Huggett  
25th ++++++++

**(at Clock House Road)**

April 6th Lum & Roy  
13th Venus Leon  
20th **EASTER**  
27th Irene Antwi

May 4th Peggy Collier  
11th Lum & Roy  
18th Venus Leon  
25th Mary Sawyer

# “OPEN DOOR”

We are pleased to announce that a Fellowship Group has reformed on Monday afternoons. There will be a varied programme, but always time for tea and chat and prayerful reflection.

Please look out for details in the weekly notices of additions to the programme printed below:-

<b>March</b>	24th	Open afternoon
	31st	Discussion time
<b>April</b>	7th	Evron’s music choices
	14th	Easter thoughts <i>(All contributions welcome)</i>
	21st	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
	28th	TBA
<b>May</b>	5th	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
	12th	TBA
	19th	“Pit your wits”
	26th	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>

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## **“Open Door”**

*Formerly Monday Fellowship*

**Meet in friendship on Mondays, 2-3.30pm**

**Wesley Lounge at Beckenham Methodist Church,  
Bromley Road**

**Varied programme including:**

**Time to talk over refreshments / share views on topics  
you'd like to discuss / play games / work together on jig-  
saws / occasional speakers / music / play reading etc.**



**All welcome and bring your friends**

**Need transport?**

**Speak to Jenny Nichols on 020 8460 6713**

## **Tributes paid to Kenneth Greet (1918-2014)**

Tribute has been paid to the Revd Dr Kenneth Greet, former President and Secretary of the Methodist Conference, who died on 11th February 2014.

“Kenneth will be remembered with affection and with pride by the Methodist people,” said the Revd Ruth Gee, current president of the Methodist Conference. “He was eloquent in speech, a fine preacher, a great orator and a prolific writer. All these gifts were undergirded and enriched by his great personal faith and integrity. He was passionate about social justice and deeply committed to working for peace, a commitment that was evident in every part of his life. He loved his family and he cared for and loved the Methodist people.

Kenneth will be greatly missed and we thank God for his life and witness, which will continue to inspire and challenge us.”

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**Articles for the next Indicator must be with David Dingley ( e-mail [j.dingley3@ntlworld.com](mailto:j.dingley3@ntlworld.com)) or Jenny Nichols (e-mail [jenny.nichols1@ntlworld.com](mailto:jenny.nichols1@ntlworld.com)) by Sunday 18th May at the latest for distribution on Sunday 1st June.**

**Volunteers are requested to join the Folding and Stapling party at 10.00am on Thursday 29th May in the Wesley Lounge.**



## Is there a Methodist in your family?

A new book, *A Methodist in the Family?*, answers the top ten most frequently asked Methodist family history questions and translates the jargon of Methodism.

Its author is Philip Thornborow, the liaison officer for Methodist Archives and advisor on archiving to the Methodist Council. In the accessible guide, Philip also explains how having a Methodist ancestor might affect the family records you can find today. He takes the rise of the internet into account, signposting useful resources available in print and electronically.

Price £4.99 (plus postage and packing), *A Methodist in the Family?* can be ordered from Methodist Publishing.

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Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when God raised Him from the dead?  
Were you there when God raised Him from the dead?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when God raised Him from the dead.

*African-American traditional song*

# Worship in Holy Week 2014

## ***Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April***

8.00pm            Reflection for Holy Week  
                      at Beckenham Methodist Church, Bromley Road

## ***Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April***

8.00pm            Circuit Holy Communion Service at Bromley  
                      Methodist Church

## ***Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April***

10 -10.45am    Circuit Worship for Good Friday at  
                      Bromley Methodist Church

11am              Walk of Witness from St Edmund's Church,  
                      Village Way to Beckenham Green, Beckenham

## ***Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April (Beckenham Methodist Church Services)***

8am                Holy Communion Service at Clock House Road  
                      Led by Revd. Mike Cassidy

10.30am          Holy Communion Service at Bromley Road  
                      Preacher: Revd. Jenny Impey (District Chair)

10.30am          Morning service at Clock House Road  
                      Preacher: David Dingley

# **BROMLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

## **THURSDAY SERVICES at 12.15 pm**

### **Preachers for April**

**3rd**      **Jim Holman**  
Local Preacher, Bromley Methodist Church

**10th**     **Revd Andrew McClellan**  
Vicar, St John's Church, Park Road

**17th**     **Revd Mike Cassidy**  
Superintendent Minister, Bromley Methodist  
Circuit

**24th**     **Revd Karen George**  
Minister, Bromley Methodist Church

### **Preachers for May**

**1st**      **Revd Russell Chadwick**  
Pastor, Amazing Grace and Bromley Town  
Centre Chaplain

**8th**      **Revd Mike Cassidy**

**15th**     **Revd Karen George**

**22nd**     **Alison Driscoll**  
Local Preacher, Bromley Methodist Circuit

**29th**     **Revd Christine Latham**  
Bromley and Sheppard's Colleges

# Fun Food and Fellowship

**FFF** stands for Fun, Food and Fellowship. This is an informal group open to anyone who wants to get to know each other and talk about spiritual issues in a relaxed environment. We try to organise meetings to suit people who tend to have very busy weeks so the meetings dates are flexible. Past events have included: a trip to see Joseph and his Amazing Coloured Dream Coat at Fairfield Halls, a meal at Ask restaurant, a session to review videos of 12 new hymns in Singing the Faith. We had a vote for our favourites and we liked 541: The River 481: The Lord's my shepherd and 351: In Christ alone best. In December, we had an evening at Alice's home where we found our creative side and made Christmas decorations that we sold on Sunday as part of the Missions' sale. In March we planned the programme for next year:

**Friday 9th May** at Beckenham Methodist Church Bromley Road. Bring and share food, general getting to know each other session and learn one new singing the faith hymn.

**Saturday 19th July** Walk during the day - destination to be decided.

**Friday 12th September-** Beckenham Methodist Church Bromley Road. Bring and share food, chance to be creative-making items to sell for the mission and learn one new singing the faith hymn.

**Saturday 15th November** - Woman to Woman Conference. at Westminster Central Hall.

**Saturday 6th December** date subject to change- Christmas tree decorating.

**Friday 16th January 2015** Beckenham Methodist Church Bromley Road. Bring and share food, Session Plan to be arranged and learn one new singing the faith hymn.

**+++++All are welcome. ++++++ Judith Reep**



## News from the Church Family

We are asked for your continued prayers for **Comfort Lawson and Rev'd Rachel Parkes** who are still unwell.

We were sorry to hear that **Margaret Cremin and Martin Ball** have had nasty falls but hopefully are now on the mend.

We were very saddened to hear that **Eileen Rhodes** had died. Our thoughts and prayers are with her two sons and their families. It was good to see the church at **Clock House Road** was packed to capacity for her **Thanksgiving Service** on **Wednesday 19th March**.

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## OUTREACH TO THE HOMELESS

To all who continue to fill the box in the New Room at Bromley Road — very many thanks. Your contributions are most gratefully received by the team whose regular trips up to Town mean so much to the homeless men whom they visit.

Please may we encourage you to include an extra item to your shopping each week, i.e. Flannels, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, disposable razors, gloves, and socks in order to maintain this valuable source of outreach..

**Thank You.**

*Colin & Valerie Wilson*

**Easter Fun Morning**  
Beckenham Methodist  
Church, Bromley Road

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April**  
**10.00 - 11.30am**

For children 3-7yrs and their  
parents/carers

**Craft Activities**  
**Easter Egg**  
**Hunt**  
**Refreshments**  
**Stories**  
**Free admission**



**Eileen Mary Rhodes**  
**29th March 1917 - 3rd March 2014**

How do you celebrate the life of a wonderful somebody who has lived for over 96 years, touching so many lives with her love of life, of family and her commitment to her Lord?

Over eighty people gathered in Clock House to do just that and what a wonderful occasion it was. The family was represented by Len, who played the organ so sensitively and who gave the moving eulogy; by Sandy, who read the prayers so beautifully, which Eileen had written and left to be discovered which showed her deep understanding of her considerable faith in The Lord; by George and his family; Gillian, Eileen's niece and members of Seymour's family too.

Rev. Andrew Dart led both services - the Committal at the crematorium and the Celebration - with deep feeling and gratitude to both Seymour and Eileen. Both had encouraged him as a young preacher. Seymour, a fine Local Preacher, had been his Mentor and had left his mark on Andrew's ministry. He felt he had "come home" today, as had indeed Len and George!

The couple had joined Clock House in the 1940s from their native Yorkshire, after a time in Exeter, and had held many positions. Eileen led the Women's Meeting, was a Class Leader, used her musical skills and much more. The McLeods and the Rhodes had been friends since these early years and Graham read from Romans. Maureen Bull, a friend for over fifty years read from the Psalms.

Continued on page 17

# *Church Annual General Meeting* *Sunday 6th April 2014*

Please note that the Church's Annual General meeting will take place after the morning service on Sunday 6th April.

As Rachel is still unwell the Revd Derek Stanworth will take the meeting.

This is the meeting at which we elect Church Officers and representatives to the Church Council and also receive short (!) reports on various aspects of Church life, so it is important that it is a well attended meeting.

We shall also be hearing feedback from The Circuit Away Weekend held on 1&2 March and also the Special Circuit meeting held on 23rd March which looked at the outcomes of the weekend.

The Circuit faces lots of change in the next couple of years, Revd Mike Cassidy is retiring in July/August 2015 and there are also lots of changes to Circuit property so we need to think carefully about our future and how our witness is best made in the Beckenham and the Bromley Circuit generally.

We hope to keep the meeting as short as possible and then there will be a soup and roll lunch for all afterwards.

Hope to see you all there.

God Bless.

*Christine Handel, Senior Steward*



Friends, many friends, were there to celebrate Eileen’s life. Former members dating back many years were there and also friends from the Social Club for the Blind. Her carers and friends from Abbeyfield, where she had been living so happily for sixteen years, paid tribute. Little posies of spring flowers said it all about her love of flowers and gardens.

The beautiful hymns were, of course, chosen by Eileen and we “raised the roof” in proper fashion.

We will miss Eileen’s quiet presence, her sense of humour and her friendship and above all her example of what it is to be a Christian.

*Mary Sawyer*

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## **Methodist Heritage News**

The spring issue of Heritage News includes features on Methodism in the First World War, landmark anniversaries in missionary history and how the life of the Methodist philanthropist Isaac Holden inspired a primary school teacher in the classroom.

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# Dairy Dates

(Page for more Information inside)

## April

Sun	6th	12.15pm	Church AGM BR (P 16)
Tues	8th	7.30om	House Group (See notices)
Sat	12th	11.00am	Men's Forum
Mon	7th	2.00pm	Open Door BR (P 6&7)
Mon	14th	10-11.30am	Easter Activity BR (P 14)
Tues	15th	8.00pm	Lenten Reflection BR
Thurs	17th	8.00pm	Maundy Service BMC
Fri	18th	11.00am	Walk of Witness St Edmunds
Wed	23rd	7.45pm	Class Meeting CHR

## May

Sun	11th	6.30pm	Easter Offering BMC
Sun	11th-18th		Christian Aid Week
Tues	13th	7.30pm	House Group (See notices)
Sun	18th	12noon	Worship Consultation
Tues	20th	8.00pm	Church Council BR
Thurs	29th	8.00pm	Ascension Day Service BR Conducted by Revd K Jobson, Preacher Revd Vince Short
Saturday	31st		Wedding of Revd Rachel Parkes to Revd James Cruddas BR

## June

Sat & Sun	7th & 8th		Church Anniversary Weekend.
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# Sunday Services

Bromley Road

Clock House Rd

## 6th April

Revd D Stanworth      10.30am      United Service at  
(Annual Church Meeting after)      Bromley Road

## 13th April

Revd K George      10.30am      Mr J Holman

## 20th April

### Easter Sunday

Holy Communion      8.00am      Holy Communion  
(at CHR)      Revd M Cassidy  
Revd J Impey      10.30am      Mr D Dingley  
Holy Communion

## 27th April

Mrs P Wilson      10.30am      Major C Kent

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## 4th May

Revd M Cassidy      10.30am      Mr M Tinson

## 11th May

Dr C Timehin      10.30am      Mrs P Wilson

## 18th May

Mr R Baker      10.30am      Revd K George

## 25th May

Mr M Tinson      10.30am      Mrs M Smith

# USEFUL CONTACTS

**Minister in Charge:** Revd Rachel Parkes 8658 6484

**Stewards:** Christine Handel (Senior) 86581381

Irene Antwi 8778 2124 Comfort Lawson 3539 4914

Sheila Priestman 8460 1091 Barry Stewart 8325 8861

**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

Rob Love 8658 9771

**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>

**E-mail Address:** (Being established)