



**The Methodist Church**  
*in Hackney and Stoke Newington*

**NEWSLETTER**

**March 2021**

**CIRCUIT MINISTERS**

**Revd Andrew Letby (Superintendent)** Day off: Friday

Tel: 07875 011 003 [revandrew.hackney@gmail.com](mailto:revandrew.hackney@gmail.com)

**Revd Paulo Bessa da Silva** Day off: Monday

Tel: 07736 955 808 [paulobessa4@gmail.com](mailto:paulobessa4@gmail.com)

**Rev John Richey** Day off: Saturday

Tel: 07736 943 278 [jjosephrichey@gmail.com](mailto:jjosephrichey@gmail.com)

**Revd John Sakutombo** (Hospital Chaplain)

Tel: 0208 986 9384 [pamhare1@gmail.com](mailto:pamhare1@gmail.com)

**CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATOR/PA to the SUPERINTENDENT**

**Mrs Helen Cornick** Day off: Thursday

Tel: 07736 972 202 [handsnmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:handsnmethodist@gmail.com)

**CHURCH ADDRESSES**

**Clapton:** Downs Road (adj. 105 Downs Rd)

Lower Clapton E5 8DS

**Clapton Park:** 99 Chatsworth Road E5 0LH

**Dalston:** 11-13 Richmond Road E8 3HY

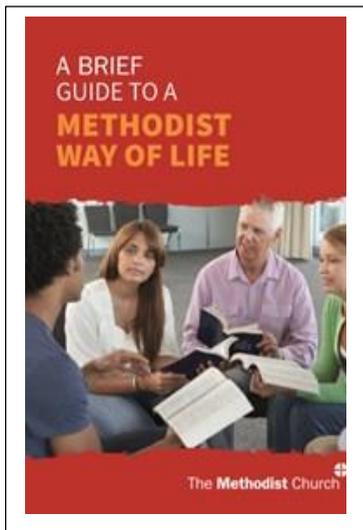
**Hackney Mare Street:** 219 Mare Street E8 3QE

**Stoke Newington:** 106a High Street N16 7NY

**Green Lanes:** 132a Green Lanes N16 9BN

**CIRCUIT WEBSITE**

**<https://hackneymethodist.org>**



In your envelope you will find a copy of this booklet. It is one of series of resources available introducing 'A Methodist Way of Life', produced to help us understand something of our heritage and future as Methodist people. You will see it is based on the 'Our Calling' headings. These have given a structure for our church life for many years now. Banners about Our Calling are displayed prominently in all our church buildings, so you will be very

familiar with the themes of Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism. As we approach Easter, why not look through the booklet and find out more?

Listen for God's call on your life. What can you do be a more faithful disciple? How can you encourage others? Can you help bring transformation to the world in the name of Jesus?

At our District Synod, all the Presbyteral Ministers in London spent time discussing 'A Methodist Way of Life'. A much-debated question was whether we are called to be Christians, or more specifically, Methodist Christians. I am one of those who chose to be and remains a Methodist because I find something very special about the way in which we understand the connection between our beliefs and the way we try to live out our lives. For me identifying as a Methodist is very important and I encourage you to think about what it means for you.

Rev Andrew

For further information about 'A Methodist Way of Life' take a look at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/life-and-faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/>

## **CIRCUIT NEWS AND EVENTS**

During the last year, most of our activities have taken place using Zoom. It is possible to join Zoom using a computer, smart phone, and also an ordinary phone.

If you would like to find out more about how to use Zoom you can either contact Helen Cornick, or Sue Millman (who has run some training sessions and is willing to lead more to help you out).

### **Virtual Coffee and Prayers**

Every Wednesday at 10am we have Virtual Coffee and Prayers on Zoom. Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82977408302> or you can phone from any telephone – dial 0203 481 5237. The meeting ID is 829 7740 8302 followed by # - then you will need to press # again. To unmute, press \*6 and to mute press \*6 again.

### **Bible Study**

We are meeting every fortnight on Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom. Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8297748302> or you can phone from any telephone – dial 0203 481 5237. The meeting ID is 829 7740 8302 followed by # - then you will need to press # again. To unmute, press \*6 and to mute press \*6 again.

Since Christmas, we have been working through 'The Methodist Way of Life'. There will be a Holy Week Service on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7pm, and we will choose a new Bible Study for after Easter – 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April, 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June

### **Sunday Worship**

We will continue to use Zoom for the foreseeable future at 11am every Sunday (even when our churches resume in-person worship. Join us on Zoom for worship: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89083382040> or you can phone from any telephone – dial 0203 481 5237. The meeting ID is 890 8338 2040 followed by # - and then you will need to press # again. To unmute, press \*6 and to mute press \*6 again. The services are available on YouTube afterwards – details are on the website.

# A message from our Circuit Stewards

## Reflections on Resurrection

As the anniversary of the first lockdown approaches and we navigate towards the second Easter of the pandemic there is inevitably a range of emotions among our Methodist community in Hackney and Stoke Newington Circuit. Many are grieving the loss of family members or friends, others are feeling the strain of the isolation induced by the lockdown - all of us are longing for the time when we can gather face to face as a church family. The vaccination programme offers hope that before too long our churches can open and we can meet each other in fellowship.

This hope chimes with the season of the Christian year - Easter is coming; offering all believers the hope of the resurrection. And that is exactly what will happen to our churches - we will be resurrected! The pain and difficulties of the last year will not be erased, but the resurrection offers us the ability to come to terms with them through the boundless love of the risen Christ and the everlasting life it offers.

The reopening will require effort on our part, and sadly, not everybody will be able to participate in practical ways due to a continuing need to shield but Paul tells us in Romans 12:5-8:

*“so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.”*

There are some of us who can take us towards the resurrection of worship by helping in the duties required to open the churches; we give praise for them, and pray that they will respond to the call. Those of us unable to physically help can prayerfully support the efforts of those on whom we depend: they who have the God-given ability to enable our resurrection as a worshipping community.

In the meanwhile, we continue to meet online in our Zoom services and gatherings. If you are unable to access these and have a computer or a Smartphone and need some help to understand how to use Zoom, please get in touch with Sue Millman and she will arrange a time to help you get on line. ([sue\\_millman@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sue_millman@blueyonder.co.uk) or 0208 533 3365)

The Circuit Stewards - Valentine Baxter, Kwaku Anyemedu, Catherine Hogan and Sue Millman

## **Meetings in the Circuit**

**Circuit Meeting:** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm on Zoom  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm

**Leaders of Worship and Preachers Meeting:** Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 11am

**CLT Meeting:** Tuesdays 20<sup>th</sup> April, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> July

## **Circuit Administrator needs your help**

Included in your envelope should be a slip of paper with the contact details I have for you. If these are not correct, please can you let me have the correct details so that we can keep our circuit records up to date. This would mean that if we need to make contact with you, we can do so quickly and efficiently. Thank you.

Helen

[handsnmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:handsnmethodist@gmail.com) 07736 972202

# **A message from our Circuit Safeguarding Officer**

## **Opening of our Church buildings**

Hello everyone. Hope you are blessed with the goodness of God.

We are looking forward to Easter. This is a time for us to celebrate new life and a fresh start, but this year is especially significant.

We have found ourselves in a unique and challenging situation. Loved ones have stepped off the train of life. Although we never knew that their stop was 2020-21 before our hearts were filled with sorrow.

I welcome the re-opening of our churches, but as Christians we need to lead the way in ensuring that the safe wellbeing of all our members are met.

Having completed the Risk Assessments, which was not an easy task and was very challenging - (this seems a distant memory), it is important that we plan and follow the government guidelines and observe public health information. We are confident that all the necessary measures will be in place prior to the re-opening of our churches and would welcome as many stewards and volunteers as possible to come forward to make it a success.

While our capacity may be restricted, and our services will be arranged differently from what they were before Covid-19, we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to join us in fellowship again.

God bless.

Catherine Hogan

## **CHURCH INFORMATION**

Although we are not meeting in our church buildings at the moment, there are still expenses to be paid to enable the mission of God to take place. If you are able to make online offerings at this time, it would be appreciated.

Please make a note of the date and amount paid into the account so that this can be allocated to your envelope number when we return to the church building.

Please contact your church treasurer or Helen Cornick 07736 972202 or [handsnmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:handsnmethodist@gmail.com) if you need further information about giving to the church.

### **CLAPTON (Downs Road)**

Minister: Rev Paulo Bessa Da Silva

Bank details for the church:

Sort Code: 40-02-06 Account Number: 30029734

### **CLAPTON PARK (Chatsworth Road)**

Minister: Rev John Richey

Bank details for the church:

Sort Code: 40-02-06 Account Number: 50013048

### **DALSTON (Richmond Road)**

Minister: Rev Andrew Letby

Bank details for the church:

Sort Code: 60-12-18 Account Number: 61808849

### **HACKNEY (Mare Street)**

Minister: Rev Andrew Letby

Bank details for the church:

Sort Code: 40-02-06 Account Number: 40015350

### **STOKE NEWINGTON (High Street and Green Lanes)**

Minister: Rev Paulo Bessa Da Silva

Bank details for the church:

Sort Code: 40-52-40 Account Number: 00032056

# **COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

## **Hackney Citizens**

Hackney Citizens is an organisation that helps motivate people to engage with public life, and act together for the common good to win change and to strengthen civic institutions in the process.

During the pandemic we were involved in many sessions to campaign for laptops for struggling families within our churches / community. We were very successful in the campaign, and the organisation was awarded £20,000 from Amazon to purchase laptops, internet doodles and laptop bags.

Our circuit was awarded a number of laptops, which were distributed successfully to those who qualify within the criteria. And as a result of this success, the organisation and its members have decided to campaign for a second wave seeking more laptops as the needs of our communities' changes.

Kwaku Anyemedu

## **Census**

Census Day is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March. You must complete the census by law and provide accurate information which helps decide how services are funded in your area. You could be fined up to £1000 for not doing completing the census. If you need help with completing your form, please get in touch with Helen [handsnmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:handsnmethodist@gmail.com) or 07736 972202.

## **Supporting Local Food Bank**

Just before Christmas, we were delighted to be able to collect food for a local food bank. The food was taken to support local residents who are struggling, particularly during the pandemic time. We hope to be able to support our neighbours again soon, and we will let you know when we have something arranged.

## **Vaccinations**

Many from our church communities have now had a Covid-19 vaccine. These words come from our District Chair, Rev Jongi Zihle:

‘The Christian call to love your neighbour as yourself is central to caring, providing a healthy environment whose express purpose is the preservation of human life... I therefore urge that we accept (and receive) the vaccine when offered to us, and if not for ourselves, then for the sake of the most vulnerable in our communities for whom when infected, their lives and those whose livelihoods are inter-linked with theirs, would be fatally affected not just for the moment but for generations to come.’

## **Websites you might be interested in**

As well as our circuit website, you might also be interested to look at:

[www.methodistorg.uk](http://www.methodistorg.uk)

[www.methodistlondon.org.uk](http://www.methodistlondon.org.uk)

[www.allwecan.org.uk](http://www.allwecan.org.uk)

[www.jointpublicissues.org.uk](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk)

[www.hackney.gov.uk](http://www.hackney.gov.uk)

## **OTHER NEWS**

Rev Hazel Forecast left the Hackney and Stoke Newington Circuit in the summer of 2020. She wrote a letter after leaving, but since this is the first newsletter to have been produced since then, this is the earliest opportunity that we have had to share it.

1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Dear friends,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the generosity you have shown to me as I retire and move away from Hackney. Your gifts - from individuals and from churches and organisations, your words in cards and letters and from those of you who represented your churches at the service on Sunday - have been quite overwhelming. I am very humbled and feel truly blessed by it all, as I have been blessed to serve in the Hackney and Stoke Newington Circuit for the last nine years of my 'active' ministry.

I said my 'goodbyes' and appreciations really in the last Newsletter. I won't repeat them now, except to say that I will miss you all and carry you on my heart and in my prayers as you step into this next stage of life as Circuit, as churches and more personally and privately. I do hope that it won't be too long before we can all come together, not restricted in numbers or distance or singing, and greet each other face to face and hand to hand.

Meanwhile I'm settling into my new home, half way between Redhill and Reigate just south of the M25 near Gatwick - not so very far away. Apart from the 11 years growing up before I went to uni, the 9 years I lived at Cleveleys Road was the longest I'd lived anywhere. So it's a very new thought, to be contemplating living here for maybe the next 20-25 years. There's a garden here and as I plan what to do with it, I can hope that if I plant a tree or two, I may be around to see them grow a bit. I'm not taking anything for granted though. The last 6 months has surely taught us all that the only thing we can be sure of in this world is the love of God that will hold us in whatever we find ourselves.

So I'm giving thanks for each day and learning to live differently and at a (slightly!) slower pace, getting to know my neighbours and my neighbourhood, and valuing the time I can have now with family and friends - even if it still needs to be socially distanced. And I'll wait to see what the Spirit is going to draw me into, in different ways of being a Minister.

God bless you on the next stages of your ministries, as followers of Jesus and as Church together. And may many others be blessed by you as you faithfully fulfil your calling.

With love and prayers

Hazel

## **Methodist Women in Britain**

Mathilda Small-Byam is arranging a Sector B meeting for Methodist Women in Britain. Please contact either Mathilda or Helen to get the details for this.

## **Circuit Website – <https://hackneymethodist.org>**

Have you looked at the circuit website? It is a good place to find out information about what is taking place in the Hackney and Stoke Newington Circuit. It is regularly updated – usually on Monday mornings – and gives details of our Sunday worship as well as other information about the life of our circuit.

Have a look at it, and please contact Helen if you would like something advertised or celebrated on the website.

## **WhatsApp**

Did you know that there is a circuit WhatsApp group? It is currently one of the best ways that we are using to inform people of things we need to share. It is also a good way to find out about worship and other things that are happening. If you use WhatsApp, and wish to be included please let Helen or Rev Andrew know.

## LECTIONARY READINGS

At the time of going to print, we don't know when each of our churches will resume worship in the church buildings. For this reason, the preaching plan has been delayed in getting out to you. There will continue to be worship on Zoom every Sunday at 11am whether or not your church building is open. Please pray for all your friends at the churches as we seek the safest ways to return to worship at our churches.

**Palm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March:** Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

**Maundy Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April:** Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April:** Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1 - 19:42

**Easter Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April:** Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April:** Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1 - 2:2; John 20:19-31

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April:** Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April:** Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May:** Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May:** Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May:** Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

**Pentecost Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May:** Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

**Trinity Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May:** Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

***Please email all notices for June – August to Helen by Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021***