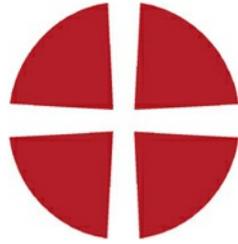


**ROMFORD
METHODIST
CIRCUIT**



Aveley

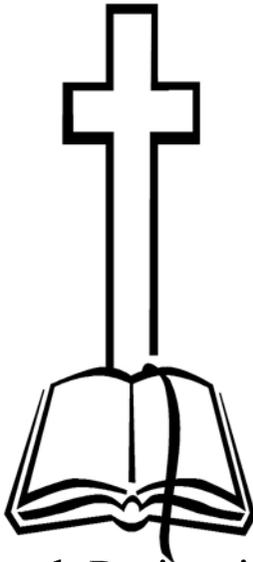
Brentwood

Farmlands

Gidea Park

Harold Wood

Havering Road



Hornchurch

Rainham

South

Ockendon

Trinity

Upminster

‘Mission Outreach Project in Collier Row’

‘God is with us’

NEWSLETTER AND PLAN

June to August 2018

DATA PROTECTION

This newsletter contains personal information including names and addresses.

Please ensure that it is disposed of properly or shredded when finished with.

PLAN DATES DEADLINE - THURSDAY JUNE 21ST

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - THURSDAY JUNE 21ST

Please give any information for the next newsletter covering Sept/Oct/Nov to Penny Masters by above date either by

email admin.romfordcircuit@btconnect.com or phone 01708 747930 thank you

If you have any comments or suggestions about the newsletter and future editions please contact either Rev David Jebb or Penny Masters

ROMFORD CIRCUIT WEBSITE

If there is something happening in your churches

Please contact the webmaster via email

djebb2003@gmail.com with the details.

He will make sure that your church information is included in our Circuit website.

Please visit www.romford-circuit.org.uk

SUPER'S SOAP BOX

Dear Friends,

During summer, the Methodist Church often contains farewells and welcomes to Ministers as they either move to a new appointment or retire. It is with considerable sadness that we say farewell to Deji and Vida and we send our very best wishes for their next appointments in autumn and hope that they will swiftly feel at home in their new circuits. There is a Circuit Farewell service for both on Saturday 21st July at 6pm at Harold Wood MC. Meantime, we all here in Romford Circuit are looking forward to welcoming Revd. Joseph Samuel Ribeiro and his family at our Circuit Welcome Service on Sunday 2nd September at 6:30pm at Upminster MC. Joseph is coming to our Circuit as a fully ordained and experienced Presbyterian and focusing his ministry together with us in the Team Ministry - Eastern Cluster Churches.

I still can remember, 'Circuit Study Group 2016 - 2018,' in particular, gave us the clear message that Team Ministry process should not simply result in a 'rearranging of the deckchairs on the Titanic' but there should be serious consideration of doing some things differently, a willingness to be led to new experiences and challenges and a need for more opportunities to deepen personal faith.

All our studies, researches and reflections on Team Ministry are based on a conviction that the Methodist Church across the Romford Circuit must strive for growth and new life rather than just managing decline or running an institution. Immediate problems cannot be ignored – nor should they be – but if we are unable, together, to find and pursue a positive vision for the future, then short term solutions to financial or other problems will inevitably also prove to be short-lived and same problems will recur sooner rather than later. Therefore, no apology is made that most of what follows looks beyond the immediate need to “balance the books”.

It is clear that vibrant and purposeful local congregations are essential if the Methodist Church as a whole is to grow and flourish. There are 11 worshipping congregations in the Romford Methodist Circuit with a Circuit Mission Outreach project centre, but not all are equally clear about their vision, aims and mission.

Cont.....

Super's Soap Box Cont.....

Some, however, do have a strong sense of how they serve and witness to their local communities and these may provide a constructive model for us all.

Much of what we do as individuals and as Worshipping Congregations needs to be affirmed and applauded but we must be realistic about sustainable practice and our use of finite resources. I see no reason why any particular set of Premises should be closed down but if a set of Premises is to have a sustainable future then each Worshipping Congregation must be clear about its purpose and about how it plans to grow and develop in the years ahead. Increased outreach and impact on the local community must be combined with strong support within the fellowship to build up faith and understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It's good to have goals for God. The Bible says in Philippians 3:14, "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." To have goals in life for God, to have personal goals, to have dreams to believe in, to have a vision to serve God, to be determined to see it through. If we don't a vision, we don't have a focus. We perish for lack of drive. We perish for a lack of vision, and don't achieve things in life. To have a dream, to aim for a vision to believe in, to have something that so grips us that we will not let it go; to have that vision for God, to be purpose driven in God, to believe in a vision and see it come to pass.

Lastly, may I take this opportunity to thank you all sincerely for your love, understanding, concerns, prayers, help and support which I received during my extra responsibilities as the acting Superintendent Minister for the Forest Circuit during the period from July 2017 to February 2018 which were greatly appreciated. I know there are not enough "thanks" given to you for the tasks that you take on day in and day out, but your church and all your efforts make me humble to be a servant of God amongst you in Romford Circuit.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve you in this capacity.

With love and prayers!

David Jellb

Superintendent Minister



My Journey by Rev Judith Maizel-Long

How come that I find myself here in the Romford Circuit as a supernumerary presbyteral minister?

Answer 1. My last appointment before “sitting down” was in the adjacent South Essex Circuit. We lived in Billericay, and I served Billericay and Herongate (a village on the edge of Brentwood). Graham Long, my husband, was awarded his badge as a London cab driver in 2011, we didn’t want to move far, and the Methodist Ministers’ Housing Society offered the bungalow in Harold Wood when I retired early.

Answer 2. I married a Romford man! I was a minister in Barnsley, Yorkshire, when the best man asked me for a date. Graham grew up in a police house on Straight Road, Romford. It will be our silver wedding in a few months’ time.

Answer 3. In 1971, our minister told us young people that the Methodist Church was going to ordain women as well as men, and that those of us who took our faith seriously should ask if God wants us in his ministry? It never appeared to be a “No”. This year 2018, marks my 40 years as a Local Preacher and 35 years as a Presbyter.

Why me? Why not me? Daughter of a Jewish doctor in the Midlands, and mother who was a senior nurse, writer, and an all round creative person, ministry has drawn on an imperative in me to teach, excite, and share the good news with people. Ministry has been in Yorkshire, through the miners’ strike, then in Tunbridge Wells, Kent and Sussex.

Cont.....

My journey Cont.....

For a time out of Circuit ministry, I taught student ministers, and ordinands for the Methodist, Anglican and URC churches. Then at Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, then Housing Justice, the national church-related homeless charity until returning to circuit in Billericay.

Now in semi-retirement I am finding new challenges in contemporary dance and singing, and learning Biblical Hebrew to keep the little grey cells active.

Judith Maizel-Long





Vida's report On her Sabbatical leave in Ghana

I arrived at Accra on 20th December, 2017. The initial plan was to have some rest, including a retreat in the first two months, and finally to embark on the project. My sabbatical proposal was to find out what some of the Methodist Churches in Ghana did for their elderly congregations, so that I could see if some of their ideas could be borrowed. On arrival, I learned that lots of things are done for the elderly during the Christmas time, and as a result the initial plan had to be reversed so that I could deal with the project first.

Most churches have large congregations of about 1500 – 3000 members, such that some have two or three services in the morning starting at 5.30am, 7,30am and 9.30am of one and a half to four hours duration. By the way, the number of 'Aged' (elderly) in each church varies so there can be as many as 200 - 300 or even more.

On Christmas day, I joined a big congregation of about 1000 or more in worship at the Bethel Methodist Church. There were about 200 plus 'Aged' as they call them (or the elderly) in their late 70/80's plus, a few of them were Disabled. They were invited to attend the service with their families with the request for them to arrive half-way through the service, so that they would not have to endure the usual long hours of service. The 'Aged' participated in the worship by leading some prayers; two of them interrupted the minister's sermon by surprisingly introducing songs based on the theme of the sermon; the congregation then joined in with the singing.

After the communion service, they were taken to a hall where they interacted with each other and were later given some refreshments,

Cont.....

Vida's sabbatical cont.....

gifts of money in sealed envelopes as well as hampers that contained varied food items. The 'Aged' who were not present had their gifts taken to them at their homes. It is worth mentioning here that the gifts of money were from the 'Poor Fund' (Benevolent Fund). By the way, the amount of money for each person is initially agreed to at the Leaders' Meeting (Church Council). The 'Poor Fund' contribution is taken seriously by the Methodist Church Ghana. It is a priority for each Church to contribute generously, as it depends on a healthy contribution for the care of its 'Aged'.

Among the many churches I visited, I also attended a service at the Mount Olivet Methodist Church during the Christmas period, where long-standing 'Aged' church leaders were being honoured for their services to the Church. Citations were written about six chosen people (names having been agreed at the Leaders' Meeting). These brief biographies were framed alongside their pictures and given to them during the service. They were given gifts of cloths too.

In Ghanaian Methodism, it is mandatory that the 'Poor Fund' Stewards (Pastoral visitors) along with the Church's minister, visited the 'Aged' at least once a month to give them communion. This visit normally takes place after the Church in question has celebrated its communion service. During the visit, they are also given a small token of money from the 'Poor Fund' to help with either food or utility bills. However, some 'Aged' in better financial positions do not accept the gifts of money. A report on the 'Aged' is also made to the Leaders' Meeting every month.

In Ghana, there are no 'Care Homes' for the elderly due to the stigma attached to it, as well as for cultural reasons. The 'Aged' are rather cared for in the family context. This care is given not only by the Church but through families who ensure that grounds are set for that purpose. It is my view that old Christian men and women also have a duty to help the younger generation in the world.

Cont.....

Vida's sabbatical cont.....

A Ghanaian minister tried a new strategy regarding the 'Aged' in her congregations and it was well received. She suggested at the Leaders' Meeting that the names of all the 'Aged' in the various 'Class Meetings' be listed separately and a "Senior Citizens Bible Class" formed. By the way, in Ghana the retirement age is 60 years. These 60 and above retirees or 'Aged' were separated from the main Class list and four classes of same age groups formed, and they met from 4 - 5pm on Mondays.

The 'Aged' welcomed this change due to reasons such as the suitability of the time. For example, instead of the normal 8pm Class meetings they met during the day. They claimed that they felt at ease with each other knowing that the young ones (who tended to take over most of the Bible Study discussions) were not in their midst. Various discussions or reflections on good old times sometimes took place after the Bible meetings. This idea is now being tried by some Churches.

"Widows' Clubs" for the 'Aged' existed in most Methodist Churches, and I observed a few younger women among them in one Church. This could be understood for the simple fact that 'death' is no respecter of age. They met monthly, invited Speakers at times and had various social events.

Even though the literacy level in Ghana is higher than most third world countries, there are still people who receive little or no pension. I learned that some of the 'Aged' in the Church do not receive any pension.

Of interest is an article that I read in the 'Daily Graphic' (one of the major Ghanaian newspapers) dated 22/08/17 - page 10 of the 'Opinion' section entitled "Ghana could do more for her elderly; innovation is the key". It was written by B. R. Ayisi. He asked the question, "Can we not legislate that all Ghanaians aged 60 years and above pay half rate for the public buses they board or enjoy a free internal travel for the elderly?" "I do not know the source of my optimism" he stated,

Cont...

Vida's sabbatical cont.....

“but I believe strongly that the government of Ghana would soon adopt very concrete measures to improve the living conditions of elderly men and women in the country.”

Paraphrasing, the writer also suggested that 1% of the oil revenue be put into an account by the government of Ghana, so that it could pay a Cost of Living Allowance to the elderly, say every six months.

The above-mentioned concerns by Ayisi as well as perhaps other factors, may be some of the reasons why Ghanaian Methodism have undertaken to give monthly gifts of money to their 'Aged'.

Findings and Points of Interest:

Services for the elderly in our congregations on special occasions might be the way forward to appreciate them and their services to the Church. I am not sure about the giving of hampers and money as practised by the Ghanaian churches, but at least some refreshments after the services would be appreciated. There may be some Methodist Churches in the UK that hold such services, but perhaps not enough of them do so.

The 'Widows Club' and the honouring of long-standing church officers during special services exist in many Ghanaian Methodist churches and were of much interest to me. I would include 'Widowers' to the Club as well if I had the opportunity to get one started.

This practice of monthly gift of money to the elderly house-bounds is not a practice in British Methodism. I suppose most of the elderly in the UK do at least receive a State pension.

I noted the lack of weekly/fortnightly/monthly church-outreach programmes for the elderly in the churches as is available in some Methodist Churches here in the UK. This is due to varied reasons, among which is the lack of finances to support such programmes.

Cont....

Vida's sabbatical cont.....

The monthly pastoral report to the Leaders' meeting (Church Council) ensured that no elderly person was missed during pastoral visits. This is a good initiative but that would be difficult to follow through here in British Methodism, as it would require holding monthly Church Council meetings. I noted with interest that communion services are on the first Sundays of each month; and that the pastoral team could only visit and give communion to the house-bound after the church has celebrated its communion service. There are no strict rules like this in British Methodism as to when to give house-bound or elderly members communion.

Contribution to the 'Poor Fund' by the Churches in Ghana is a priority and much is given by each Church to ensure that the care of the 'Aged' or the elderly in the Churches are met. Contribution to the 'Benevolent Fund' is practised by most Methodist Churches here in the UK, but not with the same emphasis. Usually, voluntary donations are expected after communion services, but not much is given by the congregation as it is not compulsory to do so.

In a way, the Methodist Church Ghana is doing its best to care for its 'Aged' despite various challenges and the lack of finances.

Even though some of the ideas are good, it was noted that most could not be implemented here in the UK due to cultural differences; and much more is already being done for the elderly in some of our Churches and communities.

Finally, I was able to join in with the ministerial retreat of the Methodist Church Ghana, held at Sunyani in the Eastern Region of Ghana. It was called the 'Annual Ministerial Retreat and Fellowship of the Kingdom' and was attended by almost 1,100 ministers. The theme for this year (2018) is, "Go and make disciples of all nations: Sustaining our Gains through effective Stewardship." It was a spirit-filled retreat that was much needed by me, and I found it very fulfilling and fortunate to be part of it.

Cont.....

Vida's sabbatical cont.....

My presence was acknowledged by the presiding Bishop Awotwe-Pratt (Chair of Conference), and I extended greetings to them on behalf of our Circuit, District and British Methodism as a whole.

The rest of my time was spent relaxing, attending church services and visiting family/friends.

My sincere thanks to the Methodist Church for the gift of a sabbatical leave.

Vida Foday



This is a picture of me and the Presiding Bishop Awotwe-Pratt (Chair of Conference) Methodist Church Ghana, at the Annual Ministerial Retreat where each of the 1.100 ministers are given a similar bags during the retreat containing Booklets etc on the Year's chosen theme.



ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT

A Guide to Two Clusters

(West and East) Based Team Ministry from September 2018.

Each congregation is not single minister led, but they are supported by our Circuit Presbyters and lay staff. Team ministry means each of us has a person to lean on, to be accountable to, to pray with, to be encouraged by, and with whom to share common challenges and joys.

Pastoral Oversight and point of contact for the Circuit Churches:

West Cluster Oversight:

Revd. David Jebb and Revd. Karen Bell

Gidea Park, Harold Wood, Havering Road, Hornchurch, Trinity

East Cluster Oversight:

Revd. Jason Vinyard and Revd. Joseph Samuel Ribeiro

Aveley, Brentwood, Farmlands, Rainham, South Ockendon, Upminster.

Circuit Mission Outreach Project (CMOP)

Superintendent Minister, and the Management Team (2 Ordained and 6 Lay members and a Mission Outreach Worker. Will act on behalf of the Circuit to promote the Mission outreach work in Collier Row area.

Pastoral Care:

- Each church will be supported by 2 ministers and a team of pastoral visitors.
- The work of the cluster pastoral team, who will meet together for discussions, does not replace the normal work of each church in their pastoral duty of care to their congregation.

- The team works to a shared understanding of confidentiality.
- Notice Boards-Church Magazines-Weekly Notices-Websites will include the following details from September 2018:
Western Cluster Ministers: Revd. David Jebb, Revd. Karen Bell
Eastern Cluster Ministers: Revd. Jason Vinyard, Revd. Joseph Ribeiro.

Ethos:

- Sharing and collaborative working, responding to each situation with their gifts and talents and the particular needs of the churches and community.
- Both Ministers will jointly facilitate meetings in churches, sharing the workload.
- There will be meetings of Cluster Stewards/Property Stewards/LP's and WL's as part of the team working together.
- Alongside the Circuit Team Ministry, worshipping together, east and west clusters, will be a visible sign of our shared leadership of the Clusters.

Circuit Lay Workers:

- There will be Circuit Lay workers and Church Lay workers, paid and voluntary, who will meet together to support one another in their mission.
- Staff, Lay and Ordained, will operate as a Circuit staff team, and this will be expressed in ways such as preaching, events, activities, worship, the use of individual gifts in the Circuit and meeting together.

Meetings:

- Circuit full Ministerial Staff Meeting once a month to reflect on the life of the clusters and consider future planning. Also for fellowship and support and prayer. Lay staff will attend this meeting once a quarter.
- Cluster Ministerial Team: East and West meet once a month to consider pastoral cases, to review pastoral work, raise concerns and undertake any joint planning of mission and ministry. Lay staff will attend this meeting once a quarter.

- Cluster Church stewards from all churches, will meet once a quarter, to communicate and discuss, problems and joys, problem solve, issues raised by churches, work in mixed church groups depending on the issues, and 2 ministers will facilitate the meeting jointly.
- Local Preachers and Worship Leaders will meet once a quarter in good time for plan dates. The style of this meeting should be collaborative, consultative and consensual.

Worship:

- Worship together, 2 clusters coming together with a tea 3 times a year. The ministers coordinate and lead, drawing on the skills of the lay team.

Administration:

- Churches will have 2 ministers, with contact details in every church in the cluster.
- Administrative duties such as general meetings, church councils and pastoral meetings will be allocated to one of the two ministers
- The ministers will delegate the chairing of some meetings to lay members.

Preaching:

- The LP Meeting will be tasked with building a team of preachers across the circuit
- Each minister delivers 26 services per quarter and with the support of LP's and WL's between 180 and 200 other appointments are filled.

Finance:

- The treasurers from both clusters will meet with the Circuit Treasurer, Senior Circuit Steward and Superintendent Minister twice a year to plan and budget and discuss future developments in accordance with CPD and District Connexional expectations.

Safeguarding:

- Circuit Safeguarding Officer will be coordinating training and other matters relating to safeguarding within each cluster or at joint meetings.

COMEFLY TEAM

- Will act on behalf of the Circuit to promote, encourage and provide resources to the cluster churches to engage in mission, evangelism and ministry to all ages. Meet together twice a year. (Spring and Autumn)

Reflection:

The Circuit is to underpin and support God's work in local settings, helping individuals and churches to recognize where God is and what God is doing in the lives of their churches, and communities. The Circuit helps people engage in mission where they are, but it also has a duty to see the bigger picture. It is part of our Methodist DNA to be connected to one another in ways that help us share resources and experience amongst the weak and the strong, the small and the big, the confident and the cautious.

Change is never easy, and there is something about being human that makes us fearful of the unknown. Yet God is calling church, in every generation, to move forward under the Spirit's leadership into a future that will forever remain partially veiled. The two travellers on the Emmaus road journeyed in their fear and uncertainty unaware that the risen Christ walked with them. We are called to move forward in the knowledge that Christ is journeying with us.

COME FLY

**C = Circuit/Children; O = Outreach; M = Mission & Ministries;
E = Evangelism; F = Families; L = Lunch; Y = Youth**

COMEFLY FIVE was held on Saturday 17th March. Despite the wintry conditions on the morning, a record 72 people, representing 9 of our Circuit Churches, braved the snow and made their way to Hornchurch Methodist Church. We were greeted by a nice warm building ready for worship, fellowship, and both some spiritual and physical nourishment.

One of the aims of COMEFLY is for people to move forward in faith through the Holy Spirit, to inspire, encourage and show new ways of doing things and experience new things. The theme for morning was Worship.

After registration and a welcome cup of tea/coffee and pastry, we gathered in the church where we were welcomed by Rev David Jebb. It was a great privilege to welcome Rev Helen Yousaf a worship leader and pastor with the Elim Church (Romford Elim), and Jermaine Lynch (accompanist) to minister and lead us in a moving time of opening worship and Bible Study. Songs sung during the morning included: 'How Great is our God (STF15 SOF 2065); 'Your love is amazing' (STF 98 SOF 1676); Strength will rise (STF 89 SOF 2034); Light of the World (STF 175 SOF 1419); and newer songs Cornerstone and 10,000 reasons.

During the Bible Study, Helen shared that there are many stories in the Bible about worship – David, the Psalms, Man at the Beautiful Gate, the woman at the well, Paul and Silas in prison, Mary, Martha's sister just to name a few. We are called to keep worshipping God through our different circumstances.

In response to the feedback forms received after the previous COMEFLY, we introduced a 'shuffle time' between the different components, which allowed for a comfort break, or drink etc. Cont.....

.COMEFLY Cont.....

The Workshops on this occasion included:

1. Spirit Led Worship by Helen Yousaf
2. Spiritual Renewal – Lectio Divina led by Rev Jason Vinyard.
3. Creative – Banner Design led by Mrs Joan Pugsley
4. Beginners Guide to Disability & Church led by Rev Karen Bell

Each of the workshops in their separate ways were inspirational, encouraging and thought provoking. A big thank you to all the workshop leaders.

A summary of key points covered in each of the workshops was fed back to everyone. The Banner Workshop presented their work based on Psalm 23 through us singing 'The Lords my Shepherd' (STF 481 SOF 1030).

The morning once again finished with a delicious bring and share feast of both English & International flavours and provided further opportunity of fellowship and conversation over lunch.

Thank you to the team from Hornchurch for serving refreshments and overseeing the lunch, technical support and to overseeing lunch and generally welcoming the circuit. Well Done.

Thank you to those who kindly spared a couple of minutes to give us your feedback to COMEFLY. 33 Feedback forms were received, with many very positive comments to the morning as well as some who found the worship 'not to their taste'.

All the comments made have been reviewed and considered by the COMEFLY team. Some great ideas for future workshops were also received.

Cont.....

COMEFLY Cont.....

A more detailed report of COMEFLY will be available separately.

COMEFLY 6 will be held on Saturday, 20th October at Upminster Methodist Church with coffee and registration from 9.30am.

The morning will close at 1pm with a bring and share lunch with an International flavour.

Our special guest for the morning will be Mr Roy Crowne from HOPE International. A profile about who he is will appear in the next Circuit Newsletter.

Dates for upcoming COMEFLY's are as follows:

- Saturday, 2nd March 2019 at Circuit Mission Outreach Project Centre with special guest – Andy Frost

Suzanne Pearson

On behalf of the COMEFLY Team

*But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.*



Worship leaders

Worship leaders are members of the Methodist church who have been trained and commissioned to share in preparing and leading worship alongside the minister or Local Preacher appointed to lead an act of worship. Their role may include choosing and leading music and prayers, reading Bible passages or other readings, facilitating dance or drama and any other aspect of the act of worship other than the sermon. This will depend on the context and the gifts and skills of the worship leader and those around them. Their knowledge and understanding of the local context also enables them to shape worship that is appropriate for the congregation.

The minister or local preacher retains overall responsibility for the act of worship, but works collaboratively with others to prepare and lead it.

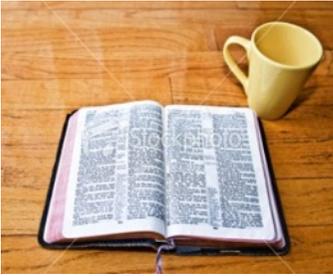
In the Romford Circuit we are blessed with 11 worship leaders and 1 in training

Mr John Alexander	Brentwood
Mrs Kathie Bishop	Brentwood
Mrs Pamela Coles	Harold Wood
Mrs Sue Farrow	Rainham
Mrs Jenny Howe	Hornchurch
Mr Peter Howe	Havering Road
Mrs Jenet Jebb	Trinity
Mrs Sylvia Pomphrey	Brentwood
Mr Trevor Pugsley	Hornchurch
Mrs Denise Swanton	Brentwood
Mr Stainer Thomas	Brentwood

Worship Leader in Training:

Mrs Rachel Read Upminster

For contact details please see Circuit Directory or contact Local church steward directly



Bible Study

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

By

Rev John Chambers

‘My Grace is sufficient for you’

We may, when we think of Paul, see a romantic hero gadding about the ancient world forming churches saving souls and engaging with a hostile world with great faith and courage. Indeed Paul, as we see in previous chapter, had a great deal he could boast about as he served his Lord.

However a closer inspection reveals a man in chains and with a thorn in the flesh. We have no idea what the ‘thorn’ was, some have suggested that he had a disease which made him unattractive or some painful limp but we do not know.

He prayed to be released from this thorn, he pleaded three times but the word came to him from God **‘My grace is sufficient for you, my power is made perfect in weaknesses.**

None of us looks for trouble in our lives, we naturally want a life free from pain, disease and grief. If there is trouble ahead we look for ways to avoid it.

What Paul discovered, and what Christ lived, that it was enough to depend upon God for all things. Paul came to see that, through suffering, weakness, insults, persecution and calamities, for the sake of Christ, he was in fact strong, more than that the glory of Christ was seen in him.

Cont.....

Bible study cont.....

For us today with our obsession with security, health, beauty and the desire for an easy life this seems counter intuitive.

Like many of you I have spent time with many people who have had to cope with the most horrendous pain and grief, sometimes so great that it stretches the imagination to comprehend the depth of sorrow, yet so many of these people have discovered that the grace of God is more than able to hold them. God's power made perfect in weakness.

I know that, for a people who live in an age of instant cures and self-sufficiency, this is not good news. To trust ourselves to the grace of God may be for many a leap too far, yet this is our calling. This grace of God which will enable us to stand, not in our own strength or power but in the unshakable rock of Christ, who comes alongside of us, who enable us and who comforts and strengthens us.

If we are able to trust our lives to God in this way then there will come a peace and power which will enable us to stand, to look the world in the face and say do your worst for I know Christ and therefore all shall be well and although I am weak yet in Christ I am strong.

**MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU,
FOR MY POWER
IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS'**

Data Protection

a simple guide to do's and don't's for our churches and circuit



Don't panic! These were among the first words said at a GDPR meeting I attended held at Methodist Central Hall on March 23rd organised by the London District of the Methodist Church.

The E.U. General data Protection Regulations (GDPR) comes into effect on 25th May 2018 when it supersedes the UK Data protection Act of 1998. It expands the rights of individuals to control how their personal data is collected, processed and stored and places a range of new obligations on organisations such as our circuit and churches to be more accountable for data protection.

Don't Panic – Although most organisations should be 100% compliant by 25th May it is recognised that many will not be. As long as a good start has been made in dealing with Data Protection matters and a plan is in place for tackling any issues which can be demonstrated to anyone enquiring then this is a positive step.

The legislation that covers churches differs slightly from legislation covering other companies and also varies within Church denominations..

As a Methodist Circuit and churches it is important that we follow the legislation laid down by the Methodist Church.

The London District of the Methodist church has recently updated their website and it is recommended that those involved with data protection access this. www.methodistlondon.org.uk

When you access the website under the heading 'What we do' is a section 'Guidance for churches' this will take you to 'Advice on data protection and privacy policy' and the information that was distributed to the churches before the last Circuit meeting also GDPR advice for churches. The page is still under review but will shortly show you the information that was delivered on the day in March. The website has GDPR at a glance, guidelines, advice on things we should now be doing, templates for permission forms, Do's and Don't's and general advice. There are also links to the Trustees for Methodist Church purposes (TMCP). If you are unable to access this but would like the information please let me know and I will download it when it is available.

Cont....

Data protection cont.....

Most of the information will be very clear and will answer many of the questions that I am sure will be raised as this takes effect.

There will be a separate update about websites, computers and social media coming shortly. It would be good for those who work with websites, facebook pages and send emails to check this when it becomes available.

So what does this mean for us? Are you worried or frightened? Don't be.

The phrase Don't panic is a good one. Much of data protection is about being sensible, thinking before acting and being careful with any information that you receive. Put yourself in the position of someone else. How would you like your data dealt with? How can you ensure that your information is kept safe? What can you do to protect yourself and others? It may seem daunting but if we take things slowly, carefully and thoughtfully then the steps we need to take as a circuit, church and individuals will be fairly straightforward.

I can't possibly tell you everything that was said on the day which is why I have referred you to the website but I would like to draw your attention to some of the things that we need to do with immediate effect to ensure the safety of ourselves, this circuit, our churches and those who use our premises.

Circuit Directory: All those who are named in the circuit Directory, which is printed yearly need to give written permission for their details to be published in this for circuit matters only. All those named should by now have received a form to complete and return to the circuit Office. If you have not then please contact your church steward or myself. When these are collected the information will be stored on the circuit computer which is password protected and has limited access. Once complete and printed the details will be stored securely on a memory stick and removed from the computer. Hard copies of consent forms will be stored securely. Any old directories will be shredded. Permission for inclusion in the Circuit directory will be obtained yearly.

Church directories: The guidelines for these is much the same as above. Information should only be shared with those who have a legitimate reason for having the information. All members and adherents must give permission for inclusion. Addresses, phone numbers and emails should never be given out unless there is permission to do so. If in doubt DON'T Share. Better to be safe than sorry. It might be worth all churches having a shredder on site so that any information can be destroyed appropriately. Cont.....

Data protection Cont.....

Privacy Policy: We must be transparent and open about the information we hold. Where, how and why we store data and must inform people about the information we possess relating to them. All Data must be stored securely. Documents locked in filing cabinets if appropriate. Computers must be password protected with only relevant access.

Lawful use: What is this? If you have a legitimate interest for having information then you do not need to have permission. For example it may be necessary to have personal information on someone in order for them to fulfil their role or office. Tenants who occupy our manses must give details and no consent is needed from them for the circuit to hold these details. This also applies If it is in the public interest for a church to hold details particularly regarding safeguarding issues and employees. It is always advisable to check with the safeguarding Officer if there are any questions on this issue.

Records: For example pastoral records should only be available for specific named Pastoral Visitors or Ministers and not for public record. This also covers minutes etc of pastoral meetings. If a minister or Pastoral leader is away and needs to pass on the information to another minister who will have pastoral oversight then this is a legitimate reason for sharing data and this is permissible.

Permission is not needed from members for our membership records however permission is needed for inclusion on the community roll.

Ask the question frequently. Why have we got this information? Do you need the information you have on a person? If you do not have a legitimate reason then it must be destroyed – it cannot be kept just in case you might need it in the future!

CCTV: If you have CCTV then you will have images without permission. You are allowed to keep these providing it is only in the interests of crime prevention, this is a legitimate use however you cannot post on facebook or other media without permission.

How do we obtain consent? : We cannot assume consent because someone has not refused. Consent must be explicit but does not always have to be written. Any consent however obtained must be recorded. If in doubt obtain written consent.

Cont.....

Data Protection Cont....

Can children give consent? Safeguarding rules MUST apply. Any forms for children must be clear and in a language that can be understood. The age of consent for a child to be able to give permission for sites such as facebook etc varies between 13-16. The recognised exceptions to this are for organisations such as NCH and Barnardos which recognise that children under the age of consent may need to contact them.

Data breach: Accidental sharing of information, access, disposal of data, emails sent to the wrong person – this happens! Every data breach must be recorded and steps made to minimise the effect. If it involves the Circuit then Rev David Jebb must be informed. Always check who emails are sent from and who you are sending them to particularly if you have received it as part of a google group etc. At the least it can be embarrassing but it can be much worse – be vigilant.

Who is responsible for Data ?: It would be good if every church had someone who would ensure records are kept correctly and reasonable steps are taken to protect others. The title of this person can be data protection administrator, privacy coordinator or data compliance officer. Do not give them the title data Protection officer as this is a statutory role in the Methodist church and comes under standing orders and statutes. The role of a data protection person is not required by the managing trustees but may be good practice.

Common questions asked.

Q. What information should we keep about our church users?

A. 'One Off' Church users should not have their information stored even if they might use the premises again at a later date. Those who use the premises regularly are considered a legitimate interest and you have a legal obligation to have their information ,this must be destroyed once they cease to meet.

Q I have information of church members on computer and in my address book. Is this ok?

A. Address books are not covered by data protection. However you need to ask the question why you have the information. If the information you have in your personal files does not relate to friends then it should not be there. If the information on the computer is needed for church matters then this is ok

Cont.....

Data protection Cont....

but if it is purely there as a convenience but the person does not hold office in the church then their details must be removed

Q. Can I put information from pastoral records on my PC, Tablet and phone?

A. The permission for storage of information will be in a secure computer unless the person has given specific permission for consent. If information is to be stored elsewhere then permission must be obtained.

Q What about photographs?

A. Consent should always be obtained if photographs are to be taken and used. This is especially important where children are involved. Permission for photographic displays in churches should be obtained ie church officers etc but this can be verbal.

Photographs of people who have died do not need to have permission of family but would be recommended as a courtesy.

Q. How do we respond to Prayer requests etc?

A. When asked to pray for someone either in a public service or to print on a newsheet then permission from that person **MUST** be obtained. It is good practice not to divulge personal information about their situation unless they have specifically spoken to you and requested this. This applies to prayers in worship, on notice sheets and prayer groups. Confidentiality must be maintained where requested.

Q. What can I post on Social media?

A. Any comments, photographs or videos posted on social media ie Facebook, Twitter, snapchat, youtube websites etc must have permission from the person who is being named or picture shown. Details of a person's personal difficulties or health issues must not be put up unless there is express permission from them or their family. This can not only be an invasion of privacy but also very upsetting if family members hear details or news that they were not aware of. If in doubt **DON'T** do it. Photographs and videos of events will need to have consent. It is good practice to have a permission slip on any events you are planning to cover this.

This is just a snapshot of what data protection means for us. Please do not hesitate to visit the website www.methodistlondon.org.uk and if you have any questions then please contact Rev David Jebb or a member of the circuit staff for advice.

Penny Masters



Romford Methodist Circuit

**INVITES YOU
TO THE
FAREWELL SERVICE
FOR
REV VIDA FODAY
AND
REV DR DEJI OKEGBILE**

As they prepare to leave Romford Circuit
for their new appointments

On Saturday 21st July at 6pm

At Harold Wood Methodist Church

Followed by refreshments





NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

HAROLD WOOD

During the five weeks of Lent we were pleased to be joined by our friends from GPMC each Wednesday afternoon to follow a new Lent Course from York Courses entitled 'On the Third Day'. The material was as interesting and thought-provoking as we have come to expect, with different people leading the sessions each week. Amongst many other things we learned more about the resurrection appearances of Jesus, the transformation of the disciples and the spread of the early church. We thought about seeing ourselves as Easter people and our personal discipleship in the light of the resurrection. We discussed celebrating and praying Easter and completed the sessions by focusing on ourselves as a Risen Church. The handbook which accompanies the series contains many thought-provoking quotes from a variety of learned people including this one from Bishop Lesslie Newbigin, a Church of Scotland minister who became a missionary in India: 'The question to be asked about every congregation is not: How big is it? How fast is it growing? How rich is it? It is: What difference is it making to that bit of the world in which it is placed? We trust that, at Harold Wood, we are striving to make a difference to our 'bit of the world'.

During the month of June we plan to follow the Bible Month recommendation to learn more about the book of Jonah.

We are looking forward to welcoming people to a Guild 'Cake and Coffee' Morning on June 2nd; to the next Guildonian production, 'Improbable Fiction' by Alan Ayckbourn, from June 6th – 9th and to a concert given by the New Dimension Choir on July 6th.

HORNCHURCH

We enjoyed a great Night at the Proms hosted by our Men's Club and raised money for our refurbishment fund which has also been supported by our Knit and Natter group meeting once a month who made wonderful yellow chics, each containing a Cadbury's egg. They have been much in demand and the ladies have been knitting furiously, raising funds at the same time! We have had a family film night featuring Beauty and the Beast, a lent course and two events for after Easter; Good News Activity Afternoon 3rd April and Golden Years event for the young at heart 2-4pm on 29th May.

RAINHAM

On Friday 16th March we held our annual quiz night with a fish and chip supper. Seventy one people attended including many from the users of our hall (playgroup, Scouts and drama) plus many from our congregation with their friends. It was a fun evening which everyone enjoyed and we were able to add a good sum to the church funds as a result of the participants and the excellent raffle ticket sellers. The next major event is our regular Spring Fayre which will be held in the church hall and grounds on Saturday 2 June from 1pm until 4pm. We are very lucky to have the support of our user groups with this fun afternoon. Our Easter holiday club is yet to come but we have already saved the dates - 24, 25, 26, July - for our Summer holiday club. A title is yet to be decided. Finally if you come to Rainham during the Summer holidays beware you could find yourself in charge of a paint brush or mop as this is when all our maintenance has to take place. Hopefully by the end of this quarter we will be all sparkly and fresh - well the building anyway!

TRINITY

At the time of writing this we are just enjoying a brief spell of warm sunshine after all the cold and rain we have had recently. Life at Trinity has in some ways reflected this as we have gone through some cold and sad times but just as we celebrate Easter and see signs of new hope and life around us we see new life here. Cont.....

TRINITY Cont.....

On Easter Sunday we welcomed one of our young people into membership, a really special time and we look forward to welcoming more members in the future.

Our SPRYNG services continue with our young and not so young taking an active role in the preparation and the service itself. This worship has been much enhanced by our ability to be able to show powerpoint presentations and video clips through our screens which we are gradually getting more used to thanks to the very patient John Mann who has been invaluable support to us.

On May 27th we celebrate 130 years of witness in Romford and our preacher will be Rev Nigel Cowgill. We look forward to him sharing with us at this special time.

We look forward to 'Treasure Island' Holiday Club and 'At Home' in the summer. Details will be available soon

One certainty in life is that there will be change and we look forward to embracing the changes that will be happening from September as we enter Cluster ministry and discover what God is doing for us and with us.

UPMINSTER

We launched our first Messy Church on 18th February to a huge crowd. Twenty-one families attended with 36 children plus a few baby brothers and sisters. The first half hour was spent socialising, playing games, drinking tea and coffee and, of course, eating lots of biscuits. The story theme was set with a short cartoon of The Good Samaritan story before moving into the Wesley Hall for crafts.

There were 8 different activities, some were to take home, some were collaborative and were displayed in the Wesley Hall and others were made and eaten straight away!!

We then went into the Church for a couple of songs, a prayer and an interactive version of The Good Samaritan.

Finally it was lunch time of sausage, chips and beans which were enjoyed by over 70 people. We are grateful to everyone who took part or helped and our next one is booked for 10th April. Cont.....

Upminster Cont.....

Bob Avis, Joe Plant and Peter Hobbs will be running in the Brentwood Half Marathon on 18th March so, by the time you read this, they will have hopefully successfully completed it.

Bob is running to raise money for Methodist Homes, Joe for Cancer Research and Peter towards a new notice board at UMC.

About the new noticeboard, a few of our members noticed new notice boards had appeared at a few Churches in the Circuit and, as our existing notice board has been the subject of many conversations over many years this prompted us to start looking into it in earnest.

Thoughts have been around the existing one being too far from the pavement, people don't see it as they walk past, etc....

So, hopefully before Easter, the existing notice board will be moved almost to the pavement and attached to it will be two angled 'wings' so that people walking past in both directions will be able to see what is happening at our Church.

This improvement to our notice board and greater use of posters/banners will complement our website and presence on Facebook

For more information on Circuit churches,
why not visit:

www.aveleymethodistchurch.org.uk

www.brentwoodmethodist.org.uk

www.farmlands-methodists.org.uk

www.haroldwoodmethodistchurch.co.uk

www.haveringroadmethodistchurch.yolasite.com

www.trinityromford.org

www.upminstermethodistchurch.org

Circuit prayer walk

June 23rd, 2018



Dear All

As a circuit we are committed to supporting each other in prayer. Prayer underpins all activities and is an essential part of our spiritual growth.

With that in mind, this year, we are holding a Circuit Prayer walk covering every church in the circuit including the new resource centre at Collier Row. We will praise God as we walk and say specific prayers for the church which we are at. Starting at Doddinghurst and ending at Rainham, it is quite an undertaking for those who choose to walk all, or sections of, the walk. Therefore please give as much support as you can.

Suggested timings:

Doddinghurst (7.30am) to Brentwood 5 miles 1-hour 30mins

Public transport alternative - 61 bus to Brentwood High Street (only runs once an hour on Saturdays)

Brentwood (9.10am) to Harold wood 4.5 miles 1 hour 20 mins

Public transport alternative -Train from Brentwood to Harold Wood

Harold Wood (10.50am) to Gidea Park 2 miles 40 minutes

Public transport alternative - train from Harold Wood to Gidea Park

Gidea Park (11.35am) to Havering Road 2.5 miles 45 minutes

Public transport alternative – no direct link - please take train or 165 bus to Romford

Havering Road (lunch 12.30pm depart 1.10pm) to Collier Row Resource Centre 0.7 miles 15 mins

Public transport alternative – no direct link - please take 103 or 499 to Romford

Collier Row Resource Centre (1.30pm) to Trinity 2 miles 40 mins

Public transport alternative – 365 bus

Trinity (2.10pm) to Hornchurch 2 miles 40 minutes

Public transport alternative - 248 bus

Hornchurch (2.55pm) to Upminster 2 miles 40 minutes

Public transport alternative-248 bus

Prayer Walk cont.....

Upminster (3.45pm) to South Ockendon 4.2 miles 1hr 20 mins

Public transport alternative - 370 bus

South Ockendon (snack 5.10pm depart 5.40pm) to Aveley 3 miles 1hr

Public transport alternative – no direct link on a Saturday, please take 370 to Lakeside then 372 to Aveley or Rainham

Aveley (6.50pm) to Rainham 3 miles 1 hr Closing celebration and refreshments – Rainham (8.00pm-9.00pm)

Public transport alternative - 372 bus

Total 31 miles 10 hrs walking time

Please keep the date free and arrange for your church to be open at least 20 minutes before the suggested departure time so we can have a short time of prayer in each church as well as between the churches.

(see suggested schedule attached- timings are estimates)

We would be particularly grateful if the following churches could provide some light refreshments

Harold Wood morning coffee from about 10.35am

Havering Road – light lunch from about 12.30pm

South Ockendon – light tea from about 5.00pm

Rainham light refreshments from about 7.30pm

Also, could someone arrange a short closing act of worship at Rainham

Please be aware that time is tight so please do not join in the walk if you cannot maintain a steady pace over a distance or you do not own a sturdy pair of walking shoes.

If you would like to join in but cannot walk any distance please arrange a lift or use a public transport alternative as suggested. You are more than welcome to just join us at your own church for prayer. Walking is optional.

Love and God bless

Chris Pearson

YOU ARE INVITED TO A BBQ AND SUMMER PRAISE PARTY!



WHEN: Sunday 29th July at 4.30pm

**WHERE: The Jebb's manse garden
12 Oaklands Avenue RM1 4DB**

**Let's get together to celebrate, good food,
good friends, good fellowship and
the Summer season !**

**This is a circuit event. Side dishes and
desserts welcome!**

**RSVP to David by 23rd July
01708 734005**

email: djebb2003@gmail.com

Collection for the circuit Mission Outreach Work



Trinity Methodist Church
Romford RM1 1JH

At Home

Thursday 23rd August

11am - 3.30pm

Refreshments available from 10.30am

A varied programme particularly for
older people

Popular Music and songs
'freedom Pass' tour visiting famous places
using your freedom pass

Cost: £3.00

The cost includes all activities, lunch, afternoon
tea and refreshments during the day

Places must be booked beforehand

For more information please contact

Penny Masters 01708 769517

or Trinity Church 01708 747930

email: romfordtrinity@btconnect.com



**The Methodist Church
ROMFORD CIRCUIT**

**Warmly invite you
to the Welcome Service**

for

Reverend Joseph Ribeiro

**as a presbyter for the Romford Circuit
and**

**a celebration of the start of the
Cluster based team Ministry
Sunday September 2nd at 6.30pm**

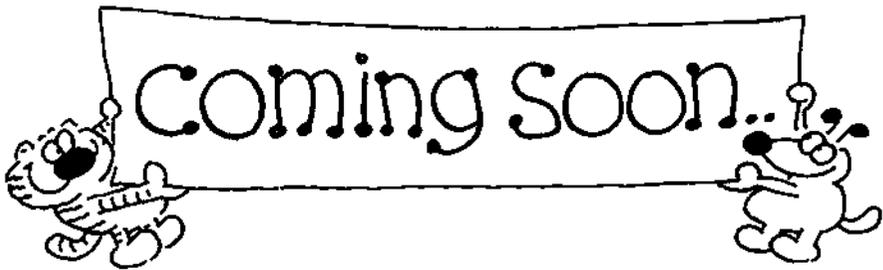
**at Upminster Methodist Church,
Hall Lane, Upminster RM14 1AE**

**Service will be led by
Revd Nigel Cowgill and
Revd David Jebb**

**Refreshments will be available after the service.
We look forward to worshipping with you.**

**Parking is available at the church or
in the neighbouring streets**





September

- Sun 2nd Welcome Service for Rev Josrph Ribeiro and celebration of the start of Cluster based Circuit Team Ministry UMC 6.30pm
- Tues 4th Circuit Leadership meeting at 546 South End Road 7.45pm
- Thurs 6th Joint Staff Meeting at CMOP
- Sat 15th Representatives Synod 10-4pm MCH Westminster
- Tues 18th Circuit Meeting 7.45pm at CMOP
- Thurs 20th Staff meeting at Joseph's manse
- Sat 22nd First Aid Training Course at CMOP

October

- Thurs 4th Staff meeting Jason's manse
- 9th - 10th Supers supervision training in Northampton
- Thurs 11th LP&WL meeting 7 for 7.30pm CMOP
- Weds 17th (Eve) Safeguarding Refresher Basic training Course HWMC
- Thurs 18th Staff meeting Karen's manse
- Sat 20th COMEFLY 6 9.30am -12.45pm Upminster with special guest Mr Roy Crowne

November

- Thurs 1st Staff meeting at David's manse
- Sat 3rd Safeguarding refresher basic Training Course at CMOP 9.30am
- 6th - 7th Supers supervision training in Northampton
- Thurs 15th Joint staff meeting at Joseph's manse
- Sat 17th LP&WL Study day 9.30-1pm CMOP with Rev Jonathan Mead
- More details to follow



LECTIONARY READINGS

YEAR B

June 3rd

1 Sam 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6,13-18 2 Cor 4:5-12
Mark 2:23 - 3:6

June 10th

1 Sam 8:4-11(12-15) 16-20 Psalm 138 2 Cor 4:13-5:1 Mark 3:20-35

June 17th

1 Sam 15:34-16:13 Psalm 20 2 Cor 5:6-10,14-17 Mark 4:26-34

June 24th

1 Sam 17:1a,4-11, 32-49 Psalm 9:9-20 2 Cor 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41

July 1st

2 Sam 1:1,17-27 Psalm 130 2 Cor 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43

July 8th

2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48 2 Cor 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13

July 15th

2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19 Psalm 24 Eph 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29

July 22nd

2 Sam 7:1-14a Psalm 89:20-37 Eph 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34,53-56

July 29th

2 Sam 11:1-15 Psalm 14 Eph 3:14-21 John 6:1-21

Aug 5th

2 Sam 11:26-12:13a Psalm 51:1-12 Eph 4:1-16 John 6:24-35

Aug 12th

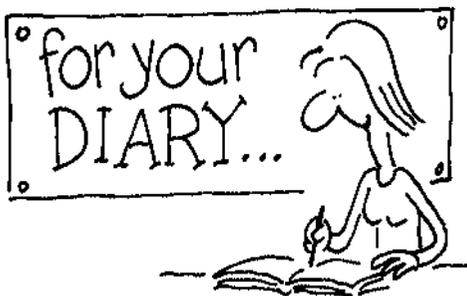
2 Sam 18:5-9,15,31-33 Psalm 130 Eph 4:25-5:2 John 6:35,41-51

Aug 19th

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14 Psalm 111 Eph 5:15-20 John 6:51-58

Aug 26th

1 Kings 8:22-30,41-43 Psalm 84 Eph 6:10-20 John 6:56-69



JUNE

- Sat 2nd 10-12noon Guild 'Cake and coffee' morning HWMC
Sat 2nd 1-4pm 'Spring Fayre' RMC
Weds 6th -Sat 9th Guildonian players 'Improbable Fiction' HWMC
Thurs 7th 10am Staff Meeting David's manse
Tues 12th 7.45pm Circuit Leadership meeting at 546 South End Road
Thurs 21st 10am Joint Staff Meeting 1 Karen's manse
Thurs 21st 7 for 7.30pm LP&WL meeting CMOP
Sat 23rd 7.30am Circuit Prayer walk - Details inside newsletter
Sun 24th 4.30pm Circuit Mission celebration Service in aid of Mission in Britain CMOP - Speaker Rev Ashley Cooper, Principal of Cliff College
Tues 26th 7.30pm Circuit Meeting Aveley MC
28th - 5th July Methodist Annual Conference in Nottingham

JULY

- Sun 1st Methodist Conference Sunday
Thurs 5th 10am Staff Meeting Deji's manse
Fri 6th 7.30pm New Dimension Choir concert 7.30pm HWMC
Tues 10th 7.45-9.30pm Circuit Church safeguarding Officers business meeting HWMC
11th -17th World Methodist Council in Seoul South Korea
Thurs 19th 10am Staff Meeting Jason's manse
Sat 21st 6pm Farewell Service for Rev Vida Foday and Rev Dr Deji Okegbile Harold Wood
Tues 24th - Thurs 26th Holiday Club Rainham
Sun 29th 4.30pm Circuit BBQ + Summer Praise at 12 Oaklands Ave (see notice inside news letter)

AUGUST

- 2nd - 4th 'Treasure Island' Holiday Club Trinity
Thurs 23rd 'At Home' Trinity (see notice in newsletter)