

THE INDICATOR

Beckenham Methodist Church

A Christ Centred Community Church



Autumn 2024

God, by Duncan

Dear friends. I have decided to try to explain my preaching style before we meet, to let you get to know me a bit better. I came across this comment by Larissa Lee the other day, and, in my opinion, it sums up my preaching style perfectly.



My preaching style has certainly shifted over the last 30 or so years, but I have always been a ‘seeker’. I like to try to make sense of things, but the one thing I have embraced more and more over the last couple of decades has been the mystery of God. It is comfortable to seek for answers and to find them. It is much less comfortable to live with a lack of knowledge, a lack of certainty. This, however,

is the reality for us if we are serious about seeking after God. We cannot comprehend the will, the actions or the fullness of the nature of God, so we live in a necessary state of uncertainty.

This is where faith is the bridge. The author of the letter to the Hebrews writes: “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Faith, then, is what enables us not just to live with uncertainty, but to embrace mystery.

The quote from Larissa Lee involves so much more than living with mystery. It involves a willingness to constantly deconstruct things around us. This is not for the purpose of breaking things down, but it is a bit like working with LEGO®. When one finishes with a LEGO® construction, the pieces are not thrown away but are taken apart, ready to be used to make something new. In the Church, we should be comfortable with doing the same with the building blocks of our structures and our faith. This shouldn’t mean that we live in a state of chaos, but rather that we are sufficiently introspective and self-critical to consistently weigh up the merits of what we do, and how we do it. Are we achieving our aims by doing what we do? Are we reaching people in

a meaningful manner? If the answer to these questions is in doubt, then we should have the faith and fortitude to allow change to take place.

I firmly believe, as the hymn-writer Fred Pratt Green puts it, that
The Church of Christ in every age
beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead. (Singing the Faith 415)

It is to these things that I bend my preaching. Both the constant challenge to discern the work and presence of a God who is shrouded in mystery, and the challenge of being part of an organisation that is formed and defined by both death and resurrection. Sadly, the organisation is often much harder to work with than the individuals, as it furiously resists the call to die and be reborn.

Lastly, there is so much love and joy to be found in our faith. It is not a misery-inducing, misery-loving faith, but is rooted in love, the expanse of which we will likely never fully comprehend. The call of Jesus is for us to love one another. My preaching is focused on challenging myself and others to do just that, and to create an environment where we can welcome others into this understanding of a loving God.

I am truly looking forward to talking about God, not 'at' you, but with all of you.

Yours in Christ,

Duncan



MESSAGE FROM Revd Hannah C. Faal-Heim

Hello Everyone,

I am writing to introduce myself as a new minister joining the new Widmore Circuit. My name is Reverend Hannah Caroline Faal-Heim. Previously I worked in the Harrow and Birmingham West & Oldbury Circuits, and then as a superintendent in the Dudley & Netherton Circuit. Then I served as the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church in The Gambia and then just recently as a presbyter in the Tower Hamlets Circuit in East London. I am excited to join you and look forward to working with you.

One of the hopes I have in this new position is to expand our congregation base and to encourage a variety of people from a community to feel part of the Circuit's vision. It is exciting to join the ministry team in the newly formed Widmore Circuit with its new opportunities. Our commitment to work towards a world transformed by the love of God, sharing the love of God and celebrating our place within the worldwide family of God inspires me immensely. I am excited to contribute to the Circuit's mission and objectives and to collaborate with each one of you. I look forward to getting to know you in the coming weeks and months and thank God for sending me to work and minister among you.

God bless you,

+Reverend Hannah C. Faal-Heim

EDITORS' NOTE



We hope you find this Autumn 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

PERSONALIA



Birthdays We wish all those who have birthdays in September, October and November an enjoyable day.

Welcome to Precious, Nehara, Jean and John, Yonna, Karen and Jacquelyn who have recently joined our congregation – we are very happy to have you with us.

Congratulations to Nathan & Abigail on the birth of their daughter – Imogen May – a sister for Matilda and granddaughter for Gordon and Ros Wilson.



FROM THE VESTRY

As recorded in the Summer edition of The Indicator, Jenny Nichols and Graham McLeod will have stepped down as Stewards at the end of August. So from 1st September I will take over as Senior Steward. Paulette Tomlinson will continue as part of the Vestry team, as will Sandra Storch and Judith Reep. We are pleased that Barry Stewart and Margaret Toronka have agreed to join us. If you have any queries or questions any time please feel free to speak to me or any of the Stewards and we will be happy to help you.

Theo (Senior Steward)

R N I B

See differently

ROYAL INSTITUTE for the BLIND

I recently learnt that the Institute gets £40.00 for two kilograms of used postage stamps and that helps provide one year's Talking Book Service for a blind or partially sighted person.

A youth facility in Bromley had to close and passed on a large quantity of stamps they had collected. As a result of this I was able to donate more than four kilograms of stamps recently.

Make saving stamps a habit now that you know the outcome.

Ena

PRAYER TIME



As you will know, a small group from the congregation meet for prayer before worship on Sunday mornings. We come willingly, just as we are, to pray for those both known to us and unknown, for fellow Christians locally and worldwide and the life and mission of our church here.

If this is something which appeals to you, do feel free to join us anytime.

Valerie

Action for Children.

Beckenham Methodist Church has supported Action for Children since the charity was set up in 1869 by Rev Stephenson, a Methodist minister.

Many of our members collect their loose change in home collecting boxes which we plan to collect again in December this year. We also accept donations from members and last year took a collection on Christmas Day. The total we raised for last year was £585. In 2022/23 Action for Children helped 765,905 children, young people and families across the UK covering the following areas:



Safe and happy childhood

Action for Children protects and supports children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support, ensuring their voices are heard, and campaigning to bring lasting improvements to their lives.



Children and families

- > Criminally exploited children
- > Child poverty
- > Early years
- > Neglect and abuse
- > Families with disabled children
- > Fostering and residential care
- > Good mental health
- > Young carers
- > Young people
- > Parenting support

Judith & Ingrid



Rangers, Guides and Brownies

All units have had a busy year with plenty of challenges achieved, craft completed, and games played.



All units took part in a County wide day at Leeds Castle where they enjoyed a Falcon and Owl display, playing in the sandpit completing the maze in the fastest time possible and even meeting Henry VIII!



The Brownies recently had a weekend at Heartsease, the Division house in West Wickham, where they cooked marshmallows on open fires and sang camp songs on the Friday night and woke up to Christmas in June on Saturday morning. The house was decorated, Father Christmas arrived to give out presents and Christmas lunch was enjoyed before they all went home.

The Guides and Rangers have attended a splash day at Danson Park doing sailing and canoeing and are now preparing for summer camp where they will sleep in tents and do plenty of activities such as climbing, zip wire and activities on the water. The girls will also help with the running the camp by collecting wood and water and helping to cook the meals.



Karen Millican, Leader



Good news!

Occasional cake bakers for Joy's Kitchen do not need to register with Environmental Health - yippee!

Instead, you simply need to complete our quick in-house registration form and then we can accept your cakes, buns and tarts for sale in our community café.

Please contact Deacon Laura, Mimi or Sandra for more information and to register to bake 'occasionally' for the cafe.

Thank you

MUSICAL NOTES BY DJ

The South London Singers begin a new season with changes in the air. Their Musical Director for the last five years, Nicholas Wibberley, has given notice of his intention to stand down to be able to take up other responsibilities. The process is well underway to appoint a new Director to take up the reins after Nick's last concert, which will be a programme of Christmas Carols at Bromley Road on Saturday December 14th. Meanwhile the choir are starting to prepare for their Autumn concert, again at Bromley Road, on Saturday November 2nd. Appropriate for the weekend of All Souls will be a performance of the Requiem by Maurice Duruflé. See the weekly notices or the choir's website for further details of the concert in due course.

At the church, we are delighted with the contributions to our services of the two young organists, Nehara Fernando and Mark Baker; both are pupils of John Webber, whose wife Maggie volunteers in the café. John has introduced countless local youngsters to the delights of piano and organ playing as well as singing and we as a Church are benefitting. In addition to being Director of Music at St John's Church, East Dulwich, John also leads the Beckenham Junior Choir (for Primary age children), Youth Voices (Secondary) and a group of adult singing friends who call themselves the Elm Singers. All three of those groups are getting together to put on a concert in our church on Saturday November 30th. A highly recommended evening of music, again with more details to follow but do put this and the SLS dates in the diary.

DJ





A MESSAGE FROM JOY'S KITCHEN – Autumn 2024

*Fairtrade fortnight 2024 will run from 9th September
-22nd September*



It's 30 years since Fairtrade products were first introduced to our supermarkets. Since then, they have pioneered a more equitable way of doing trade and becoming the world's most recognizable and trusted ethical label.

Fairtrade is about better prices, safe working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers.

Fairtrade works with farming co-operatives, businesses, and government to make trade fairer in 75 countries worldwide.

Together with Fairtrade the farmers and workers' vision are a world where trade is based on fairness so that producers earn secure and sustainable livelihoods. Fairtrade seeks social, economic and environmental standards for the company and the farmers involved in the supply chain.

As one woman says on one of their posters "It means we can support our families, our farming, and pay school fees for our children."

At Joy's kitchen we use Fairtrade products where possible and will be sharing information about Fairtrade with our customers during Fairtrade Fomrighnt this year. There are 4800 Fairtrade products in the UK to choose from!

Sheila



On Sunday 21 July, I was very happy to attend the second Annual General Meeting of Joy's Kitchen, on behalf of the Church Council. Here's my report from that meeting.

Joy's Kitchen has now been operating successfully in the Atrium for over two years. We heard about various highlights from the last year and also about what the coming year has in store. Special menus have been offered for different times of year, such as Harvest, Christmas and Lent, together with the usual menu of healthy home cooking. Our Eco Church committee has also planted some herbs outside in large planters for use in the café in the coming months.

There is an active committee in place who, along with a good number of volunteers (more always needed!) ensure that things run smoothly. Amongst those volunteers are four young people from Mencap - Rhiana, Rachel, James and Ben. The committee presented each of them

with a small gift as a thank you for all their help over the last year. The young people also wrote about their experience of volunteering and these reviews were on display in the Atrium during the meeting, as shown in the photo below, alongside some reviews by church members who volunteer.

The cafe has been able to make donations to two charities, “Smalls for All” and “Young Roots Croydon”, as well as a contribution to Church for heating and lighting costs.

Planning for the autumn is now underway and I am pleased to report that, following recent interviews, a paid manager will be in place to lead the team in the future. Organising and running a community café takes a great deal of time and work. This is really appreciated and it will help the café to continue to move forwards successfully.

And then there was food!

Christine, Church Council member



CHURCH CONFABULATION

How many times do we pass a building and think that we really ought to take some interest in it? Armed with curiosity and a fascination for the history of churches, I did just that.



In 1891 the first Roman Catholic Church in Beckenham, the Church of the Transfiguration and St. Benedict, was built in Overbury Avenue, the foundation stone being laid by Bishop Butt in October of that year (since demolished). In 1926 the church bought a hut in Village Way (formerly erected as a United Services Club by the YMCA in WW1) and this was used as a Roman Catholic Church for many years, but in July 1937, with the congregation still growing, the foundation stone was laid by Bishop Amigo for St. Edmund's Church, 46 years after the Catholic mission was begun in Beckenham and this is the only Roman Catholic Church in Beckenham. In August 1952 St. Edmund's became a Grade II listed building and so has a relatively short heritage history.

The church, built from brown Dutch bricks and laid in English bond, is facing west and its' façade's central section contains the nine-light west windows above three doorways. The panels above the entrance doors show the papal arms, St. Edmund (with his arms of three suns) and the arms of Bishop Amigo. The central feature is a carving of the Virgin and Child by Jacob Epstein. In 1948/49 stained glass windows by John B. Trinick (born 1890) were added to the church. A new parish hall was erected in 2000, opposite the church, to replace the former building. A visit to St. Edmund's is well recommended; a particular vibrancy is drawn here from a community of faith, as well as the diverse and multi-cultural individuals it embraces.

Jean



CHURCHES TOGETHER in BECKENHAM

This is a resume of the report which went to the Church AGM on 28th April

The local churches have continued to meet on a regular basis and are an active group. Information on each others activities are shared and where possible supported by each other.

A Walk of Witness took place on Good Friday which was very well attended. The walk this year took its usual route up the High Street from St Edmund's to The Green at St George's. Unfortunately due to the amount of rain in the week prior it was not possible to hold the final service there so it was held in St George's. I am pleased to say St George's was absolutely full.

A picnic was arranged and held at St Paul's Church on Sunday 7th July. Regrettably the weather was also not kind on this day. However we met inside and members from several local congregation shared lunch together. I am happy to say that several from our congregation attended.

The Chair of the meeting was Rev Andrew Jones from Avenue Road Baptist Church. Andrew did this job for many years and will be much missed now he has stepped down on his retirement. At present Liz King from Avenue Baptist Church is acting Chair with support from other churches as necessary. The Chair does not have to be held by a member of the clergy so it is good to see Liz taking on this responsibility. We will need to continue to look for a Chair on a more permanent basis.

It is good to meet and interact with other Christians in our locality this way and I hope we can continue our contribution.

David Keall is also a representative to the clergy/lay meetings with me and Rita Bishop is assisting us. If anyone has any questions or would like more information please speak to any of us.

Christine



Eco Lunch - Sunday 29 September

As we hope everyone has noticed, the Eco Group is holding an 'Eco Lunch' after the Harvest Festival service on Sunday 29th September.

The lunch will take place in the Epworth and Richmond rooms, i.e. upstairs, after coffee and we hope as many people as possible will join us. Do consider this your 'official' invitation.

The hope is to have a meal with as small a carbon footprint as practicable, using:

- locally-sourced produce
- food saved from being thrown away
- minimal plastic waste

We are pleased that a number of our congregation are growing produce that can be used and it looks like the menu will be something along the lines of:

- vegetable soup with home-made bread
- salad
- fruit sponge or crumble
- juice from fruit grown in Kent

but don't hold us to exactly this!!

Recently, details of the produce being grown, and a request for members of the congregation to help with turning produce into edible fare have gone out. The lunch is still **three weeks away** (from Indicator publication date) though, so it's not too late to volunteer if you think you can cook or bake something or supply some local fruit juice. If you can help, please speak to Judith Reep or David Bishop as soon as possible. Catch them after Sunday service, or David on dc.bishop@btinternet.com -(02086 509491), or Judith via Beckenham Methodist <beckenhammethodistsbr3@gmail.com>

We'll let you have details of when and where to bring the food and drink nearer the time.

We are sure that between us, we will be able to produce a great lunch and the extra good news is that it will help us in our quest towards a Silver Award under the A Rocha environmental award scheme, which the Church has signed up to.

And don't forget, if there are any leftovers on the day (you never know?!) we will be very happy for you to take these home with you. Be ready and bring a recyclable container, just in case.

Thank you - The Eco Church Group

FUND FOR HUMAN NEED



I wanted to share with you the following letter:

Dear all at Beckenham Methodist Church

Thank you so much for another kind and very generous donation to the Fund for Human Need (£1034.23), our thanks to all involved.

On behalf of the homeless, refugees and asylum seekers and those experiencing other kinds of personal distress, your support for the work of the Fund in responding to human need is greatly appreciated.

We continue to be busy, especially in the number of new organisations, including Doctor's practices and NHS trusts that are coming to us unable to turn elsewhere for desperate patients.

With the ongoing cost of living, especially fuel costs, we are going to be busy for some time to come. We are seeing an increase in the numbers of those granted asylum but are then left without support for 6 or more weeks and often evicted. We are still seeing the impacts of the war in Ukraine.

Thank you not just for the donation but also for your support and encouragement for what we do.

*With all good wishes,
Gill Mason (Admin) and all at FHN*

Valerie

FLOWERS IN CHURCH



ROTA for September, October and November

Sunday 8th	September	---	
Sunday 15th	September	Mimi Faulkner	
Sunday 22nd	September	Ena Hamblyn	
Sunday 29th	September	Wilson family	
Sunday 6th	October	Christine Handel	
Sunday 13th	October	---	
Sunday 20th	October	Irene Antwi	
Sunday 27th	October	---	
Sunday 3rd	November	Margaret Hazlewood	
Sunday 10th	November	Remembrance	
Sunday 17th	November	Diane Chorley	
Sunday 24th	November	Sheila Priestman	

If you feel you would like to provide flowers, maybe for an Anniversary or Birthday, please do have a word with me after service on a Sunday.

Margaret

Diary Dates for you:-

Saturday 26th October there will be a Quiz and Ploughmans Supper in the Epworth/Richmond rooms. Supper at 6pm followed by a quiz.

Christine Pope has once again agreed to do the honours and prepare a quiz for us.

Time - 6.00 to 8.30/9.00 pm

We look forward to a good evening shared and hope you can join us. Please put the date in your diary.

Saturday 7th December - A coffee morning/present sale at 10.30 am in the Atrium.

We would like to collect any unused/unopened gifts you can donate and sell them on. Re-cycling which has benefits for all. More information in due course.

Valerie/Christine

HEALTH CLINIC IN NALOGNI, GHANA



The money raised by the Circuit Mission Dinner in June has enabled work to begin on the health clinic in Nalogni. We pray this facility will make a great difference to the local communities it will serve.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Bromley Road at 10.30am (unless otherwise stated)

Sunday, 1st	September	Circuit Service at Farringtons School
Sunday 8th	September	Rev Duncan MacBean + Holy Communion
Sunday 15th	September	Deacon Laura MacBean
Sunday 22nd	September	Bennie and Jenny Harms
Sunday 29th	September	Roli Degazon-Johnson – Harvest
Sunday 6th	October	Rev Juliet Ushewokunze
Sunday 13th	October	Rev Hannah Faal-Heim
Sunday 20th	October	Ralph Brandhorst
Sunday 27th	October	Rev Duncan MacBean
Sunday 3rd	November	Rev Duncan MacBean + Holy Communion
Sunday 10th	November	Deacon Laura MacBean - Remembrance
Sunday 17th	November	Susan Cope
Sunday 24th	November	Rev Duncan MacBean

USEFUL CONTACTS

Beckenham Methodist Church

(Registered Charity No. 1138006)

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0208 650 2763

Minister: Rev Duncan MacBean
orpchissuper@gmail.com

Senior Steward: Theo Farmer

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>

