



Chelmsford Circuit

Volume 1, Issue 2

Newsletter Date: April & May 2019



Christians Together
in Chelmsford

Good Friday
19 April

Good Friday : Great News!



Service at 11.00am

Chelmsford High Street

Speaker: Andy Griffiths

For full details go to our website: ctic.org.uk

Procession of witness

Good Friday Procession of Witness

19th April 2019 in Chelmsford

For many years CTIC has organised a Good Friday Procession and Service of Witness in the City Centre, involving hundreds of Christians from many of the Churches of Chelmsford.

There are initially six processions, starting from different outlying estates. There are four stops en-route, mostly at churches where some of these processions join together or further participants join in. During these stops, prayers are said and a hymn/Christian song sung.

Eventually, three large crosses are paraded into the High Street and everyone meets by the Shire Hall, where a 45 minute evangelistic service, with sung praise and worship takes place.

Deacon's Digest

"Lord, teach us to pray" were the words the disciples uttered to Jesus, and it is from that simple request we are introduced to what is now known as, *The Lord's Prayer*. Prayer is a vital part of our Christian discipleship, yet many of us struggle to pray, myself included, not because we have no desire, but because we somehow feel inadequate in approaching God.

Yet I believe that if we are to experience radical transformation and a move of the Spirit, we must begin with prayer. Prayer is a conversation that takes place between us and God which requires speaking, as well as listening, and there is no set formula, just a heart desiring to know God better and to see lives and communities transformed.

Thy Kingdom Come

May 30th -

30th June

I am hoping that Churches will open their doors during this prayer initiative and invite God into our midst

If you are looking for some inspiration, let me introduce you to *Thy Kingdom Come*, a global prayer movement in which Christians pray that people would come to know Jesus. This takes place between Ascension and Pentecost, and this year, it falls between May 30th and June 9th. I would like to invite you to join with me during that period as we offer ourselves and our prayers to God. I am hoping that Churches will open their doors during this prayer initiative and invite God into our midst.

As part of that, I will be hosting *Come Pray With Me* where I'll be taking prayer stations around the Churches in the Chelmsford Circuit, offering opportunity for prayer and reflection, as we pray with Christians from across the Globe.

There are many resources available and I have already ordered 480 copies of a special booklet written by Revd. Dr Barbara Glasson, President Elect of the Methodist Conference 2019/20, so look out for those in your churches. For ideas and resources, and even see a video by yours truly, check out <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/thy-kingdom-come/about-thy-kingdom-come/>

Until next time, keep praying!

Ramona

Congratulations to Gill Singer—Accepted for Pre-Ordination Training

We are currently in the season of Lent, coming up to Easter and our Sunday services and Lent reflections have taken us on a journey with Christ. Sometimes it's been a joyful time with palm branches waving and people crying "Hosanna, Hosanna" and at other times we have wept bitter tears in the Garden of Gethsemane.

For the past 18 months I have been on a journey as I explored the call to candidate for the Presbyterial ministry.

I have travelled it at times with various people, but especially David, and

There were many times when I wanted to put my shoes back on and run and I am so grateful to everyone who has prayed for and with me, encouraged me and travelled part of this journey with me – you know who you are!

Revds. Mike, Sue and Barry. Only one person has

never left my side during the entirety of this journey and that is Jesus.

I have recently started reading my Gospel texts for each day out loud and changing any names to "Gill" or to "I" and "me". Suddenly, the passages become a very personal conversation with Jesus. It can be no coincidence that the last two passages had the same message for me. The first passage told of Jesus walking on the water and the second of the women finding an empty tomb on Resurrection Sunday with Jesus saying "Gill, do not be afraid".

And I have been afraid. I enjoy my life in Maldon and working within the Maldon Section of churches. I was beginning to enjoy seeing my boys fly and become independent and I didn't want things to change. But, nothing stays the same.

One Sunday a lady asked me if I had ever considered becoming a minister. I am ashamed to say I laughed in her face! Me?!! But, I did pray about this and asked God that, if he really wanted me to candidate, to send someone else to ask me. The next week two men, from another church, asked me the same thing. I literally stood there with my mouth hanging open!

A choice – runaway like Jonah or take off my shoes and step onto holy ground.

I chose to take off my shoes and the adventure began. In May 2018 I officially registered my interest to candidate. I spent the whole summer struggling with a 7,500 word portfolio which had to be handed in at the beginning of December. I travelled to the Newnham Circuit where I had been placed to shadow the Superintendent Minister in a multi-cultural setting – what an experience that was! My first day in East Ham saw me at the graveside of a young Jamaican man, where his relatives, in their grief, warmly welcomed me to their extended family. I have met with two other candidates from our District as we explored reflective thinking and what to expect at our District interviews. In December I had a two hour visit with a Psychiatrist who found me "psychologically resilient". (Yes, I know - this may surprise some of you!!).

Then came the interviews. First at District where Mike and Barry came along to support me and be interviewed themselves! The District unanimously recommended me to Connexion which caused me to burst into tears. Poor Barry, who had come to look for me, thought that all was lost as I couldn't speak!! At the end of March the 24 hours of selection began at High Leighs in Hoddesdon. The session was led prayerfully and worshipfully. We were looked after by three chaplains who were caring and interested in our stories. At the end of the 24 hours we left. Not a clue as to whether we would be accepted, accepted with conditions or not accepted at all.

We waited and checked emails and waited a bit more. Then, on the 1 April the email arrived and it was a YES!!! After a lot of screaming and running around the house in a very good imitation of the Vicar of Dibley, I calmed down enough to ring Pam Shrimpton (my Critical Friend) who told me to re-check my email as it was April Fool's Day!!



There were many times when I wanted to put my shoes back on and run and I am so grateful to everyone who has prayed for and with me, encouraged me and travelled part of this journey with me – you know who you are! In June my membership at Maldon will cease as I am accepted into full connexion and although this makes me sad, I am also really excited as I look forward to the adventure in

front of me. **I will travel with my eyes fixed on Jesus and in the knowledge that all those who have supported me and who will support me are in the crowd, cheering me on.**



Dates for your diary

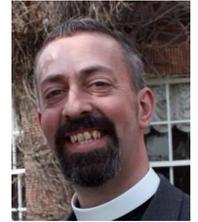
Sunday 21st July 2019

Sitting Down Service
Superintendent
Rev'd Mike Lewis
Trinity Methodist
3pm



Friday 30th August 2019

Welcome Service
Superintendent
Rev'd Mark Pengelly
Trinity Methodist
7.30pm



Circuit Directory—Data Protection

We plan to produce a new Circuit Directory around September 2019. For this to happen we will need up-to-date Data Protection signed forms from all those people in the directory; namely those with a specific job/responsibility. I realise that it was done last year but the forms were different for each church and most were returned incomplete.

As you know the people in your own churches better than I do, I would be grateful if someone in each church could be nominated as my point of contact to co-ordinate this; distribute and collate accordingly. Please let Karen Murrell, Circuit Admin, know who this person will be.

Circuit—Data Mapping

As with the above, Data Mapping is a requirements under GDPR. It just means that we have to complete a sheet of all the groups that meet at the church and to identify what information we keep on them and why we do this.

Gill Songer has kindly offered to assist and explain in more detail where necessary to any church if you feel that you need some help on this.

As with the above, could we please have a nominated person to be responsible for this role.

News from Christchurch, Braintree

Off the back of our two thriving Parent and Toddler groups, we are starting a 'Who let the Dad's Out?' group for men who have a role to play in the lives of young children. Starts on Saturday 27th April.

A Weekend of Welcome - Friday 21st through to Sunday 23rd June.

The people of Christ Church are inviting others to come along to events over the weekend: including activities for young people, a Comedy Night, a Community BBQ, coffee morning and other events for all ages.



During this weekend every guest will be given a **Bag of Hope**

with details of church activities and our Alpha Course starting in September.



Also, The Refugee Support Group in Braintree District, has taken positive steps towards planning to receive up to two refugee families to come to live in the Braintree area. Discussions are still ongoing but the group feel positive that things are coming together and it is good that those of different faiths are working with each other to enable the vision to become a reality.

Rev David Sebley

Phone: 01376 326628 Address: Christ Church, London Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 2LD, UK

The Methodist Church London

Four times a year, we circulate an e-mail newsletter containing information for Local Preachers and Worship Leaders. It is the primary source of news concerning worship leaders and preachers. We are however only permitted to circulate it to those who sign up to receive it. Please use the link below to sign up so you can be kept up-to-date with developments, and can pass on relevant information to those in your district.

Tel: 020 7467 3774

The Methodist Church

Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR | +44 (0) 20 7486 5502 [Enquiries]

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/local-preachers-and-worship-leaders/lpwl-e-news/>

Trinity Events

The perfect opportunity to turn acquaintances into friends.



Our days out at Trinity have been a great success in bringing people together. This year we have arranged the following trips and hope that you can join us.

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

Anglesey Abbey, Cambridge

Monday 24th June 2019

Leeds Castle, Maidstone

Monday 29th July 2019

St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds

Wednesday 21st August

Hatfield House, Hatfield

Monday 23rd September 2019

Colchester Zoo, Colchester

To book contact: Diane Potter or Karen Murrell at Trinity Methodist (01245) 269079 Friday Morning.

www.trinitymethodistchelmsford.org

Email: trinitymethodistchelmsford@btconnect.com



The work of God in Gt Notley

The Church in Great Notley have been very excited to baptise one adult and four young people by full immersion recently. They are pictured with the Rev'd Iain Bendrey and Rev'd Philip Howlett.

Also on 13th March the same people together with several others, including a member of St. Peter and St. Paul's church in Black Notley, were confirmed by the Bishop of Colchester, the Rt Rev'd Roger Morris. Rev'd David Sebley then welcomed Great Notley people into full and Junior membership.



Circuit Administrator: Karen Murrell: chelmsford.circuit@gmail.com

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