



LAMBETH CIRCUIT 35/06
NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO.46
December 2024, January and February 2025

Revd Dr Andy Lyons' Message

Dear Lambeth Circuit – The Methodist Church byline for this years Advent and Christmas season is 'Hush the Noise'. I have recently experienced lots of noise from the many firework events that have happened for Diwali and Bonfire Night! So, maybe, it is good to think of and hope for some 'hush'! Mind you in many of our churches and in our family celebrations I am sure there will be lots of noise as we sing our carols and open our presents and share food and conversation around dinner tables. But let us also make time and space throughout the season to contemplate the 'Good News' that we celebrate this Christmas time. The liturgy for the first Sunday of Advent, published on the Methodist Church web site, is given below. Perhaps it is picking up the words from It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (StF 205 vs 3) – 'O hush the noise, you men of strife, and hear the angels sing'.

Advent dawns with lights strung high and music everywhere,
Sights and smells abound around,
Senses assaulted and confused,
O hush the noise,
Let's hear the angels sing.

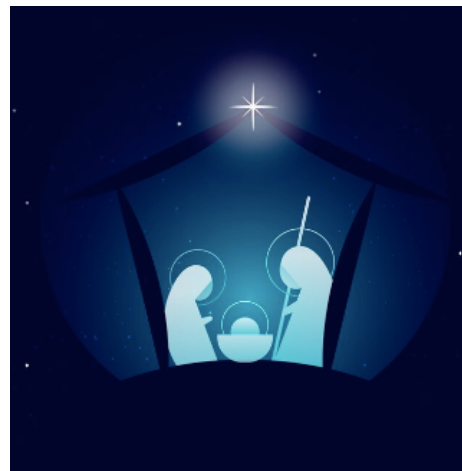
Amid the lists and cards and gifts,
Amid the pleas and "please can we",
Amid the chaos of the world,
O hush the noise,
Let's hear the angels sing.

Let's seek to see and seek to hear.
Let's seek to feel and seek to know.
Let's seek to find peace and love.
O hush the noise,
Let's hear the angels sing.

The world is full of strife. This year has seen the continuance of the war in Ukraine and the destruction of Gaza.

A civil war continues in Sudan, fighting goes on in Myanmar and many other places face conflict and violence. We can also face strife in our own families, churches, neighbourhood and in our own souls. And yet...And yet... Into our world God gives us his child to bring peace. O that we all, world leaders, churches, other faiths, local leaders and family members might hush themselves, and hear the angels sing 'Peace on Earth'. This is God's desire.

Revd Dr Andy Lyons.



Revd Sue Shortman's Message:

Dear Lambeth Circuit Family,
I write as I begin to settle into life in the Lambeth Circuit and grapple with the work that God has called me to here amongst you all. I found myself with feelings of excitement and hope as I visited the site in Vauxhall currently under construction recently a pioneering part of the appointment to which I was stationed here in The Lambeth Circuit. It feels very much like we are embarking on an important journey together—one that has the potential to transform not only our circuit but our wider community.

As many of you may know, the church in Vauxhall was sold a number of years ago and after much prayer, reflection and discernment, there was a decision made for the circuit to keep a presence in that place. So, working with the developer a plan was put in place to create a space within the larger development for the circuit to engage with the community. The project might be about working with those in the community who are at the edges of society for one reason or another and in doing so create a new community with and alongside people from that community. It might be about building stronger relationships with the surrounding communities. It will certainly be about creating a space where everyone can experience God's love in practical ways. Perhaps what the Methodist Church is now calling 'new places for new people' in which new Christian communities are formed with those who may not have been connected with church and faith previously.

Following the visit to the project I realised that we are now at a stage where some decisions need to be made about what this space that has been set aside for the church might look like. What do we need the contractors to put in there now - before it is handed over to us? Where might the toilets and kitchen sensibly be? Should it be divided up in some way now or do we wait until later when we have more of an idea about how the space will be used?

This project isn't something that can be accomplished by just a few; it requires the collective effort of our entire circuit.

Each one of us has something unique to contribute, and together, we can make a lasting difference.

Our community is filled with individuals and families who are struggling—whether it's due to loneliness, financial hardship, or simply the pressures of daily life. As a church, we are called to be a beacon of hope and light. This project is an opportunity to connect with people letting them know that they are seen, loved, and valued. By coming together, we can provide practical help, build relationships, and offer the love of Christ in a tangible way.

I believe that **everyone** in our circuit family has something to offer. Whether you are able to volunteer your time, donate resources, offer your skills, or simply pray for the success of this project, there is a place for you on this team. Here are some ways you can be part of this exciting initiative:

- **Volunteering:** We need people to help organise, plan, and execute different aspects of the project, from community outreach to logistics and event planning.
- **Skills and Talents:** Whether you have experience in community organising, teaching, cooking, administration, or simply offering a listening ear, your gifts are needed!
- **Prayer and Support:** If you're unable to physically participate, your prayers are essential and will be the foundation of its success.

Scripture reminds us that **"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor"** (Ecclesiastes 4:9). When we work together, supporting one another, we can accomplish far more than we ever could on our own. This project is not just about meeting a need; it's about building **community**—not just in the broader sense, but within our circuit as well.

If you feel a nudge in your heart to be part of this project please reach out to me and if you have any questions or would like to meet with me to chat about it do be in touch.

Let's build something beautiful together and in doing so help to transform our community.

If you want to read more about the new places for new people initiative you can access material online at

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/evangelism-growth/new-places-for-new-people/>

Or if you prefer a hard copy booklet I have a few available so just let me know.

With every blessing and much excitement for the journey ahead,

Sue Shortman



The Community for Spiritual Formation
Friday 10th & Saturday 11th January 2025
Eastern Epiphanies -

An online overnight retreat with Nicola Vidamour: Methodist Minister who currently serves as the Director of Reflective Pastoral Supervision at Wesley House, Cambridge. Nicola spent a year in Moscow as a student and was the Associate Pastor of a Methodist Church in Pskov, Russia from 2003-2009. The story of the magi and the star which appeared in the east played a significant role in her call to ordination. Nicola will use a series of paintings by the Russian artist Nikolai Roerich to help us reflect on the ways in which Christ is revealed to us today. She will also share something of her encounters with Russia and Russians – past and present. Her book, *Where Two Rivers Meet: Russian Windows on the Gospel* is available from Sacristy Press.

Programme for the event

Friday 10th: 7:30 – 9:00pm

7:30pm Gathering, welcome & orientation

- Short shared silence
- Listening and Learning 1 – including questions for overnight reflection
- Night Prayer
- Disperse (participants spending time in silence if they wish/are able to do so)

Saturday 11th: 9am – 1pm

9:00am Morning Prayer

- Plenary – reflecting on the questions & theme together
- Listening and Learning 2
- An hour of silence (individually off screen)

12 noon Plenary sharing together

12.30pm Midday Prayer and close

Further Information

To register for this event please email fivedaycsf@btinternet.com by Friday 3rd January. Worship material will be sent by email in advance. It is important to be present for the whole event.

Cost: Donations to the Community are invited with a suggested minimum amount of £10. This can be Gift Aided; forms and bank details will be shared when you register.

To find out more about the Community for Spiritual Formation please visit:

<https://5daycommunity.com/>

Revd Lena's Message

I would like to begin by thanking you all for your prayers, support, cards and messages of sympathy following the death of my 34 year old niece Neela in Orlando on the Friday 18th October 2024. She died after a brief illness and we are all trying to come to terms with our loss.

Despite our trials and tribulations, life goes on and once again we have come full circle as we move rapidly to the Church year which begins with the first Sunday of Advent on the 1st December 2024.

The Church year ends on the last Saturday of Ordinary time which falls this year on the 31st November 2024. Advent comes from a Latin word for "coming" and the season of Advent is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ "in power and glory."

In the life of the Church, there are 6 seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Season. Technically, Ordinary Time has two parts, but it remains one season. The first part begins right after the Feast of the Epiphany and runs until Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday (when Lent begins). The second part begins the Monday after Pentecost and runs until the First Sunday of Advent.

For many people, opportunities to celebrate Advent and Christmas will be denied this year. The Palestinian Christians and other Christians elsewhere in the world continue to live in uncertain and perilous times and it is sad and disheartening that there is so much suffering in the very land where Our Saviour walked, and where prospects of peace seem like a distant dream; there and elsewhere in the world.

It is enough to make us feel downcast, helpless and even hopeless because the way forward seems so unclear.

As many of us will be preparing to celebrate at this sacred time of the year, I pray that our hearts will go out to our unfortunate and suffering sisters and brothers who are facing natural disasters, wars, displacement and so many hardships, too many to name. Their food baskets and stomachs will remain empty.

As we think of the angels on that first Christmas night declaring "peace on earth" and then the star which guided the wisemen, it seems that in the unforeseeable future, the light is hidden. This does not mean there is no hope.

When Christians join together, worship and pray together and pray for justice and peace, it is a sign of hope.

The greatest statement of hope which was ever made was at Christmas, when Jesus came into the world. God reveals himself in Christ, the Word made flesh, the Son of God and Son of Man, and the light of truth is made present amongst us in Christ. Let us celebrate and pray and praise that the presence of Christ amongst us, as God's great gift to the world. The light shines in the darkness.

I sincerely pray and wish that you will all have a Happy and Holy Christmas and the New Year will bring fresh blessings to you and your loved ones.

Lena.



News from Streatham

On September 22nd we celebrated Harvest. The service was taken by our minister Rev Sue who told us a story about a homeless lady who found a basket containing ten apples next to her when she woke up. Rev Sue used this story to remind us of all the good things that we have. This homeless woman ate three of the apples, exchanged three for a bed for the night and three for some clothes leaving one apple. What did she decide to do with this one apple? She gave it away! Even in her poverty she was generous to others. Does this remind you of any of the stories or the miracles of Jesus?

Just like with Jesus' parables there are different levels of understanding. We can just think well that a nice story or we can take it to heart and see what this could mean for us.

These are the questions the congregation were asked:

Did you come to church today without any breakfast because there was no food in the house?

Do you have a spare bedroom in your house?

Do you have more clothes than will fit into one wardrobe?

Please think about these questions as you remember all that we have and take some action in response to others needs.

The children at Streatham had learnt a song "Harvest Samba". They sang this and the congregation joined in the chorus.

It's another Harvest Festival
When we bring our fruit and vegetables
Cause we want to share the best of all
The Good things that we've been given
It's another opportunity
To be grateful for the things we eat
With a samba celebration to say
Thank you to God the Father

If you have time then use the link below to listen to the Harvest Samba sung by some other children. It has a very catchy tune and you might find yourself dancing along!

<https://youtu.be/dqpkWsR6Yew?si=EXr74zeZqr1EjEHM>

Members of the congregation brought Harvest gifts of tinned and packaged goods for those in need. The biscuits, cup a Soup and tea bags have been taken to the Foodbank session at Brixton Hill where they are being used to provide snacks for those who need help. At the session when the goods were taken there were about thirteen single men receiving advice and Food Parcels. These men have been referred by various agencies in Lambeth as being in Food Poverty. Who knows what their back story is but you must be very desperate to be living on the streets or in need of emergency food. The rest of the Harvest donations were taken to the Foodbank Warehouse in Streatham and will be used to make up food parcels for those in need in our borough.

After our Harvest Service we had a Bring and Share lunch in the hall. This was the first time we had done this since before Covid so it was a very happy occasion.

**Thank You Lord for all that you have given us
Help us to use your gifts wisely and share
with those in need**



CIRCUIT PREACHING PLAN Year C – DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY SERVICES		1	8	15	22	29
		1st Sunday of Advent	2nd Sunday of Advent	3rd Sunday of Advent	4th Sunday of Advent	1st of Christmas
CHURCHES	TIME	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36	Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4 Canticle: Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79) Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Canticle: Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Micah 5:2-5a Canticle: Magnificat (Luke 1:46b-55) or Psalm 80:1-7 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52
BRIXTON HILL	11:00am	Markay HC	Ashworth	Markay AA	Smyth - Carols	Kyei
CLAPHAM	11:00am	Lyons HC	Cofie	Lyons	Lyons	Oyeledun
Zoom Sign-in Details: 934 1927 0108 Password: 121356	6:00pm Zoom Service open to all Circuit Members	CTIC Service	Christingle – Circuit Service 3 pm		Lyons – Carols	
LAMBETH WALK	10:00am	Shortman HC	Oyeledun	Shortman	Lyons -- Carols	Shortman
MOSTYN ROAD	11:00am	N/S	N/S	N/S	N/S	Markay HC
RAILTON ROAD	11:00am	Ali HC	Lyons	Ali Carols	Amoah-Arko	LA
SPRINGFIELD	10:30am	Dormon	King HC	Sackey	Markay	King
STOCKWELL	10:30am	King HC	Markay	Dormon	King	LA
STREATHAM	10:30am	Amoah-Arko	Shortman	Ovenden	Shortman - Carols	Sackey
TULSE HILL	10:30am	Smyth	Ali HC	King	Ali - Carols	LA

OTHER SERVICES IN THIS QUARTER

Circuit Christingle	8 December 3pm @ Clapham		
Carol Service	22 December 3.00pm - Joint All Age @ Stockwell		
Christmas Eve	Clapham 11.30 - HC		
Christmas Day	Brixton Hill - 10am - Markay Lambeth Walk 9.30 - Shortman	Clapham – 11am - Lyons Tulse Hill 10am - Lyons Stockwell 10.30 – LA Springfield 10.30 - King	Streatham - 11am - Shortman
Watchnight	10.30pm - Joint Watchnight Service @ Springfield	Brixton Hill -11pm	Clapham - 11pm



CIRCUIT PREACHING PLAN Year C – JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY SERVICES		5	12	19	26
		2nd Sunday of Christmas	Sunday after the Epiphany	2nd Sunday in Ordinary time	3rd Sunday in Ordinary time
		Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9) 10-18	Baptism of the Lord Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11 3	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21
CHURCHES	TIME				
BRIXTON HILL	11:00am	Markay Cov	Cofie	Markay AA	LA
CLAPHAM	11:00am	Lyons Cov	Ashworth	Lyons	Kyei
Zoom Sign-in Details: 934 1927 0108 Password: 121356	6:00pm Zoom Service open to all Circuit Members				Lyons HC
LAMBETH WALK	10:00am	Shortman Cov	Markay	Ovenden	LA
MOSTYN ROAD	11:00am	N/S	N/S	N/S	Markay Cov
RAILTON ROAD	11:00am	Ali Cov	Oyeledun	Tackie-Yarboi	King
SPRINGFIELD	10:30am	LA	King Cov	Smyth	Lyons
STOCKWELL	10:30am	King Cov	Lyons	Ali	Oyeledun
STREATHAM	10:30am	Dormon	Shortman Cov	LA	Shortman
TULSE HILL	10:30am	Amoah-Arko	Ali Cov	Shortman	LA

CIRCUIT PREACHING PLAN Year C – FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY SERVICES		2	9	16	23
		4th Sunday in Ordinary time	5th Sunday in Ordinary time	6th Sunday in Ordinary time	7th Sunday in Ordinary time
		Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	Genesis 45:3-11,15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38
CHURCHES	TIME				
BRIXTON HILL	11:00am	Markay HC	Ovenden	Shortman	Tackie-Yarboi
CLAPHAM	11:00am	Lyons HC	Lyons	Lyons AA	LA
Zoom Sign-in Details: 934 1927 0108 Password: 121356	6:00pm Zoom Service open to all Circuit Members				Lyons HC
LAMBETH WALK	10:00am	Shortman HC	King	Moore	LA
MOSTYN ROAD	11:00am	N/S	N/S	N/S	Markay HC
RAILTON ROAD	11:00am	Ali HC	LA	Smyth	Shortman
SPRINGFIELD	10:30am	Ovenden	Oyeledun	King HC	King
STOCKWELL	10:30am	King HC	LA	LA	Smyth
STREATHAM	10:30am	Ashworth	Shortman - HC	Dormon	Ali
TULSE HILL	10:30am	Cofie	Ali HC	Oyeledun	Lyons

CIRCUIT PREACHING PLAN Year C – DECEMBER 2024; JANUARY, FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY SERVICES		DECEMBER 2024					JANUARY 2025				FEBRUARY 2025			
		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23
		1st Sunday of Advent	2nd Sunday of Advent	3rd Sunday of Advent	4th Sunday of Advent	1st of Christmas	2nd Sunday of Christmas	Sunday after the Epiphany	2nd Sunday in Ordinary time	3rd Sunday in Ordinary time	4th Sunday in Ordinary time	5th Sunday in Ordinary time	6th Sunday in Ordinary time	7th Sunday in Ordinary time
		Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36	Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4 Canticle: Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79) Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Canticle: Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Micah 5:2-5a Canticle: Magnificat (Luke 1:46b-55) or Psalm 80:1-7 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9) 10-18	Baptism of the Lord Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11 3	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	Genesis 45:3-11,15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38
CHURCHES	TIME													
BRIXTON HILL	11:00am	Markay HC	Ashworth	Markay AA	Smyth -Carols	Kyei	Markay Cov	Cofie	Markay AA	LA	Markay HC	Ovenden	Shortman	Tackie-Yarboi
CLAPHAM	11:00am	Lyons HC	Cofie	Lyons	Lyons	Oyeledun	Lyons Cov	Ashworth	Lyons	Kyei	Lyons HC	Lyons	Lyons AA	LA
	6:00pm	CTIC Service	Christingle – Circuit Service 3 pm		Lyons – Carols					Lyons HC				Lyons HC
LAMBETH WALK	10:00am	Shortman HC	Oyeledun	Shortman	Lyons - Carols	Shortman	Shortman Cov	Markay	Ovenden	LA	Shortman HC	King	Moore	LA
MOSTYN RD	11:00am	N/S	N/S	N/S	N/S	Markay HC	N/S	N/S	N/S	Markay Cov	N/S	N/S	N/S	Markay HC
RAILTON RD	11:00am	Ali HC	Lyons	Ali Carols	Amoah-Arko	LA	Ali Cov	Oyeledun	Tackie-Yarboi	King	Ali HC	LA	Smyth	Shortman
SPRINGFIELD	10:30am	Dormon	King HC	Sackey	Markay	King	LA	King Cov	Smyth	Lyons	Ovenden	Oyeledun	King HC	King
STOCKWELL	10:30am	King HC	Markay	Dormon	King	LA	King Cov	Lyons	Ali	Oyeledun	King HC	LA	LA	Smyth
STREATHAM	10:30am	Amoah-Arko	Shortman	Ovenden	Shortman - Carols	Sackey	Dormon	Shortman Cov	LA	Shortman	Ashworth	Shortman - HC	Dormon	Ali
TULSE HILL	10:30am	Smyth	Ali HC	King	Ali - Carols	LA	Amoah-Arko	Ali Cov	Shortman	LA	Cofie	Ali HC	Oyeledun	Lyons