

*We wish you a blessed Christmas
and best wishes for New Year!*



A big thanks to all the churches and circuits that have shared their good news stories with us in the last two weeks.

We have enjoyed talking to you and reading about how much you give of yourselves sharing God's love and light with many during this Advent time. We hope that they have been a source of encouragement and inspiration to many around *the District.*

+++++

District Office Closed for Christmas & Year!

Please note that the District Office will be closed from Christmas Eve until the 4th January. In case of any emergencies the Chairs will be available on their mobile phones.

London District Christmas Edition 2010!

Christmas & New Year's message from the District Chairs

Dreams can be so different from reality! In the run-up to Christmas, pretty snow covered Christmas cards and songs such as "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas" summon up pictures of a cosy, family gathering around a real fire, eating and drinking to their heart's content. However the reality ... *(full message can be downloaded from the website shortly)*

Remembering Children in Need this Christmas

On the 5th December, Downsvew Methodist Church held their gift service. Both young and old gave brand new gifts all nicely wrapped and labeled with indication of age and gender of a child that would be suitable to ultimately receive the gift. This last weekend on Saturday 18th December the Superintendent of Croydon Circuit, Revd Nigel Cowgill and some circuit members took the gifts to Croydon University Hospital. The gifts were presented to the head and staff of the paediatric ward and will be given to the children in the ward at Christmas. This is the 3rd year that the Croydon circuit has remembered the children at Croydon University Hospital. They have strong links with the hospital chaplaincy and this gift is very much appreciated by the hospital and it puts a smile on those children who can't be with their families for Christmas.

By Juliet Smith, Croydon Circuit

Christmas tree Festival at Barnet Brookside

Over the weekend of 11th & 12th December we held our first Christmas tree festival, which was the last event in a series over the year celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Methodism in Barnet. The church was filled with 22 Christmas Trees all decorated by local schools, businesses and church organisations (both Methodist and our partner Anglican Church). The church was open each day from 10am -4pm and we had a steady flow of visitors coming in to look at all the different amazing displays. During the event we were lucky enough to have a recital by one of our organists and a performance by 'Inspiral Sax' a local youth Saxophone Group. The weekend culminated with our Candlelit Candle Service, which was made even more spectacular this year with all the lights from the different trees.

By Graham Wheeler, Barnet & Queensbury Circuit

Christmas Calypso at TaB

TaB is hosting a 'Christmas Calypso' this Wednesday 22nd December. This Christmas special event will be featuring young talented local & professional artists and it promises to get everyone into the festive spirits. Food and refreshments will be served during the interval! Hurry up book your tickets for you and your friends now! Adults (18+): £5.00. Teens: £1.00. Under 13's: Free. Doors open 6.30pm with the performance starting at 7.00pm. Location at TaB Sanctuary, Palmerston Road, London, N22 8RA. For more information contact admin: 020 8888 2797 admin@trinityatbowes.co.uk



The TaB Centre (with multimedia suite) is opening soon!

Yes, the TaB Centre Plus at Trinity-at-Bowes is set to open on the 2nd March 2011 and the President of Conference will be attending the opening ceremony! The building and construction project has gone really well and is now almost complete.



The purpose of the Centre is to provide an attractive, friendly and secure environment for local community to meet, relax and build relationships with individuals and groups.

There are multiple facilities for all ages and abilities for participation in a huge variety of activities. This centre is supported by London Borough of Enfield, Metropolitan Police & Tottenham Hotspur Foundation.

A multimedia suite will house a professional IT suite, TV and music recording studios where young people and everyone else within the Methodist Church can record, edit, carry out their multimedia services.

W: www.trinityatbowes.co.uk

By Chux Daniels from Trinity at Bowes, New River Circuit

Young People in Edmonton

The young peoples' group (aged 13-25) at Edmonton is around 30 in number. They're developing a Sunday afternoon time together and a monthly Friday evening worship service in their own style, to which friends are coming. In Trinity (Enfield town centre) the youth group is the backbone of the orchestra that plays for worship each month. Young people from Southgate are regulars at Youth Conference and Breakout. Speaking with Geoff Cornell "we are blessed with a remarkable group of young people - and there is this sense of being on the cusp of something really special. Mind you, last year would be hard to beat: the young people from the local Mosque turning up for the Covenant Service at Edmonton!"

By Julia Moorhouse, speaking to Geoff Cornell of Enfield Circuit

Christmas story – a gift of love and friendship!

As you make plans for the celebration of Christmas, I want to share with you a short story which brings out very powerfully the true meaning of Christmas.

There was once a Persian monarch Shah Abbas, who loved his people very much. In order to know and understand his subjects better, he would mingle with them in various disguises. One day he went as a poor man to the public baths and in a tiny cellar sat beside the fireman who tended the furnace. When it was mealtime the monarch shared his coarse food and talked to his lonely subject as a friend. Again and again he

visited and the man grew to love him. One day the Shah told him he was the monarch, expecting the man to ask some gift from him. But the fireman sat gazing at his ruler with love and wonder and at last spoke, "You left your palace and your glory to sit with me in this dark place, to eat of my coarse food, to care whether my heart is glad or sorry. On others you may bestow rich presents, but to me you have given yourself, and it only remains for me to pray that you never withdraw the gift of your friendship."

This beautiful story reminds us that Christ, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, left the glories of heaven in order to share himself with us. That gift of his love and friendship will never be withdrawn from us. Let us reciprocate the friendship of Christ this Christmas by opening our doors to him. He will gladly come in and eat with us and make a home in our hearts.

Come and join us to worship the new-born King with us. Lesnes Abbey Circuit is open several times during the festive season see [website for service times](#).

By Rev Hayford Ofori-Attah of Lesnes Abbey Circuit
