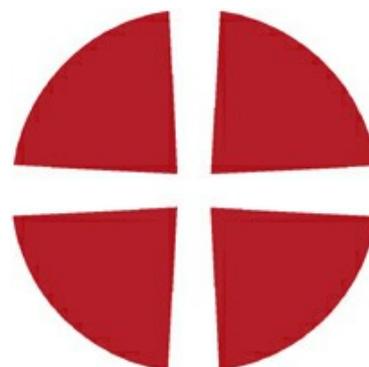


ROMFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT



EAST CLUSTER

Aveley

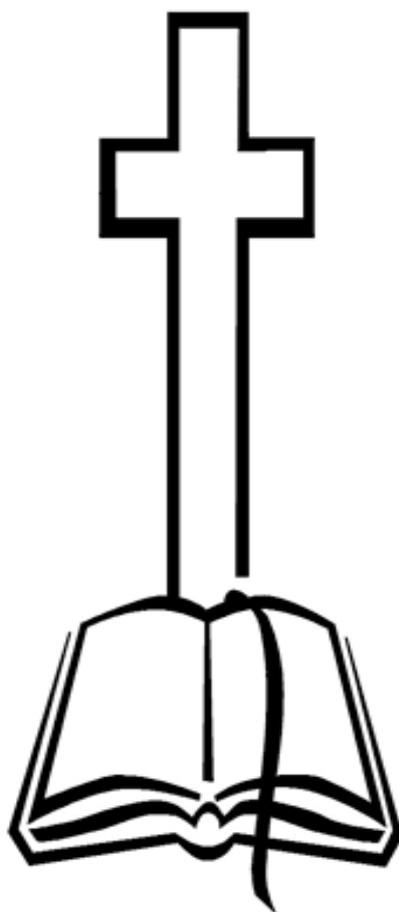
Brentwood

Farmlands

Rainham

South Ockendon

Upminster



WEST CLUSTER

Gidea Park

Harold Wood

Havering Road

Hornchurch

Trinity

'Mission Outreach Project in Collier Row'

'Come, Holy Spirit !'

**NEWSLETTER AND PLAN
DEC 2019 - FEB 2020**

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 16th JAN

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE- THURSDAY 16th JAN

Please give any information for the next newsletter covering Mar/Apr/May to Penny Masters by above date either by

email : admin.romfordcircuit@btconnect.com or
phone 01708 747930

01708 564874 (new phone no for Circuit Office from Feb 2020)

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 on our circuit website.

Please visit www.romford-circuit.org.uk

SUPER'S SOAP BOX

Dear friends,

A few years ago, I had a privilege to worship with some of the young people and their leaders at the 'Soul Survivor' Church in Watford. It was a great worshipping experience to be honest, a lot of young people and a handful of elderly gathered to worship there at that evening service, and 21 years old young girl called Esther was a preacher. She reflected on a remarkable passage in Ezekiel 37 and picturing Israel as a valley of dry bones. God says, 'Can these bones live?' Some churches appear to have a death wish in their resistance to change. 'Over my dead body' is their slogan. Ezekiel replies, 'O Lord God, you know.' God then says, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord....I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you...and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

It's reminded me about the challenges of 21st century, as well concern about its declining human and financial resources in most of the main line churches; Methodism is once again addressing the task of reshaping itself for mission. 'Our Calling, Priorities for the Methodist Church,' Fresh Expressions of church, Pioneering ministries, and the re-affirmation of the importance of 'discipleship' are some examples of the endeavour.

So, I take this opportunity share with you some of the reflections which I have noted down during my visit to Soul Survivor.....

i. The prophet Ezekiel obeys and there is much rattling, clattering and reconnecting. Note the three stages: the first is about the skeleton, the bringing together of bone to bone. This has been taking place in our Methodist Churches as we have sought to restructure ourselves and set out priorities. However, although structures, priorities and plans enable, they do not give life. Only the word of God and the Holy Spirit can energize and empower.

Cont.....

Super's Soap Box Cont.....

The Holy Spirit is rattling our bones! What is the Spirit saying to the churches? He is calling us to radical change. He is speaking to us about repentance and conversion! God is telling us to create fresh expressions of Church alongside and within the old, since much of the old, in its resistance to change, will not survive. Life only comes to our dry bones through prophecy that is speaking the word of the Lord (theology) and through the power of the Spirit (Pentecost).

ii.. John Wesley said, 'I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist, but I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power.' Wesley's fear is now being realised. It is as if we are trying to preserve telephone kiosks in the age of the mobile and the Skype. The Spirit is seeking to make the Church into the vibrant vehicle of God's tomorrow, no longer a museum piece of God's yesterday.

iii. What is mission? 'Mission is seeing what God is doing in the world and joining in.' God has a mission; we are invited through the Holy Spirit to participate in it. When the Church does not join in with what God is doing in the world then Church ceases to be Church and becomes a social club. It is hard for ministers and church leaders to maintain a passion for God in a declining Church. Through our struggle to following Christ, we become bruised and wounded, ever aware of our own frailties and failures. Some of us carry an inner pain too deep for words. There can be wilderness of the heart, a valley of dry bones. Yet this place of brokenness is the renewing centre of Spirit and Word to bring the renewal for all of us.

I believe that the Methodist Church in Britain stands on the threshold of a fresh discovery of itself. We are at the beginning of a dynamic, new church-wide focus on evangelism, as a crucial dimension of our mission and ministry on 21st century Britain. We believe that God has called all of us to speak, live, and listen for the good news of Jesus Christ in the world.

Cont.....

Super's Soap Box Cont.....

Come, Holy Spirit. Disturb our complacency. Drive away our fears. Remind us of the faith we have forgotten. Breathe your fluid life into us until the living waters of Spirit well up, washing, cleansing and renewing us.

Finally, may I take opportunity to share with you that I have been re-invited to serve God in Romford Circuit as a Presbyter and the Superintendent Minister until 2022. Thank you to everyone in the Circuit for being there for us. My wife Jenet and I are delighted that this is the outcome and I am looking forward to working along with you further two years. I have signed the letter of understanding to develop the works in front of us, as we explore what God has in mind for us all in His Kingdom.

Read Isaiah 40: 31 (COMEFly Mission focused Bible verse)

May you all have a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year!

With every blessing

David Jebb





The Methodist Church

2nd October 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Probably like us, you are wondering how best to lead church congregations and communities through the uncertainty of Brexit. We know that there are many diverse views held even within a single family, and this diversity is reflected across the people we represent and serve. As a result there are high levels of confusion, frustration and anger. The indications are that the coming months may be difficult to navigate. No option for the Brexit process is without pitfalls. Hurt, disappointment and anger will affect supporters of at least one side of the debate. The impact on our public life and that of the nations will take months and years to work through. We cannot give you answers as to a best way forward, but know that you hold much wisdom from your own experience. Alongside other Church leaders we have asked the government about the consequences of leaving the EU without a deal. While the government has yet to respond, our view from the evidence we have seen is that families on low income, those needing personal care and people with long term health conditions will face particular difficulties.

In response to the current situation, we simply want to encourage you to be active in peace-building and reconciliation.

To that end, some practical things you could consider might be:

- Writing a letter to your local MP, assuring them of your prayers even if you disagree with their politics.
- Supporting your local food bank and offering positive action in practical ways.

Cont.....

President's letter Cont.....

- Offering support to EU citizens whose sense of home and belonging may be shaken.
- Being attentive to the spiritual and physical needs of children and young people for whom these are confusing times
- Providing and enabling safe space for difficult conversations on your church premises.
- Whether or not we leave the EU on 31 October, planning to join together, with ecumenical and interfaith partners,for an day or evening of prayer, and/or issue an invitation to fast at around that time.

The Joint Public Issues Team is bringing together some resources and information for you to use at this time. You can find them here:

www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/brexit

As Methodists we are called to love prophetically, live graciously, even with contradictory convictions, and to be agents for justice and reconciliation. It is not easy, but we all know that it is the way of Jesus, In the words of the Corrymeela community prayer book: 'We pray for the torn and the burdened that they may be held together by guts and goodness, because we are held together by guts and goodness'!

As ever, we offer you our prayers and support,
Yours sincerely,

The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson

President of the Methodist Conference

2019/2020

Professor Clive Marsh

Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

2019/2020



My Journey by John Chambers

I was born in North Wales and taken as babe in arms to Prittlewell near Southend on Sea where I was baptised in the ancient church there. As a young child I was encouraged, with my brothers, to attend the local Methodist Sunday School every Sunday afternoon. It was there I became immersed in the activities of Wesley Hall as our church was called. The people of the church, it's life, it's warmth were an integral part of my early years.

Aged 10 we moved a few miles away to Belfairs and soon we became a part of the life of the church especially the activities for children and young people. In my middle teens it was the conversations and openness of many of its members which kept me in the church when I might have drifted away.

In my late teens I was unsure about the direction my life was taking and decided to go to a Government Training Centre to become a carpenter, it was in Southampton, while attending a Congregational church that, at the close of the service, in that moment between the Blessing and people rising from their seats, that I felt the love of God, I felt accepted and my life changed.

On my return to Belfairs, I spoke to my minister the Rev Denis Inman about a call to the ministry and he encouraged me to apply to Cliff College so that I could take my GCE's and Local Preachers exams. My year at Cliff was a year in which my life was transformed by the love of God, the friendship of Jesus and the enabling of the Holy Spirit. It was a year which consolidated my journey with Christ and set before me the path of the rest of my life.

Cont....

My Journey Cont.....

It was at Cliff where June and I met and fell in love and ever since, for more than fifty years she has been my partner, my friend and co-worker in the ministry and who has taught me so much about what it is to be human.

There followed a 6 year period when we were married, I candidated for the ministry, we went to college, June trained as a midwife and our first child Andrew was born and we were appointed to our first circuit right here in Romford where I had pastoral charge of Grenfell at Roneo Corner and Collier Row, during our time in Romford our daughter Elizabeth was born.

There followed nearly 35 years of stationing at Kilburn in London, Braintree in Essex, South Bristol, Gloucester, back to London in Walworth, and then part time for two years in the Hackney circuit, retirement and then back full circle part time in the Romford Circuit.

I have tried to work in different areas of ministry, city centre, urban, housing estates, market towns and rural. I have been an Industrial, College & Hospital Chaplain, I have worked in prisons and schools, small churches, large churches, dynamic and dying churches, all of which have had men and women boys and girls, old and young, who have taught me of the power of the Gospel of Christ to change, lead and direct lives.

In a life there is so much living and it is impossible to write of it in a few words. For me, like everyone else there have moments of joy in life and ministry, there have also been tears, pain and sorrow, in life and in ministry. I know that I have been in the right place and at the right time for myself and many other people and by God's grace have been able to share His love and I have also received so much from those I have sought to serve in Christ's name.

Looking back on one's life is not something I do very often because there is still so much to do and experience in the present moment. I do thank God though for this life I am living, for June, my children and grandchildren, and that even at this time of my life being able to speak about the friendship of Jesus who has travelled with me on my journey.



THE BIG INTERVIEW

OUR NEW CIRCUIT STEWARD

Janice Gowlett

(COMEFly Co-Ordinator, Church Council Secretary and an active member of the

Methodist Church in Rainham)

1. Where were you born?

I was born in the London Hospital in Mile End so technically I can claim to be a cockney!

2. How long have you lived in Hornchurch or the locality?

All my life. I was taken home from hospital to Rainham and stayed there for 35 years until John and I moved to Hornchurch.

3. What was the name of your first school and who was your first teacher?

I went to Beam Bridge Infant School. I am not sure if she was my first but one of the teachers I had there was Mrs Harker.

4. What is / was your job?

I was a civil servant working for the Ministry of Defence where I worked in finance and secretariat, personnel and training.

5. What were your favourite and least favourite subjects at school? I loved History but enjoyed Physics the least as I struggled to understand all of it.

6. What is your favourite food?

Unfortunately, I love lots of food, but chocolate and cakes are high on the list.

Cont.....

The Big Interview Cont.....

7. What is your favourite film?

I don't have a favourite but enjoy many children's films like Mary Poppins and Harry Potter

8. Other than the Bible, what is your favourite book?

Again I don't have a favourite but enjoy detective/adventure books such as the Lee Child series about Jack Reacher.

9. Of the countries that you have visited which has been your favourite?

Italy - the scenery was, is amazing.

10. If money were no object where in the world would you like to travel?

To an African Safari park.

11. If you were stranded on a desert island, who would you ideally want as your companion – other than a member of your family?

One of my closest friends as we could share memories together.

12. In the event of a fire at your home what item would you wish to save?

As long as my family were safe goods wouldn't matter.

13. How long have you been a Christian?

From an early age as I was lucky to be born into a Christian family and taken to church by my Mum who encouraged me to think about God and what He has done for us particularly through Jesus

Cont.....

The Big Interview Cont.....

14. What is your favourite hymn/ piece of religious music?

There are many hymns that I love both old and new but Love Divine, And Can it Be and In Christ Alone come to mind immediately.

15. Do you have a favourite verse / story from the Bible?

The prodigal son as it shows there is hope for anyone.

16. What has been your greatest achievement in life?

Picking up the pieces after a disastrous marriage.

17. You've been an active church member for years at Rainham. How did your involvement begin?

John and I wanted to be married in church but I was a divorcee. Rev Barbara Halstead was the Minister at Rainham MC and agreed to marry us. We began attending on an ad hoc basis but gradually became at home and stayed. When I had the children helping at Sunday School seemed the right way to thank God for helping me.

18. How would you like to see the Christian Church in general, and Romford Circuit Churches in particular change in the next five years, and what do you think is likely happen in reality?

I think changes will be few as people in general find change hard. However, I should love to see more open services ie those following a different format and some services being held mid-week. I really pray for a great revival as we certainly need it.

Cont.....

The Big Interview Cont.....

19. As you may aware that after 24 months of prayers, reflections, a well-represented study group consultations, meetings, visits and preparations, Romford Circuit launched and moved into 2 Clusters (East & West) based Team Ministry since September 2018, so, being a member in the East Cluster church, what are your hopes and dreams?

That the cluster system will bring us all closer together so that we can work as a team to bring God's love to more people. It is much easier to plan events for mission with 10 people than it is with 3

20. Where do you want the Circuit to be in 2025?

By 2025 I should love to see the circuit grown out of the current 11 churches and needing more but mostly I should love to see us helping and encouraging each other to that God's love can be seen throughout the area.



Report from Circuit Meeting: September 12th

2019

The Circuit Meeting held on September 12th at the CMOP Centre had a very lengthy agenda, so it was decided to circulate all the reports prior to the meeting, to enable members to read and hopefully, digest them before approving them without the need for reading them out.

We were delighted to welcome to the meeting Rev Jongikaya Zihle, the District Chair with responsibility for the Romford Circuit, who visited us for the first time. It was his responsibility to preside over Superintendent Ministerial Stationing proceedings, as Rev Jason Vinyard, due to leave in 2020, had requested a further extension of one year and Rev David, also due to leave in 2020, wished for an extension of two years in order to consolidate the work begun on establishing the Cluster System and the work begun on establishing the Mission Outreach Centre at Collier Row. The correct procedures had been carried out and the thoughts of congregations round the Circuit had been gathered and considered. It was the wish of the meeting that both requests were granted.

In addition to his report Circuit Treasurer Tom Smith gave a very useful presentation on 'the Role of Managing Trustees', which followed a training day attended by himself and Circuit Property Steward Trevor Pugsley in York on July 10th. We were reminded that we constantly needed to be reviewing our roles and keeping abreast of new information and updated legislation. Tom's financial report advised that the Circuit's financial position was much healthier than expected, which was partly because we were not yet employing the expected lay workers and partly because our overheads were below budget. There would be some costs and some savings due to the transfer of the Circuit Office from Trinity to Collier Row. Although Tom did not expect any increases in contributions from the churches to the Circuit in the near future he thought that the District/Connexion contribution would increase.

The report from our Circuit Safeguarding Officer, reminded each church that they needed to name a safeguarding officer and that training must continue to be updated.

Cont.....

Circuit meeting cont....

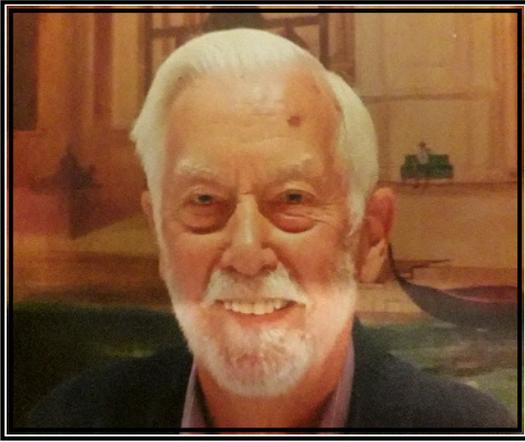
Reports also came from the Circuit Mission Outreach Project, the Local Preachers' & Worship Leaders' Meeting, Team Ministry and Come Fly. The meeting received a presentation from Paul Chapman, Buildings' Manager at CMOP, who advised on ways churches and individual members could save money by putting all their utilities under one provider.

One important part of the meeting was addressed by Rev Jongi, who reported back from District Synod and Conference. Conversations had been held about how we came together as people of God, which were non-confrontational and gave the opportunities for anyone to learn about that we meant when we spoke about marriage and relationships, without judgments. He reminded members that all are welcome. Rev Jongi commended the wording from Conference and directed people to the Methodist Church website to look up all the motions. It was important to be of the mind and of the purpose and it was important for CM members to take back this information to their churches.

Before the meeting closed two of our lovely people whose lives had drawn to a close since we had last met were remembered. Supernumerary Minister Rev Keith Jefferies had once served as a circuit minister and he was remembered with great affection for his exemplary pastoral care and concern. Mrs Lyn Scott, from Farmlands MC, was also remembered with great affection. Known round the circuit as 'the lady in the hat' she was a popular Local Preacher with a very strong faith, which was very evident when she preached. Rev David commented on the two lovely services which had been held in thanksgiving for these 'servants of God' and we prayed for their families.

Information about future dates was passed-on and we shared The Grace together as the meeting drew to a close.

Pamela Coles



Revd Keith Jefferies MA BD

Supernumerary Minister in the Romford Methodist Circuit

Keith Roy Jefferies was born in Southend-on-Sea on 31st August 1928, a second child for Wilfred and Elsie and younger brother for Kathleen. His childhood at Stanford-le-Hope was within a community he loved dearly. As his father was the chief engineer at Shell Haven Oil Refinery, the family lived on site in one of the villas designated for essential staff and as a boy he would join his father going in during evenings and weekends to visit the staff on shift and check that everything was working well. He loved the sea wall, Thames saltings and marshland and often talked with much delight about his freedom to roam. The onset of war meant that the family were required to leave their home and so Keith had a number of childhood homes in the Stanford area and was also evacuated, on his own, to Tenby in South Wales.

He made his decision for Jesus and the Christian way of life as a result of a visit by two Christian Commandos to the youth club at Stanford Methodist Church, going forward alongside several of his friends and joining the campaign. Among this group of friends was Patricia (Pat) Lewis who would later become the love of his life, his wife and partner in ministry.

As an apprentice engineer at Thames Board Mills in Purfleet, Keith was dismayed at how little his workmates knew about the Christian faith and how different it was from his experience. Perhaps this is why much of his ministry was spent working in non-church situations – industrial chaplaincy, army and education, trying to make the gospel relevant to folk both inside and outside the church. He became a local preacher and then candidated in 1947. High numbers of wartime returnees meant that aged 20, he did a pre-collegiate year in Wigan, arriving there days after the tragic death of his father. In this community the minister was the person who was called upon not just for matters theological, pastoral and services associated with the unique customs of northern communities but things part of everyday life such as helping the elderly get out of bed, looking for child who had tragically fallen down a coal mine, going into mines and visiting miners racked with emphysema. He had rich memories of his four churches, the love, support and hospitality of people there, and also their wonderful singing of ‘When I survey ...’ to the tune Deep Harmony.

Cont.....

Rev Keith Jefferies cont....

Pastoral care and visitation were very important to Keith and he strongly believed that in order to preach to the needs of people or to be with them in times of need and be helpful, he had to know them and their families in their own homes. He believed that going to where people were and sharing, as much as they would allow, in their lives followed on from the doctrine of the incarnation and he practised this until the end.

Keith studied at Richmond Theological College, enjoying the lectures and the relationship the students had with their tutors – Dr Eric Waterhouse, Dr Gordon Rupp and others. He joined the Star and Garter Mission Band and saw what war could do to the human body and, with Pat and others, was also part of the Mission Band at Lyham Road in Brixton. Pat was training as a teacher at Southlands and in time they became engaged.

For his two probationary years he served in Hatfield where, as well as having his two churches, he became involved in Industrial Chaplaincy at De Havillands Aircraft Corporation. He would often laugh about the tannoy announcing that the chaplains were on site and in his mind's eye imagined locker doors with posters of half or fully naked women being hastily closed! Keith had the unique gift of being able to engage with anyone and everyone he met, including those more atheistically or agnostically inclined, not in the sense of converting them but in the sense of his natural amenability and willingness to share their journey, utterly transcending any differences in faith or outlook.

Throughout his life he read widely and his curious mind relished intellectual and philosophical challenge but for him this was a tool to deepen his own faith and understanding, and to meet people where they were so that in the very widest sense he could serve them and their needs.

In August 1954 he married Patricia Lewis and within weeks was deployed to El Kirsch in Egypt's Canal Zone. His posting to Cyprus, some nine months later, fell amid the EOKA campaign for ENOSIS – political union with Greece, during which many British soldiers and their families were killed, along with many Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot people. Living in a local hiring, Keith and Pat had a bomb nailed to their front door, he was shot at and there was a plot to kidnap him. Pat (and all her cooking) would travel with Keith into the camp in the land rover; this was not without risk and on one occasion the land rover in front of them detonated a roadside bomb killing all on board. Their shared ministry and the provision of fellowship, hospitality and refreshments to all was a lifelong hallmark of their work.

On returning to Britain they moved to Colchester, where Katharine was born and then to Benfleet, Thundersley and Canvey during which time their son Richard was born. The family's arrival in Gibraltar in 1966 coincided with Spain closing the border, imposing restrictions and withdrawing its workforce, including those who worked in the church's restaurant.

Cont.....

Rev Keith Jefferies Cont.....

The church had a long, rich and humbling history; soldiers in the 1700s had been whipped with the cat o' nine tails for attending Methodist meetings and many of the ministers and their families died as a result of cholera and plague.

The church in Gibraltar proudly celebrated its Bicentenary in 1969 and Revd Dr Gordon Rupp, then President of Conference, came to join the thanksgiving and celebrations. Keith was determined to re-establish the church as Gibraltar's Methodist Church, open to all and not an adjunct of HM Forces. A highly ecumenical and multi faith community, Keith relished the opportunities for working together, debating on Gibraltar television, sharing services and swapping pulpits with Anglicans, Church of Scotland colleagues and Roman Catholic priests and enjoying a close relationship with the Jewish and Hindu communities and their leaders.

Returning to the UK, Keith became a 'Minister in other appointments' teaching at Seven Kings High and Appleton School, Benfleet and was highly respected and much loved by both colleagues and pupils. Retiring from teaching in 1993, he returned to full time ministry and Industrial Chaplaincy based at Rainham and Aveley and then to Hadleigh where Pat died suddenly in 1999.

As a Supernumerary in the Romford Circuit (Upminster) he contributed greatly to its life, often in a quiet, un-noticed way. He remarried, however Keith and Linda's time together was short as she was diagnosed with a brain tumour and died. Keith was blessed with four grandchildren – John-Mark, Rachel, Lewis and Johnny and he really enjoyed their love and company. Diverse in age (29, 27, 9 and 6) he said they kept him young and active! He loved his family dearly and was an amazing father and grandfather – a friend, a confidante, a safe pair of arms, he had a great sense of humour leading to many giggles and was a great example of how others should be treated and how life should be lived.

Shortly before his death he said that he had never regretted answering the call to ministry but just wished he could do it all again. Keith died on 26th June 2019, a few weeks before his ninety-first birthday and in the sixty eighth year of his ministry.

Kate Sisman (Keith's daughter)



Rev Keith Jefferies - A reflection

In the past few years, since returning to the Romford Circuit, I have got to know the man behind the name and face I have known of and seen for nearly fifty years, Rev Keith Jefferies. Now each time I walk past his house I miss the man who became my friend.

I am not, in this reflection, going to repeat all the different parts of his long ministry, they were covered so well at his funeral service, I want to share with you something of the man I knew and who, right up until his closing days, was an inspiration.

At the Wednesday Communion Keith, sitting in his usual chair by the heater, would listen, share his thoughts and on many occasions turn the conversation around with a question or comment which would help us see something different, new or shake us from our complacency.

It was the same at Sunday worship, again in his usual seat, I knew, both when I was in the congregation or leading the worship, Keith was listening, reflecting and always near his Lord, always ready with a comment or a word of encouragement after the service.

It was, though, when sitting with him in his home that I met with the man. Our conversations, about the life of the circuit, the churches and the people revealed the pastors heart, Keith cared about people and even when he was unwell he would do what he could to show concern and love for the individual. When we met one of his first questions was 'What is happening in Methodism John?' as if I would know. But we would share, like old men do, our concern about the way the church was going it wasn't like that when we were young!

It seem to me though in those closing months of his life that the heart of the man was exposed, still reading his Greek Bible, still engaging with a study course, still writing letters and cards to the bereaved or troubled. This man who had lived on the big stage now confined within the walls of his home was loving and caring to end, was walking with his Lord and he knew that Jesus was walking with him.

As we broke bread together, this central act of Christian worship drew us closer to God and Keith knew that he would soon meet with the one whom he had followed and served all his long life.

Looking from the outside it may seem to many that Keith had everything vital to a good life, a loving family who meant so much to him, a deep faith and a calling that fulfilled him, a life not without pain, some regrets and sadness but all that happened to him made him the man he was to so many of us. Yet for me I know that I have been privileged to catch a glimpse of a man whose trust and faith in God marked him and shaped him and helped make him the man he was.

So farewell Keith, thank for all you gave to me. Rest in Peace my friend.



LYN SCOTT

Local Preacher in the Romford
Circuit and Member of
Farmlands Methodist Church

Lyn was born in the Black Country on VE Day – 8 May 1945 – into a Methodist family. Her mother, Alice, was a great encourager and through the early years she moulded Lyn's thought process and her attitude to life, strong on the Protestant work ethic and the social Gospel. Throughout her life, Lyn's integrity and sincerity never faltered, and she was proactive in seeking justice, taking to the streets of London in marches about Fair Trade, writing to politicians and you could count on her to stand up for people and issues when others might look away.

After secondary education in a girl's grammar school in Bilston, Lyn went to Manchester University to study history and that is where she and Bob met. After graduation, she went to the Westminster College, the Methodist training college in Oxford where she studied for a PGCE. Her first teaching job was back in the Midlands, in a grammar school in Wolverhampton and then, after she and Bob were married in 1969, she taught for a year in a tough secondary modern school in Manchester.

Lyn and Bob moved to Brentwood in 1971 and after year at Brentwood Methodist Church, they became founder members of Farmlands. From then on, Lyn played a central role in the life and activities of Farmlands, in the church, in Sunday School and in developing the Covenant between Doddinghurst's three churches.

After being "badgered" for a couple of years by Charlie Fair to become a Local Preacher, eventually Lyn succumbed and, with Fred Whitelock as her mentor, she quickly passed through the training and became fully accredited in October 1989. She was a talented preacher whose approach to the Gospel was creative, clear and unambiguous.

Cont.....

Lyn Scott Cont.....

In true Methodist fashion, much of her emphasis was on the social Gospel, always demonstrating Christ's support for the lost, the weak and the disadvantaged and she lived her life in the same way, supporting small charities and assisting in Prison Chaplaincy at Chelmsford Prison. She was also dedicated to working with young people and was a strong supporter and advocate for *regeneration*.

Lyn was known by many as the "lady in the hat" and she many – over 30 in turns out! She was always smart and coordinated and Bob and their children decided at the Service of Thanksgiving that it would be appropriate to decorate the church with hats.



But Lyn's only ambition was to be a mother and this was fulfilled with the birth of Paul in 1971, Elizabeth in 1974 and then Katherine in 1978. They were everything to Lyn and when at long last they had their first grandchild, Amelia, she and Bob were overjoyed. When the other grandchildren – Daniel, Ella and Hannah came along she felt totally fulfilled. She was happiest at home, surrounded by the things and people she loved.

She loved to dance and sing, to sew and knit; she enjoyed gardening and had a flair for flower arranging. In typical fashion, she mapped out her Thanksgiving Service years ago, planning the hymns and the music. She had expected to have a recording at the end of Verdi's *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves* but as his final tribute, Bob organised a group from his choir to sing the chorus.

Lyn bore her illness with courage and acceptance with full certainty that the crown awaited her. Jesus promised us a place by his side and certainly Lyn earned that. It was fitting for the retiring collection to be made for The Anita Goulden Trust, a small charity which supports abandoned, crippled children in Peru; your amazing generosity has resulted in a donation of over £3,000. She would have been amazed at this and at the wonderful turnout at the Service where the church was packed to the rafters and around 50 people were outside in the cold.

Bob Scott

Romford Methodist Circuit
Staff Away Day
Thursday 26th September 2019
North Camp Methodist Church, Farnborough.

Imagine this...Reverends Karen and Joseph and Lay Worker Penny being chauffeured by Rev David! Then imagine a second car, travelling at the same time and same speed, with CMOP Community Lay Worker Philip and myself being chauffeured by Rev Jason! What a fine band of pilgrims we were, heading for Farnborough, for a time of reflection, led by Rev George Newton, a friend of David, an Anglican Priest working in the town. Upon arrival we were greeted with refreshments which were most welcomed. First impressions were, what a beautiful building North Camp Church is, with lots of rooms downstairs, and upstairs, which were clean and bright. We knew we were in the right place to read scripture and to reflect on the themes.

Session 1 was entitled 'Ministry with Jesus the Shepherd amidst Pressure and Challenges', with a reading from Mark 6:30-44. George offered some thoughts on the reading and then we went to different places for a time of quiet and our own reflection. I chose the church, but others went outside or found a room to rest in and reflect on what we had read and heard.

Session 2 was entitled 'Keeping in with the heart of God and the Mission', with the reading being Luke 15. George used some illustrations from his own experience as well as helping us to understand the message of the scripture. The focus became finding the lost which is the mission of the church.

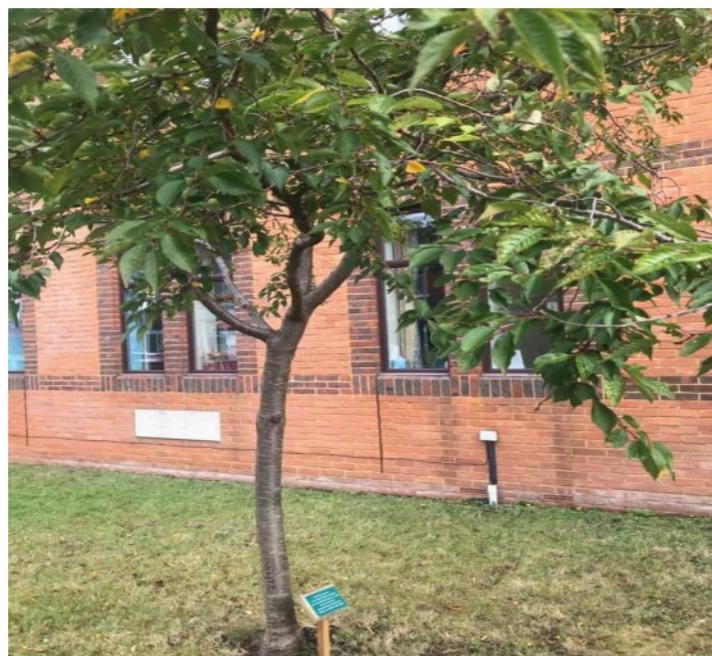
After a time of reflection, where I used the upstairs quiet room to sit quietly and re-read the scripture and then read the scriptures for the afternoon session, it was time for lunch. A beautiful meal of vegetable lasagne and salad had been prepared for us, with apple tart for dessert with cream

cont.....

Retreat Cont.....



After lunch there was time to visit the tree ('Prunus Autumnalis') that had been planted, by the church, in memory of the family David had lost in the 2004 tsunami. The church had been very supportive of him during an extremely sad time in his life, and the tree was a reminder of new growth after such tragedy. We had our photo taken beside the tree, which blossoms in the Autumn, a very poignant time for David. We are on David's Facebook page!! David took me for a walk to see the purpose built manse he once lived in, and is now the home of Reverend Chris Blake, who we once knew in our Circuit. Small world isn't it?



Cont.....

Retreat Cont...

Session 3 was entitled 'Keep going and finishing well' with scriptures from Luke 18, and Matthew 24/25. Faithfulness became the key word. Persistent prayer, getting on with the community, abiding in His Spirit, using our skills, and practical love were the key phrases from the discussion, and of course applying God's word today. After a short time of reflection our thanks were offered to George for his reflections on the bible passages and the challenges, he had opened up to us.

Before leaving for home, with our chauffeurs, we were again offered cake and biscuits and a variety of teas and fruit juices and coffee. We could not leave without applauding the hospitality we had received from Kayleigh, Denise and Marion, who had made us feel so welcome.

The journey home was slow at the Dartford Tunnel, a person could easily have walked past us, we were going so slowly, but good company always helps. I don't know about you but being in fellowship with other Christian brothers and sisters and reading the scriptures together is, to me, a great delight. Thank you fellow travellers, and North Camp Methodist Church, for the hospitality and the challenges of scripture and the time of quiet to reflect. More time to reflect please in the Circuit with the beautiful people called Methodists.

Joan Pugsley

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.

Mr John Alexander	Brentwood
Mrs Kathie Bishop	Brentwood
Mrs Pamela Coles	Harold Wood
Mrs Sue Farrow	Rainham
Mrs Sue Finney	Havering Road
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

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

What's Happening at CMOP?

Good News and Reconciliation in Collier Row

There's a man sitting in the comfortable seats, sipping coffee from our CMOP mugs. He's a former prison officer, working for Havering Council's Youth Offending Service. We're talking about Restorative Justice and jointly organising a community consultation in response to knife crime. He speaks enthusiastically about encouraging young people with direct experience of 'victim/offender' reconciliation, to share their experiences and help with planning the day.

Earlier this year we distributed knife crime questionnaires. Now, we're following up some very interesting responses and looking to work with victims, offenders and the wider community. 'Restorative Justice' was originally pioneered by Christians. Howard Zehr, an American Mennonite criminologist, coined the term 'Restorative Justice' and was director of the first victim-offender reconciliation project, developed in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Today Restorative Practice is global and widely employed in the UK. It is used in schools, children's services, hospitals, workplaces and local communities.

What does this mean for us in the Romford Methodist Circuit? Restorative Justice works by way of a group of trained community volunteers, called a Restorative Justice Panel. The panel meets with the person who offended, and others affected by the crime. Volunteers help to facilitate the conversation about what happened, how the offender can make amends, and move forward with their lives. Along with our partners, we're looking to recruit and train a group of volunteers. Might this be you? We'll shortly be announcing the date of our community consultation, where we'll say more about the project and what's involved.

Restorative Justice is about reconciliation, but it's not soft justice. It's often been called a 'tough love' approach. This development is the latest CMOP project. Our first initiative, Play Together, is still going strong on Thursdays. We're also recruiting new volunteers there, if you're interested. I want to thank the Circuit for your support. There are some exciting developments here at CMOP. Let's be encouraged as we look ahead to next year. On a practical note, I'll be changing my working hours around from November 2019 and will be available on Wednesdays – Fridays (philcmop@gmail.com).

Peace be with you,

Phil

Teaching the Travellers' Children

A reflection by Pamela Coles

Some of you will already know that during my lengthy teaching career, one of the many jobs I had was teaching children from the travelling community, often spoken of as gypsies. It hit me with a shock when I thought back and realised that this was 30 years back, but of all the jobs I held this was the one I loved the most.

Whoever holds the post of Travellers' Teacher is also responsible for the education of any barge children and those from fairgrounds. While this didn't apply to me in Havering, many years before, when I was a young teacher at a primary school in Kent, a beautiful new child turned up in my classroom one October morning and was introduced to me by her classmates as Emily.



Emily's family were fairground people who travelled round with their rides and sideshows during the warmer months before over-wintering on an accredited site in Gravesend. I was hugely amused when I returned to my classroom after dinner to find a goldfish in a bowl on my desk! Emily was a delight, popular with the others and while not the brightest pupil I've ever taught, was quiet and well-behaved and always did her best.

During my time in post there were two groups of travellers in Havering, quite unconnected to each other, who were based at two primary schools in Hornchurch and Romford. Once they leave primary school they consider that their education is complete, so none in secondary schools. The Romford group was a settled one and the children just got on with it. The Hornchurch group was based at the travellers' site near the Stubbers Outdoor Centre, where each family had its trailer, with fences surrounding each one, providing each family with its own space. I visited the site several times, usually with the Children's Welfare Officer, a Salvation Army lady, with whom I got on well. The trailers were absolutely immaculate inside! The tiny kitchens had the china and cutlery on the draining boards, Minton *Haddon Hall* china and gold, or gold-plated, cutlery. Outside the trailers were brick buildings provided by the Council, containing running water and electrics and plumbing for operating washing machines.

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Cont...

Lavatories were installed in these buildings. The travelling community would not dream of having one in their trailers and they think we are extremely unhygienic having sewage piped through our homes. This fastidiousness also applied in their kitchens, where they have separate bowls for washing dishes, washing clothes and preparing vegetables.

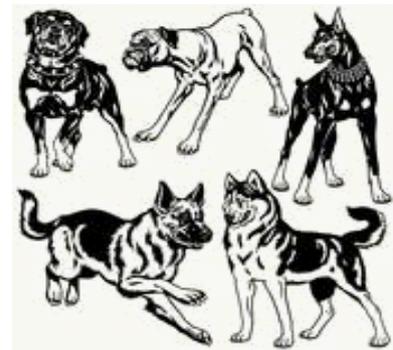
The children were transported into school each morning, in a minibus with a driver and an escort. In school the children were allocated classes suitable for their ages, coming to me individually or in small groups for extra help with reading and writing, never needing help with maths. Travellers' children are born knowing about money, I'm sure of it! They were immaculately turned out, with the whitest socks, polished shoes and clean and tidy clothes. Most were polite and well-behaved but, as with any children, there were also one or two cheeky ones, never the girls. It was such an achievement for me and them when they were able to learn how to translate squiggles on paper into words they could read.

I mentioned that the children were brought to school in a minibus, as they were outside the catchment area. For safeguarding reasons there always has to be an escort as well as the driver and the children were such little pickles that the regular escorts refused to do that run. The mothers discovered that escorts got paid so were keen to take on the role – until the realisation that this meant getting up early in the morning dawned and the novelty wore off. It ended up with Gran escorting the children. All the families on the site were Gran's offspring, so these were her grandchildren. I liked Gran and had a soft spot for her. One afternoon when they were travelling home, with Gran sitting alongside the driver where she couldn't see what was going on, two of the girls managed to get the door open at the back and fell out. They had just gone round that very tight bend by The Huntsman and Hounds, where all traffic has no choice but to move slowly, so although they were shocked and shaken, they had no injuries. Next day the Educational Welfare Officer and I had to go to the site to check. The parents were adamant that the girls didn't need any medical treatment and promised they wouldn't hold us responsible in the future. Travellers hate any kind of authority, including hospitals.

Cont.....

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Unlike us, travellers don't seem to buy things because they need them but rather with which to trade. At the Christmas bazaar one of the boys was delighted to have won a much-coveted and autographed boxing glove. When I saw him later this had been 'traded' for a football and later on for something else. Sadly each time I saw him it appeared to be a trade down, rather than up. Visiting the site one day I saw three sheep merrily jumping about. They belonged the father of three lovely little sisters. Next time I was down there, no sheep. When I asked why I was told they'd been traded for a van. Next time the van had disappeared and so it went on. There were several dogs on the site, tethered, but with fearsome barks. To start with they would run towards me and bark, but as time went on they stayed where they were and barked, but by the end, they just opened half an eye, saw it was me and took no notice. I guess by then I was part of their family.



At one point I worked one-to-one in a room at a secondary school with a lovely teenage girl, whose family lived in a trailer apart from the main site and were not part of the Stubbers Site family. Her year group were going on work experience and we managed to arrange some for her at a local hairdressers. As far as I'm aware that's the only time it's ever happened, as most traveller children disappear from school after primary education.

Sadly, eventually my travellers eventually moved on and so did I, to the next chapter in my teaching life. It's easy to forget that none of us has any say in which families we are born into and children are children. I loved working with my travellers and often wonder what they did next.

Pamela Coles



Come Fly 19.10.19

Gill Cockrell
Aveley Methodist Church

I attended Come Fly for the third time this autumn and had a great time. I must commend the organisers and the team on the day for their time and endeavour, the hard work was obvious and the opportunity to pick the brains of such folk doesn't happen often enough for me.

It was especially interesting to hear how well the Messy Church is doing elsewhere. The Amersham team must go down in history as the Messiest! Their endeavours, hard work and imagination are doing a grand job for the families who attend, and they're no pushovers insisting that at their messy church sessions children bring their parents along. This is definitely bridging the gap in the religious education of our country. Much food for thought.



Our church, Aveley, managed eleven attending on the day which was a good show for us. We spread ourselves over two of the four workshops, messy church and banner making. Everyone enjoyed the messy church immensely, among the feedback comments people said that it took them back to Sunday school days and all had a good laugh at the daft bloke who built his house on the sand, and learnt that the stained glass windows at Aveley are a stylised version of the sensible man who built his house on a rock, and the house on the rock stood firm.

We now have two new banners for our church which are in the process of being finished off, many thanks to Cicely for her help and advice. She had everything beautifully prepared for us. I was in my element, I love all types of craft which made me think that maybe at the next Come Fly I will step outside my comfort zone and try something that doesn't come so easily to me, just a thought.

MESSY CHURCH AT COMEFLY



Romford Methodist Circuit

Invite you to

COME FLY (9)

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

At Rainham Methodist Church

Wennington Road RM13 9DE

Saturday

14th March 2020

9.30am to 1pm followed by lunch

What is it? An informal get together for all people from across the circuit to meet together over Coffee, Worship, Workshops and Lunch to share, discuss, plan and then return to their churches better equipped and encouraged in order to initiate ideas with regards to mission. Please see separate flyers re workshops, timetable and registration. For further information please contact Rev David Jebb at djebb2003@gmail.com or Janice Gowlett at gowletts@ntlworld.com

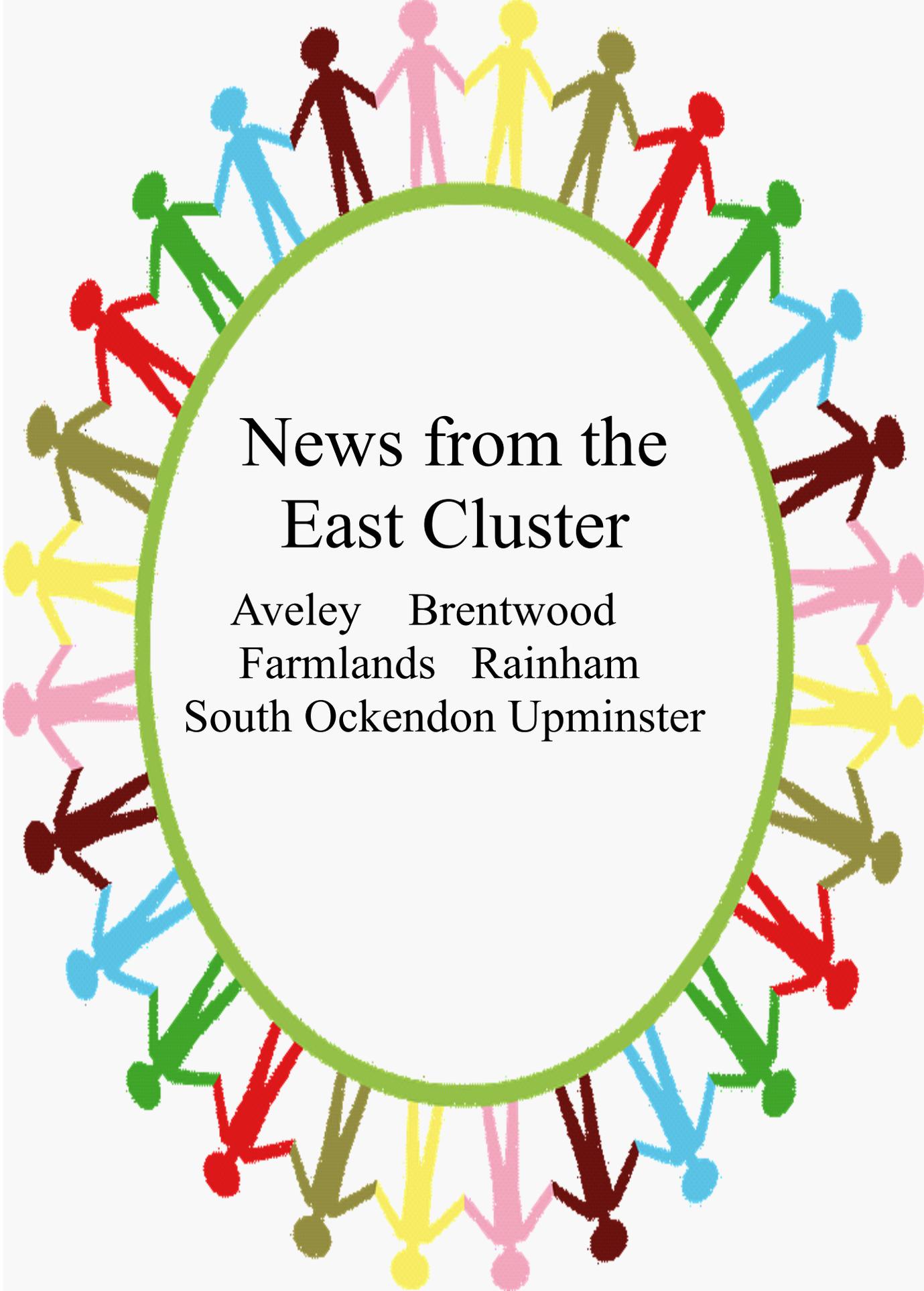
But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;

They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

They shall run and not be weary,

They shall walk and not faint.





News from the East Cluster

Aveley Brentwood
Farmlands Rainham
South Ockendon Upminster

EAST CLUSTER
Report from the East cluster meeting held
on 7 September 2019

The main topic of debate for the East Cluster was the appointment of a lay worker . As decided at the previous meeting an advert had been drawn up and circulated but no applications had been forthcoming. It was agreed that the job was too broad in trying to get one person to do school, youth work and also pastoral visiting. The number of hours was also considered a problem as it was not enough for someone looking to earn a living wage. The position at Upminster was changing as their School/families worker was leaving earlier than previously thought. If they joined with Rainham and Aveley to engage a school/youth worker the number of hours and funding might be able to be increased. They will report back on this. Meantime the need for pastoral visiting at South Ockendon would be put to the circuit to see if anyone was available to help with this so that the lay worker would not have this role. There was also the prospect of in-house training for anyone who felt able to take on pastoral visiting. Aveley hoped that with the departure of their playgroup and the arrival of a new one their difficulties might be resolved. The new leader had signed the necessary licence and was co-operating with other hall users. Finally the group looked at dates for events over Christmas so that some early planning might be possible to alleviate the need for Ministers to try to do several services on one day.

Janice Gowlett

FARMLANDS

Over the weekend of 21st/22nd September members of Farmlands joined in the first ever Scarecrow Festival in Doddinghurst. There were a total of 50 scarecrows spread around the village in resident's gardens and the churchyard on the theme of nursery rhymes and children's books.



Two of our members constructed a life size Bo Peep scarecrow together with 8 sheep 'hidden' behind her. This stood in the church garden outside the entrance to Priest House (All Saint's hall). Saturday was a really hot day and many of our members, plus a large part of the village, enjoyed going around the trail. We also joined in the barn dance on the Saturday evening. At our Sunday morning service we also had two extra 'members' in the congregation, although they did not add anything to the singing!. Although the Sunday weather was not so good, the majority of the afternoon village fete in the church gardens was able to go ahead and we helped out with the cream teas in the hall and with the job of clearing-up afterwards. It was a really good weekend bringing the community together and it has been mooted that it may happen again

Paul Wyman



RAINHAM

So far this quarter Rainham MC has held two events. The first was a Macmillan coffee morning on Saturday 5th October. We had some amazing cakes including 2 from one of the contestants from this years Great British Bake Off. We continued the sale after church on Sunday morning and raised £115.72p. Next on Saturday 12th October we held a church social where we played a form of Bingo called "Oi". It is meant to be just for fun but we still managed to raise some funds for church.

We have the annual christmas bazaar to come at the end of November.

In the next quarter we will be holding our "Carols for Praise" on Sunday 8 December at 3.30pm and our annual Nativity and Carol service will be on Sunday 15 December at 4pm.

Finally those of us who usually run a Christmas craft morning at Rainham in December are attending the Come Fly Messy Church workshop to find out if we could do this instead. If we need more time we will hold a Christmas Craft morning and then hold a Messy Church in January.

SOUTH OCKENDON

At South Ockendon, we had a Anniversary Service in July and our recent Harvest Thanksgiving, both followed by lunches which were well attended with plenty of good and varied food. We are now in the throes of arranging our Christmas services.

Our Sunday-School continues to be regularly attended and our weekly Bible Study/Fellowship meetings continue.

UPMINSTER

We were very sorry to have to say goodbye to Sarah, our Children & Family Worker, at the end of the summer. We have been blessed to have Sarah involved in so many activities with local children and their families. She will be greatly missed and has left a big gap to fill. We wish her well as she starts her new school role and are pleased that she and her family continue to worship with us on a Sunday.

We now have to try to continue and build on the good work that Sarah has been doing both within the Church and in the wider community. We are very fortunate to have two very enthusiastic volunteers (Maddie and Michelle) who have come forward to run the Tots group on a Tuesday morning. They have lots of new ideas and numbers are already rising again so that we may have to think of other ways to accommodate all the tots and their carers.

Looking forward, the time has now come to start thinking about Christmas arrangements. Planning is already underway for our annual Christmas Tree Festival which will open on Saturday 30th November, with the customary Christmas market, and run until Sunday 8th December. We hope it will be as successful as previous years and we will be able to raise a substantial amount for our designated charities as well as providing a wonderful community event.

Other dates that have now been finalised are the Toy Service on 1st December, Christingle Service and Messy Church on 23rd December and our annual Carol Service on 22nd December.



Christmas Tree Festival 2019

30th November -8th December

Upminster Methodist Church is getting ready for the annual Christmas Tree Festival. This will be the ninth year the church has arranged this and we think it provides a lovely introduction to the Christmas season suitable for all ages.

The theme this year is “Space –Out of this World” –it will be interesting to see the different creative ideas. As usual we have invited local schools and organisations from the church and community to decorate trees for this event using this idea. If any circuit church or organisation would like to have a tree, please get in contact as soon as possible.

The opening times are Saturdays 10-5pm

Sundays 2-5pm

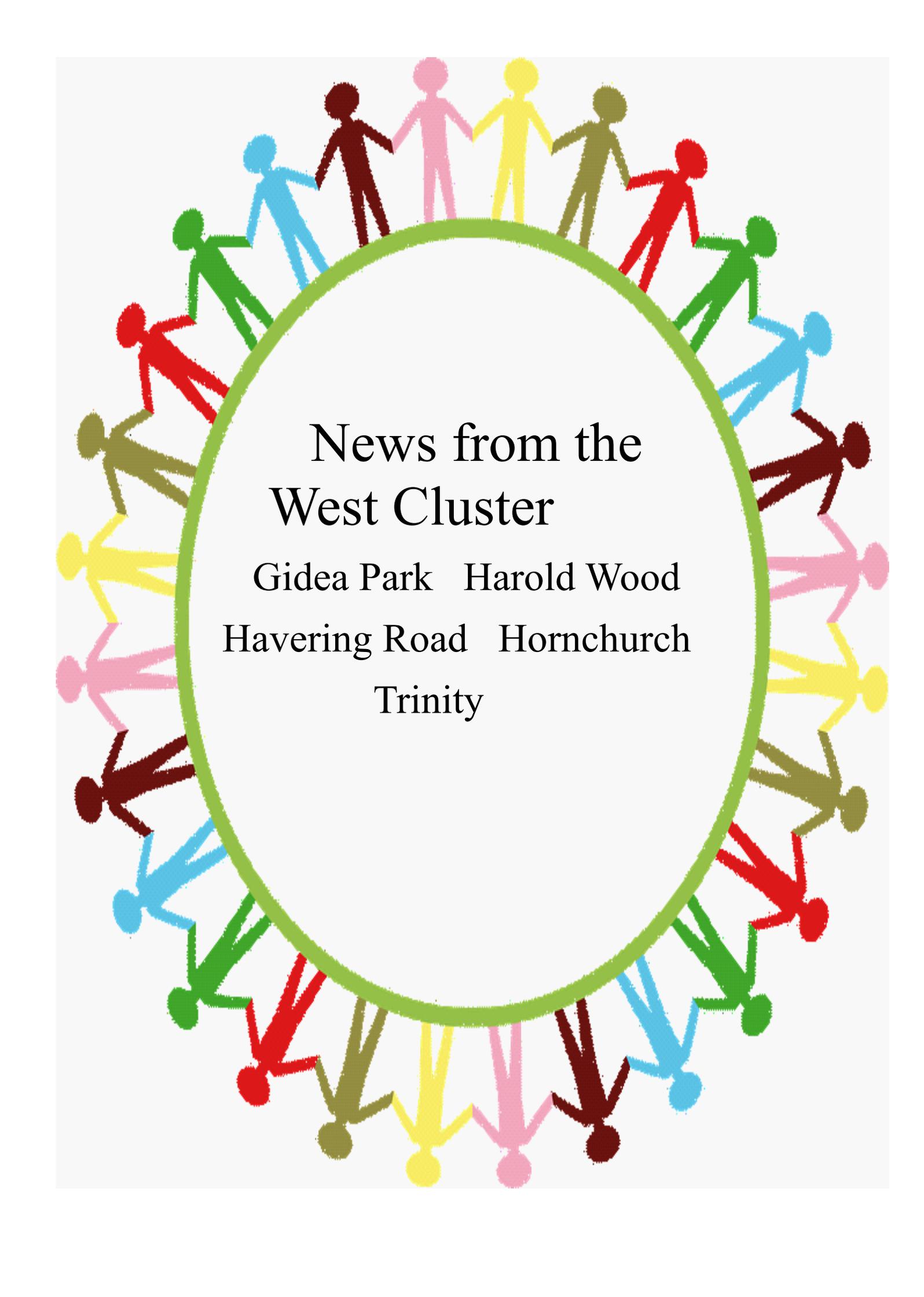
Weekdays 2-6pm

Refreshments are available every day.

The Festival opens on Saturday 30th November at 10am with a Christmas Market. The church halls will be filled with craft and charity stalls selling cards, gifts, cakes and other goods.

We would be delighted to have visits from church and community groups during the week to see the trees. Entrance is free, but we do hope for donations to our chosen charities.

For more details please contact the Church Office 01708222278 or email upmethodistchurch@btinternet.com



News from the West Cluster

Gidea Park Harold Wood
Havering Road Hornchurch
Trinity

TEAM MINISTRY

Minutes from West Cluster Meeting at GPMC on September 19th 2019

Present: Rev David Jebb, Rev Karen Bell, Jonathan Coles [HWMC]. Pamela Coles [HWMC], note-taker, Malcolm Richardson [GPMC], Desmond Apau-Parker, David Partridge and Jenny Smith, [all from TMC].

Apologies had been received from: Pat Parsons & Penny Spearman [both from GPMC], Kean & Evie Song [both from HWMC], members at HxMC and Steven Owusu, Penny Masters [TMC].

Minutes from the meeting at Trinity MC on May 2nd 2019 had been previously circulated.

Opening Devotions were led by Rev David and centred round Jesus calming the storm, Luke 8: 22 - 26. When asked who he was Jesus responded by asking where was their faith? Jesus always had demands on his time. How did we overcome our storms and interruptions? Did we hide behind a mask, live a double life or set unrealistic targets? Sometimes our faith was challenged. Rev David showed the prayer card for the Connexional Year with the slogan "What's the story"? This was a challenging theme and we each have one. We would find different stories in our different churches. Bringing justice or joy, the Church should be open for all and for those yet to come. We must hold onto our faith and aim to be 'living stories'. We prayed for Malaysia and Singapore and for the new circuits in Manchester, Macclesfield and the Peak District.

Future dates: Churches urged to get known Plan dates for next quarter to Rev David and up-to-date bookings to Rev Karen.

Planning common areas: agreed that mission and evangelism [m & e] were not easy!

Cont.....

West Cluster Cont.....

There was a 'vague plan' that the proposed worker for HxMC & HWMC would work with fringe groups. District Advance Funding to match-fund for the worker. Discussion about working to form closer relationships with uniformed organisations. HxMC saw lots of them coming to events such as their film nights, but not to worship. Reminded of Steve Wild's assertion that people needed to be spoken to about Jesus about 7 times before there was any impact. Mission and evangelism too often left to one person, which was not good. We needed to constantly challenge each other about m & e. We needed to take back to our churches that we must use every opportunity to build up the opportunities for m & e. Could church members join some of the clubs at their churches? Were we using the opportunities provided by baptisms, weddings and funerals? Reported that family requesting a baptism had arrived 2 hours late: evangelism was costly and sacrificial!

Visiting: Ministers will do immediate visits, a benefit of the cluster system, but are dependent on information being relayed to them. House-bound folks seen regularly. Noted that no Safeguarding Officers at HxMC or UMC.

Advent Course: GPMC & HWMC planned to hold their usual Advent Course and, as for the Lent Groups this year, were willing to open this to the whole cluster. Pamela was researching suitable material and would co-ordinate with Malcolm. [Thursday dates: Nov 28th & Dec 5th, 12th & 19th]. If leaders could be found, an evening session would be appreciated. Info to be emailed round.

Lent groups 2020 to be run in a similar way as this had worked well this year. Plans to be formed in February meeting next year.

Bible Month: to be better formatted at next meeting. Jonathan to report back on this and also on the training days on offer.

Cont.....

West Cluster Cont.....

Worship: It would be good to have a joint celebration together and invite every member of every church to this. Summer was clearly a better time to do this. Proposed barbecue at HWMC for the whole cluster next May or June, with the possibility of stalls, etc and 'Summer Praise' held at the front of the premises on the grass.

Property matters: Trevor Pugsley had completed the first draft of the proposed 'Tradespeople Directory'.

Online returns: to be completed by the new admin person.

Good Governance: Rev David reported that this was user-friendly but any problems should be reported to him.

Younger people: if we have any we must encourage them or the church faces a bleak future. Discussion on provision for young families. What facilities did we offer? Whatever else we must be welcoming! Further discussion on consistency in leading worship and preaching. Church plants thrive partly because they are not held back by a legacy of previous worship.

School Assemblies: Rev David conducted these once a quarter at Clockhouse Primary and at Marshalls Park. HRMC had a good relationship with Rise Park and Pinewood Primary Schools, particularly at Christmas and Easter. 'Open the Book' was used in some schools by church visitors.

Consultation needed on Marriage and Relationships, which must include both sides. Synod's recommendation was to talk in love, be open and listen.

Closing Prayers: these were led by Rev Karen who thanked God for being with us and for each other's support. We prayed for the courage to opportunities for mission and to be an inspiration to others. We walked with Jesus.

Date of next meeting: January 23rd at HWMC

HAVING ROAD

It is hard to believe that we are once again preparing for Christmas. Let us pray that the Good News will dominate the media this season. The Dates for your Diary are as follows;

December 1st Toy Service & Advent series 1 on Ruth. A/A with the music group. Mrs Rachel Read.

December 8th Advent series 2 on Boaz. Revd. John Chambers.

December 9th Uniformed groups Carol Service 6pm Monday.

December 13th Church Christmas Dinner 1pm Friday. £7.50 per person.

December 15th Advent series 3 on Naomi. TBA.

December 22nd 10.30 am L/A

4.30 pm Carol Service. Revd. Karen Bell.

December 23rd. Messy Christmas. 11.30 am - 1.30 pm.

December 25th Christmas Day Service. 9.30 am. Revd. Karen Bell.

The fellowship of Havering Road wish you all a joyful and peaceful celebration of our Lord's birth and a looking forward with faith to His coming again.

Havering Road Methodist Church

Moray Way Romford RM1 4YD

CHRISTMAS DINNER
Friday 13 th December 1 pm



3 course lunch including
coffee. £7.50 each
Please contact Sue Ereira to
book your place
Phone 07961503359
Everyone welcome

ROMFORD CIRCUIT 'Christmas At Home'

Thursday 12th Dec

11.30 – 4PM

Cost £6.00



Come and join us for Christmas Lunch with pudding and mince pies, activities and afternoon tea

If you are interested in coming please fill in a form which will be available from churches shortly and return ASAP

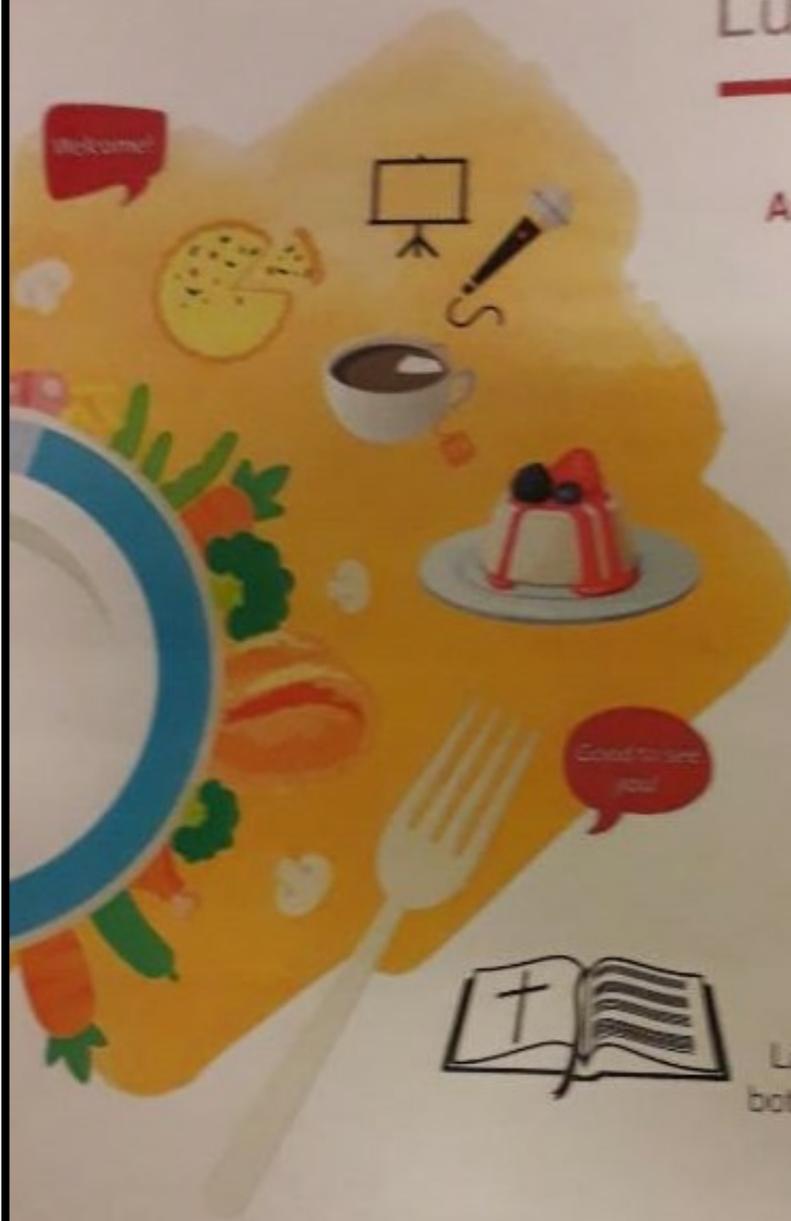
thank you

For any further information contact:

Penny 01708 769517 or Trinity Church 01708 747930

**Trinity Methodist Church
Angel Way Romford RM1 1JH**

London Methodist Luncheon Club



Are you free to join us for
lunch once a month?

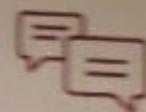
When?

We meet on the second Friday
of the month from Oct-May.
12.15 - 2.15 pm,
(from 11.15am for tea/coffee).

Where?

The Lancaster Hall Hotel,
35 Craven Terrace,
London W2 3EL.

Nearest Tubes:
Lancaster Gate and Paddington,
both within easy walking distance.



Contact

For further information contact:

Mr M. Bibby
40 Pine Gardens
Surbiton
Surrey, KT5 8LH
Tel: 020 8399 8596

We have a varied programme with a different
speaker each month.

You can be sure of a warm welcome,
a tasty three course meal and tea/coffee,
in pleasant surroundings and good company.



MARCH 2020

Tues 3rd Presbyterial Synod Notting Hill MC 10am-4pm

Sat 7th Safeguarding Foundation level training 9.30-12.30pm CMOP

Sat 14th COMEFLY 9 9.30-1pm Rainham Methodist church
(Vision 2020 - reviews and workshops)

APRIL 2020

Thurs 16th LP's & WL Meeting HWMC

Sat 25th Synod 10am - 2pm MCHW

MAY 2020

Thurs 21st CLT Meeting 7.45pm

25th May - 3rd June Methodist Conference Telford

JUNE 2020

Thurs 18th Circuit meeting 7.30pm Aveley

JULY 2020

Sun 12th Circuit BBQ 4.30pm CMOP

SEPTEMBER 2020

Tues 1st Circuit Leadership 7.30pm

Tues 15th Circuit meeting 7.30pm CMOP





LECTIONARY READINGS

YEAR A

Dec 1st

1st Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Rom 13:11-14 Matt 24:36-44

Dec 8th

2nd Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7,18-19 Rom 15:4-13 Matt 3:1-12

Dec 15th

3rd Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10 Matt 11:2-11

Dec 22nd

4th Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7,17-19 Rom 1:1-7 Matt 1:18-25

Dec 29th

1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Heb 2:10-18 Matt 2:13-23

Jan 5th 2020

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Jer 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Eph 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9) 10-18

Jan 12th

Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matt 3:13-17

Jan 19th

Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Cor 1:1-9 John 1:29-42

Jan 26th

Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1,4-9 1 Cor 1::10-18 Matt 4:12-23

Feb 2nd

Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Cor 1:18-31 Matt 5:1-12

Feb 9th

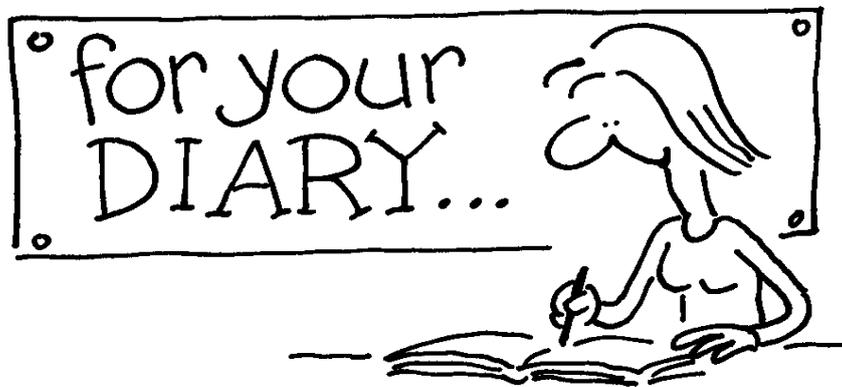
Isaiah 58:1-9a(9b-12) Psalm 112:1-10 1 Cor 2:1-12(13-16) Matt 5:13-20

Feb 16th

Deut 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1Cor 3:1-9 Matt 5:21-37

Feb 23rd

Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 /Psalm 99 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matt 17:1-9



DECEMBER

- Sat 30th Nov - 8th Dec Christmas tree Festival Upminster - See poster
Mon 9th Uniformed Carol Service 6pm Havering Road
Weds 11th Christmas story with school children 9.30-11.30am CMOP
Thurs 12th Christmas 'At Home' Trinity - details available from Nov
Fri 13th Havering Road Christmas Dinner - details in newsletter
Mon 23rd Messy Christmas -Havering Road 11.30am-1.30pm
Mon 23rd Messy Church & Christingle - Upminster

JANUARY

- Thurs 16th LP's & WL meeting 7 for 7.30pm CMOP
18th -25th Prayer for Christian Unity Week
Tues 21st Circuit Meeting 7.30pm HRMC
Thurs 23rd West Cluster meeting 7.30pm HWMC
Sat 25th Safeguarding meeting 10am HWMC
Weds 30th Circuit Property 7.30pm HMC

FEBRUARY

- Weds 26th Ash Wednesday Service 7.45pm at HWMC

FOR ALL CAROL SERVICE, CHRISTMAS WEEK AND
NEW YEAR EVENTS SEE SEPARATE 'CLUSTER' FLYERS