



The **Methodist** Church

The Work of God
Chelmsford Circuit

A report from each church.
September 2019

BROOMFIELD.

We continue to reach out to families in Broomfield and beyond through Messy Church. Between 15 and 20 families join us once a month for food, games, craft activities, songs and prayer, based on a theme and a bible-based story. The families enjoy their time with us and, we often, have the joy of welcoming a new family to the church. Some families are very regular in their attendance and others more intermittent. Like all Messy Churches, around the country we are concerned about how we can encourage families to become more committed disciples of Jesus.

Last year we ventured into opening the church on a Thursday evening to PAC, (Pizza at church club) club for children in their last year at primary school and older. We have two very regular attenders, whose confidence has blossomed as they have shared their experiences at school and beyond. Other young folk have been and gone but we are giving it another try in the hope that we can attract more young adolescents to join us. We will review our position at Christmas, and we ask you to pray for this venture, that God will guide us in our decision making.

A new venture for this September is a Film Club which will meet on the last Sunday evening of each month. The first meeting will be on Sunday 29th September at 7:30pm where the film, "The Hiding Place", the story of Corrie Ten Boom, will be shown and refreshments will be provided. We are hoping that this will be an excellent opportunity for members to invite guests to join them. We would welcome our friends in the circuit to come along and for churches to advertise this in their notices and newsletters.

We are hoping to arrange a meeting soon with our Anglican friends to see if we can hold a candlelight procession through the village on Saturday December 14th followed by a festive service and refreshments. Along the route the children had to find the names of seven angels displayed in windows along the route, the initial letters of which spelled the name Gabriel. When they handed in their completed sheet at the end of the procession each child was given their own angel, which had been knitted by a dedicated team of ladies from the church. It was great to see people from the houses along the route open their doors and join in with the carol singing. We have held two of these ventures successfully but, sadly, last year we had to call off the procession because of heavy rain. We hope for more clement weather this year!!

CHRISTCHURCH BRAINTREE

Christ Church Braintree's Vision Statement says 'Transforming Community by Nurture and Healing through faith in Jesus'.

We are seeing next year as a year of '2020 Vision' as we focus on the first part of that vision [Transforming Community] both in the Town and the Church and we will be focussing on Prayer and Outreach throughout the year.

We are in the process of putting together a Task Group to look at ways that we can explore this throughout 2020.

This will be in addition to the Mission that takes place every week at Christ Church – namely **Tuesday Craft Club, Coffee Mill [a social time for those who sometimes find life a struggle], Bereavement Support Group, Midweek lunches, Open Church, CAMEO [Come and Meet Each Other] a time of fellowship and sharing, Foodbank every Friday, Youth Club on Fridays evenings, Street Pastors in the Town on Fridays.**

GREAT NOTLEY

The Church in Great Notley (LEP) is pleased to have welcomed new members and attenders during the past year, as well as having conducted several baptisms. Our longstanding regular activities for various

age-groups continue to be successful and well-attended both by those who come to our services and those from our local community: the monthly Men's Breakfast, Friendship Club lunch for older people, and Women Together social group. In addition to our longstanding activities for children and families, led by our Schools & Community Worker and our Children & Family Worker: Weekly Snackanory for parents & toddlers and after-School Club, monthly Youth Group and Saturday Messy Church, lunch clubs and assemblies held in two local primary schools, an Easter Experience for local schools and a Summer holiday club week, we have started some new ventures this past year: a monthly social group for women, which is attended mainly by the younger mothers who are attached to the church or to our family community activities, a monthly welcome event for people who are new to the area and a monthly "Who let the dads out?" activity morning for fathers and their children. Last but not least, after an extensive period of planning and training in association with the Trussell Trust, we are very much looking forward to opening as a weekly Foodbank this Autumn and to serving the community in this way.

HALL STREET

Hall Street Methodist Church was built over 150 years ago and originally was a Primitive Methodist Church like many others of its time having only the bare essentials in its make up. Later on a school room was added along with in later years good kitchen facilities. In the past it has had some very good and high times. The current membership stands at 11 but has that unusual situation where the Sunday morning attendance is usually a bit higher than the actual membership. Although the congregation is largely getting on in years a little the music and singing is pretty remarkable. Katie our pianist is quite brilliant and the ability to do descants etc. is very much part of Sunday worship. On Thursday's we have alternating Bible Study and Fellowship in the afternoon.

As well as ourselves there are a number of other churches and organisations that meet on our premises. The Presbyterian Church. Two churches from Ghana. A Writer's Group. An Alcoholic's Anonymous group are among those that have regular meetings.

As to the future.....we look forward to continuing to welcome new people and those that need to find a spiritual home and all the blessing that it brings. Some of us are also actively involved in bringing other events to the circuit and to the wider Christian Church locally and in wider parts of Essex.

HALSTEAD

Firstly, thanks go to Revd. Stuart Ellis for "holding the fort" here at Halstead in recent years. We are delighted to welcome Revd Sue King who now has pastoral oversight of the church here.

Living in the town, Revd. Sue is already involved with the work of Churches Together and is getting to know us all! We continue with our occasional Saturday coffee mornings, and hope to develop our involvement with some of the other churches in the town.

HATFIELD PEVEREL REALITY CHURCH

Our Sunday morning services, held in the hall at the Little Bears Nursery Maldon Road, continue to be lively and thought provoking.

The services vary each week in format and content, so keeping our worship fresh and our modern lively worship songs are always accompanied by a team of talented guitarists and vocalists resulting in enthusiastic singing.

Since forming our new Reality Church our regular attendances have doubled and the age range widened, encompassing toddlers - to the very mature but young at heart.

We continue with our monthly coffee mornings which are enjoyed by friends from the village and from our local St. Andrew's church and our monthly house group (refreshed with new members) now meets weekly.

Our outreach has also extended to include involvement in the local junior school assemblies and joining in with Quiz nights at the local pub.

We are looking forward positively to further growth with support and guidance from Mark our new Superintendent.

MOULSHAM

"The mission of MLMC is "There to offer Christ's life to our world" and we continue to strive to do this through the many activities the members host in our church during the week such as the Brigades, Men's and Women's Clubs, our Friendship Club for elderly people and Messy Church.

We are also involved with mission across our City through our practical support of Foodbank, Farleigh Hospice and just launched on Sept 8th, Baby Basics, a project that will support mothers and their of newborn children through their midwife, with "starter kits" of a Moses basket, nappies, cloths and toiletries etc where these mothers do not have sufficient money to support themselves.

We continue to seek God's guidance in achieving our mission!.

MALDON

Maldon mission report for Circuit Sept 2019

Moms and Tots

Run a weekly moms and Tots group for the wider community very well attended.

Junior youth Group

Weekly youth group for the 8 to 12 years old. Those who attend do not worship at any church. Have brought in 2 of the youngsters from the senior youth to help and bring the message.

Senior Youth Group

Weekly youth group ages 13 to 16, 17.

Key Ring

A group for the more elderly that includes fellowship, worship and message together with refreshments.

Messy church

Messy church that includes parents and children once per month on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Coffee Mornings

Drop in coffee morning on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

9.15 Worship Service

On the first and third Sunday of the month we run a intergenerational, interactive service with modern worship and refreshments as part of the service.

Knitting and creative crafts.

Every Tuesday Morning for 2 hours, aimed at all ages.

Harambee

Drama group that presents story's of the bible through song and drama. This year's production was about Paul and Silas in Jail in Philippi, called 'Jail break'

Holiday club

In the first week of summer holidays.

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St. Augustine of Canterbury LEP, North Springfield

Our Mission

Since Spring of 2018 a vacancy has existed in relation to ordained Anglican ministry and, of necessity because of limited resources, ministerial input from the Methodist Church has been restricted. The Church Council, given these circumstances and with a small congregation, decided for four weeks during November and December 2018 to devote time as part of our morning worship to reflect prayerfully on ourselves, where we are now, the journey that God wants to embark upon and the kind of ministries that we needed for our journey. These congregational discussions resulted in our being able to determine where we wish St. Augustine's to travel. The aims of our mission are set out below.

To maintain our ecumenical, inclusive character and our openness to progressive theology and thinking.

We are members of 'inclusive church' and strive to welcome and serve all people and not to discriminate on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We continue to host monthly meetings of the Chelmsford group of the Progressive Christian Network.

To build our connections with (and relevance to) our community

High on the list of priorities given our ecumenical character is to seize the opportunities that exist. There are two local primary schools, the Bishops School opposite the church with which we work closely and Springfield Primary School with which we have little contact currently. We need to develop our capability to provide pastoral care, outreach and social events and to develop further Messy Church and to discover news and innovative ways of engaging with our community such as flexible approaches to worship in terms of time, place and style.

To develop and nurture our members and their ministries and strengthen further the church community and organisation.

There is a need for strong ordained and lay leadership linked to our sense of purpose and calling. There is a strong desire to see us organising the Church community and our life together creating spaces to 'be' together as well as to 'do' together. Prayer and study groups should be reinvigorated.

To work in collaboration with others and grasp opportunities to partner with others especially in the rapidly growing Beaulieu Park nearby.

As models of ministry change new relationships between parishes and churches and new forms of ministry emerge and there is great opportunity to develop creative, collaborative ministries. St Augustine's on the Anglican side is a partner in the North Chelmsford Mission and Ministry Partnership. Relationships with other churches in the NCMMP are strong and we would like to develop that within the Methodist circuit.

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

We started a monthly memory worship service in September 2018. this has continued on the third Monday of every month. I am delighted to report that it has become increasingly well attended and has proved to be an invaluable mission opportunity. Memory worship will continue for 2019/2020.

“Would you Adam and Eve it?” A play put on by the Bible Society one evening in the local secondary school in the town was organised by a member of our church and sponsored by the Christian Council in the town. It was an opportunity for mission in the town. Over 100 people attended but mostly by church folk so perhaps not the mission opportunity we had hoped for but nevertheless a successful and enjoyable evening.

Harvest Festival service in September 2018 was a joint service with our Anglican friends. Our gifts (including money) were taken to CHESS in Chelmsford. (Charity for the Homeless in the Chelmsford area)

Town carol service organised by our church included involving the local schools.

“Brew Saturday” in February to raise money and awareness for the Samaritans.

A course “Talk for Jesus” ran for 6 weeks from February to April led by Rev Barry. It was quite well attended and offered practical ideas to spread God’s Word.

Palm Sunday service held outside in the square beside our church.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Cup cake day and plant sale one Saturday in June to raise money for Alzheimers.

“Open the book” project begins in Trinity St Marys school in September with a view to taking it to other schools in the town after Christmas. This project is a Bible Society initiative and presents bible stories on a regular basis to the children in school.

Regular Activities

Foodbank - church members help with this weekly and regularly donate food.

Weekly prayer group

Retiring collections for disaster funds as appropriate eg Indonesia Disaster appeal October 2018

Action for Children Collecting boxes and advent appeal.

Regular donations to “Chatty Bus” - offers teenagers in the community an opportunity to have a drink and a chat every Friday evening.

Tithe committee - we regularly financially support local ventures . This year this has included a donation to CHESS, Donation to St Peter’s cafe in Maldon to pay for cleaning in order for the cafe (which supports those in need in the local community) to stay open, Donation to a disabled child in the community to provide a mobile hoist,

We regularly support PARC (play and resource centre in Braintree or children with disabilities)

TRINITY

Trinity - the work of God

We have 3 main organisational / planning groups 1) Finance & Property 2) Worship & Nurture 3) Outreach & Fellowship - plus a Pastoral group leader with approximately 26 Pastoral Visitors. Representatives of the above groups link into the Church Council. Functions and activities are supported by Church Stewards, Communion Stewards, Property Stewards, organisers of Church flowers and their distribution, Coffee shop and Catering providers, Treasurer plus an Envelope + Gift Aid Secretary, First Steps Secretary plus Premises Booking and office staff supporting the provision of Trinity News, weekly notices and our Web Site.

Trinity Directory's initial pages give clear indication of contact names for many of the above, plus link people for activities which regularly take place at Trinity e.g.

For children - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies, Crèche, Parent & Toddlers, Sunday Club, JMA and Messy Church (currently under review).

For Adults - Choir, Christian Aid plus Christian Aid hunger lunches, Circuit Women's luncheon club, 5 House Groups, Ladies Group, Women's Fellowship, Men's supper group, Singles lunches, Towards One World Project (Ethiopia), Trinity Care Group, MWiB (Methodist Women in Britain), Bowls Club, Music & Drama Fellowship, Action for Children & donation boxes,

We also participate in local activities / projects e.g. Chelmsford foodbank, Christians Together in Chelmsford, Covenant activities with The Cathedral and Church of the Ascension, 4Families lunches (school holidays) plus clothing collection and delivery for Whitechapel Mission.

WITHAM

Witham The work of God report for circuit Sept. 2019

Foodbank

Church members help with this weekly and regularly donate food. Members of the church are volunteers at the foodbank.

Coffee Mornings:

Held every week and well attended by the community of Witham.

Sunday Club

A Sunday club for children are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month

Saturday between Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday

Part of the CTiW walk of witness and community worship within the town.

Plans for 2019/2020

Messy church

Alternative forms of Sunday worship to be used as a mission outreach to the community

Marketing of the church to the wider community.