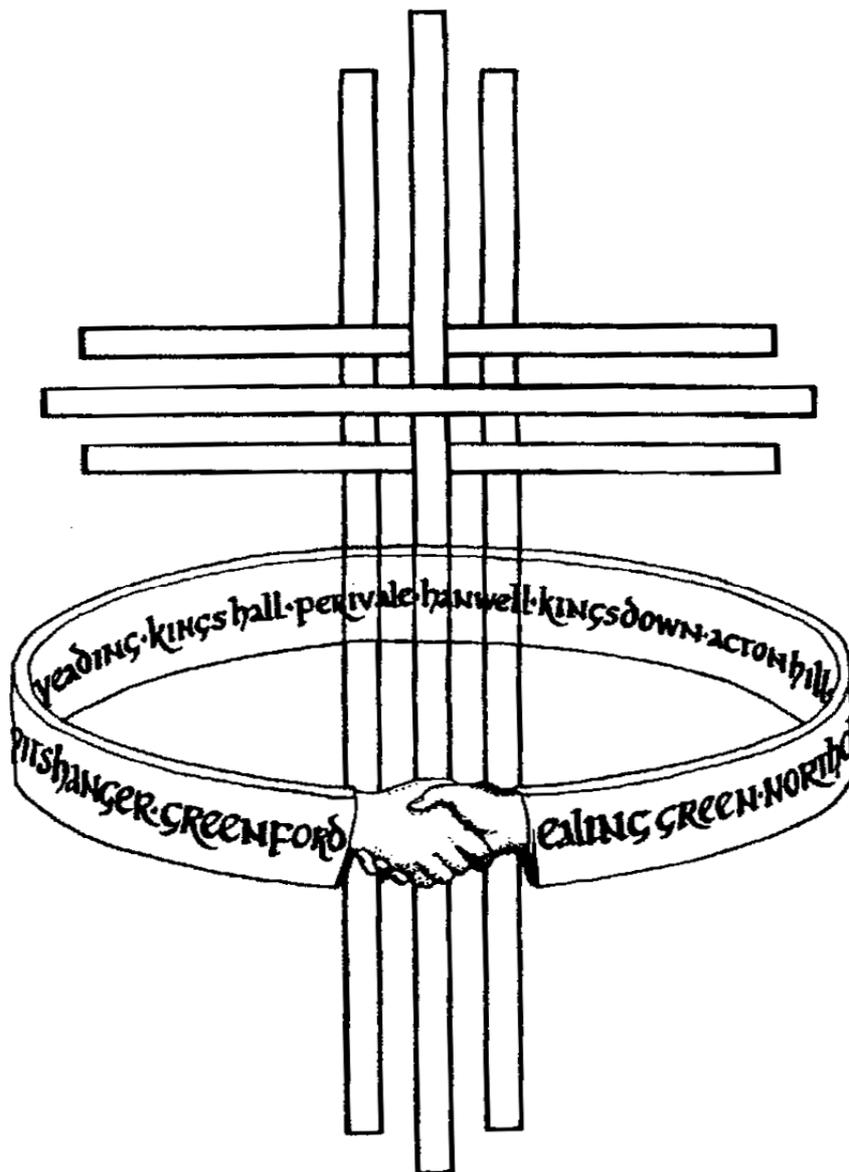


In-touch

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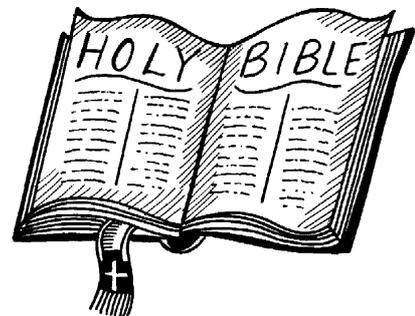


The magazine for *all* the Ealing Trinity Circuit.

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**Celebrating 400 years of
the King James version
of the Bible in English**



Front Cover designed by Marion Narain

From the Superintendent

Nothing stands still! It's a good job that our faith is built on the firm foundation of Christ. Just when we think we know where we are a new possibility opens up to us or we face an unexpected challenge.

Like many ministers, I have taken a lot of funerals in the last few weeks – this happens most years just after Christmas – for all sorts of reasons. A number of families have chosen Henry Lyte's hymn 'Abide with me' and it is an evocative tune with some very meaningful lyrics. It is a hymn with a venerable history, having been sung at the wedding of King George VI and later Queen Elizabeth II as well as at the funeral of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. I've been particularly struck by the verse:

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.*

The author wrote the words as he was dying of tuberculosis – which helps us to understand the context of his carefully chosen poetry. There is a deep sense of letting go and of loss but also a profound note of confidence in the one who is unchanging. God remains unchanged. Yet I want to suggest caution here – for God does intend us to change. Change in itself is not a bad thing. We can only grow in our physical, emotional and spiritual lives in response to change.

The wonderful thing about building our lives on a firm foundation – on Christ, the rock – is that we are then given confidence to deal with change, to deal with risk and uncertainty, to take chances for our faith and the sake of Christ's mission.

Over the next few months and even years, we will be responding to and creating change in our Circuit. In December we said goodbye to Graham Hinton, Lay Leader at Acton Hill LEP. The church family there will soon be thinking about their future mission and the kind of leader they might want to help them grow and flourish. There may well be other staff changes to come in the next 18 months and the Circuit Policy Committee will want to think about the future direction in terms of staffing and resources.

How do we serve the present age? Is everything around us changing and decaying? I'm not sure – changing, yes but decaying? We proclaim Christ crucified and risen – we need some decay, some death, some letting go within the life of our churches – in order for new life, for resurrection to take place.

In the midst of all this we can be sure that the one who 'changest not' abides with us, guiding, prompting, challenging and equipping us in our journey as disciples of Christ.

Blessings,



Christmas & New Year's Message from the District Chairs

Ealing Trinity's quarterly cycle is a bit different from many circuits in the District and In-touch gets produced a bit before the London District Chairs' seasonal messages become available. Whilst we're now well into 2011, this is their Christmas and New Year message. It might be a bit late arriving, but it's worth reading anyway! - Editor

Dreams can be so different from reality! In the run-up to Christmas, pretty snow covered Christmas cards and songs such as "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas" summon up pictures of a cosy, family gathering around a real fire, eating and drinking to their heart's content. However the reality of "snow has fallen snow on snow" is very different:

- People stuck at Heathrow beginning to realise they might not be able to be with family for Christmas.
- People in flats near one of our churches living without water or heating for a week.
- The frail stuck in their houses, dependent on neighbours for ensuring they have the basics such as sufficient food for the holidays.
- Vulnerable people wondering whether they can afford to keep the heating on for so long. Lorry and coach drivers facing impossible conditions as they seek to ensure goods and people are where they need to be.
- Parcels and presents trapped in depots rather than sitting around the tree.
- Emergency workers risking life and limb as they try to ensure those who need help receive it.

I guess that the first Christmas was not too different. Dreams of a Messiah, a Saviour who would come and recreate the world as God intended it. However, in reality a weak, helpless baby born a long way from home, visited by those who were having to work all night, and who were excluded from the temple. For most I suspect the event went unnoticed and they simply got on with business as usual. But for those with ears to hear, a fanfare of angels announcing his birth, God with us in the midst and the mess of it all.

As we journey through Christmas and into the New Year, maybe the difficult conditions will ensure that we do not sentimentalise the Christmas story but proclaim the gospel in all its fullness. Only the full message of the Incarnation is sufficient to touch those of us who are hurting, or lonely, or grieving or longing for something different. Only the gospel message of the Incarnation is sufficient to ensure the people of God called Methodist are true to our calling. God with us, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, waiting for us to notice, longing for us to receive his love and grace and longing for us to let his love and grace flow through us to those around. God with us, in the children drawing smiles on my snow covered car, in the neighbour who sets an extra place at the Christmas table,

in the one who opens up the church for those with no where to go, in the one who gives or receives the unlooked for gift.

It was good in the last bout of snow to wake up to news on radio 4 of how a Methodist Church in the Sheffield District has opened its doors to the lorry drivers stuck on the road outside and that teams had gone into action offering hospitality. Now that's gospel. We're delighted by the stories of what churches within the London District are doing to share the good news and to respond to the communities around them. Keep the stories coming so that we can encourage and inspire one another, but above all be open to the surprises that God has in store in the midst of all the difficulties and be open to becoming part of the story of God's surprising response to those around you.

Wishing you peace and joy as you seek to be good news.

Jenny, Ermal, Stuart

Candidate for the Methodist Ministry

At a special meeting held on 5th January, the Circuit Meeting unanimously gave its permission for Jarel Robinson-Brown's candidacy for the Methodist ministry to proceed. Jarel has trained as a Local Preacher in our Circuit and there will be a Circuit Accreditation Service for him at Greenford, where he is a member on 13th March at 6.30pm. Last September he commenced theological studies at Wesley College, Cambridge.

Anyone who has heard Jarel preach will know he has something profound to say, won't be surprised he feels a call to the ministry and equally won't be surprised that the Circuit Meeting gave its unanimous endorsement for his candidacy! We wish him well in his studies and in his future ministry.

News from Kingsdown

Many of you will know that Kingsdown has a major programme for redeveloping the church's buildings. The first phase, which effectively re-built the front and entrance to the church was completed in 2008. The second phase, which amongst other things, provides disabled facilities for the hall area has been 'on hold' since then whilst funding is sorted out.

Since last March in addition to the 'normal round' of fundraising activities, a team at Kingsdown has been looking at the prospects for grant aid for this work based upon the community use of the facilities. Inevitably, not all grant applications have been successful, but the team had significant results from a number of grant-giving bodies and has raised some £82,000 towards the cost of the work. Although there

are still some applications outstanding, the broad picture of how much funding is available in relation to the costs of the project are now pretty clear.

The Church Council has been considering the possibility of two options – the original scheme and a reduced scheme which provides some, but not all of the benefits of the original. At an extraordinary meeting of the Council on 11th January, it was decided to proceed with the reduced scheme. This scheme was considered to be financially fairly robust, whilst the original scheme would have been at the extreme of what the church might sustain and not without risk of financial difficulty. Kingsdown now has a clear path ahead to completion of the project.

It is envisaged that work will begin during the Summer, when user groups take a break at the end of the school year.

Acton Hill

Graham Hinton, who has been Local Church Leader at Acton Hill since January 2007 has resigned his position with effect from 31st December 2010 having completed his 4-year term of office. As a result, the congregation at Acton Hill are currently without a formal leader.

Acton Hill is a Local Ecumenical Partnership with the United Reformed Church (URC). Graham was an unpaid lay Local Church Leader provided by the URC who was authorised to carry out some of the functions of an ordained minister, including the celebration of Holy Communion. In addition, the URC provides continuing overall pastoral oversight of the church through Rev David Jenkins, a URC minister based in Palmers Green.

A process of consultation has begun between the Methodist and United Reform Churches to provide a replacement for Graham. In the meantime, please hold the congregation at Acton Hill in your prayers whilst the situation is resolved.

Ealing Winter Night Shelter

Mary Blackwell, Hanwell

The Ealing Winter Night Shelter opened successfully on 5th January at St Anselm's church. It was fully booked from the first night with a waiting list of nine, three of whom were referred on to the new Harrow shelter, which also opened this season. The Shelter has, at the time of writing, nine male and three female guests.

The Shelter has not been without its problems, especially in the very early days, but all the volunteers have found the experience uplifting and enjoyable, and there is a real family feel about the Shelter at night. One of the guests, when asked whether he had family said, "Right now, this is my family".

Methodists in Haiti

The Revd Tom Quenet is the Methodist Church's partnership coordinator for the Americas and Caribbean. He visited Haiti soon after the earthquake. Last autumn he retraced his steps to see what progress had been made. He writes:

"It looked as if a lot had taken place, but I could well imagine that for Haitians it must seem as if progress has been slow and very painful. Demolition of unsafe properties has taken place and rubble is being cleared; repairs to businesses that escaped the worst of January have been completed and new coats of paint have been applied.

"Only a few hundred yards from the airport, I was confronted by the informal tent settlements that had been erected by desperate people shortly after the earthquake. The 'new' look they had in February had been replaced by nine months' worth of dust, the effects of weather and the bleaching of the sun. Some people had begun to use corrugated iron and wood and plastic and almost anything else to add to their little spaces. I couldn't help but think what I thought many times in February: "This is a nightmare for years to come! When will you save the people, O God of mercy? When?" But then, all around me, despair at what had not happened gave way to signs of hope.

"The children in their immaculately clean uniforms going to school; the thousands of micro businesses on every inch of the roadside; the tap-taps (Haitian form of public transport) with their biblical references; the determined faces of Haitians getting on with living. This is a people that not even the worst forces of nature are going to cower down so as to give up, lay down and die. This is a resilient and resistant people.

"Much had been done and much remained to be done. Yet for many there was a home where previously there was none and a place to plant a flower and a fruit tree and to begin to hope.

"I left with an assurance and belief in the durability and tenacity of the Haitian spirit. A spirit carries you with it in search of justice, peace, faith and hope ... and Haitians' unconquerable minds."

Make us worthy, Lord,
to serve our brothers and sisters throughout the world
who live and die in poverty and hunger.
Give them by our hands this day their daily bread,
and by our understanding love, give peace and joy.
Amen.

Pope Paul VI

Food Prices and Encouraging Farmers to Grow More

Gerald Barton, Editor

You may remember that not so long ago rising world food prices were causing more than a little concern. In fact, food prices in US dollars doubled between mid 2006 and mid 2008, before dropping back to about 140% of their level during mid 2006. Since the mid 2010, they have been rising again and may well regain the peak experienced in 2008. The UN's Food & Agriculture Organisation believes that prices are unlikely to fall back to their pre food-crisis levels in the next decade.

Rising prices clearly put pressure on the world's poor who find feeding themselves and their families takes up more and more of their meagre incomes. In all, around 100 million people were pushed into the ranks of the world's hungry as a result. However, increased food prices should also give growers incentives to expand production. This is something that's very necessary given that the International Fund for Agricultural Development (another UN agency) believes that food production needs to rise by 70% to feed a global population expected to reach 9 billion by 2050. If farmers, particularly in poor countries earn more from their crops, it should spur them to invest more in things like irrigation to increase their production and take advantage of better prices.

Before 2008, when prices were low, this kind of impetus was lacking. In addition, many countries had weak and uncompetitive markets, poor rural infrastructure, weak financial services and inappropriate policies. As a result, when prices started rising, farmers in poor countries were unable to react quickly to the opportunity to produce and earn more. In the decade before 2008, cereal production in poor countries grew by just 1%, whereas in rich countries it grew by 12%.

As things stand, however it is far from certain that farmers in poor countries will be able to take advantage of rising prices. For them, the upfront investment in seeds and fertilisers is high and risky, whereas returns are uncertain. Changes in weather and market fluctuations can easily make investment unprofitable. The net result is that poor-world farmers often retreat into subsistence growing or look for alternative livelihoods. A recent World Bank study found that many poor-world farmers engaged with markets only marginally. Other research indicates that such risk-avoidance comes at a cost – it can depress farm incomes by up to 20%. It also means less food on world markets.

Nonetheless, in many poor countries growth in agriculture remains an important driver of overall economic growth and typically generates the greatest improvements for the poorest people. The key issue, according to a recent report from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, is that the need for poor people in rural areas to manage the multiple risks they face constrains their ability to respond to opportunities to increase output. In other words, the issue is how to find ways of ameliorating the risks associated with expansion so that poor farmers don't opt instead to retreat into subsistence growing.

IFAD considers the development of well-functioning, reliable and remunerative markets one of the keys to improving the lot of poor farmers. With increasing urbanisation in developing countries has come the development of retail supermarkets. To function well, these need to establish more modern supply chains, often demanding higher standards than traditional markets. In turn, they need to encourage poor farmers to engage with them. Importantly, agri-businesses need to build trust with farmers, in part through establishing firm and reliable contracts. The growing importance of a social responsibility agenda within the global food industry provides an increasingly important context for the establishment of such contracts.

Rural areas often need infrastructure development. Improvements in roads, power and water supplies, and IT are also crucial to rural development. The spread of mobile phone networks can provide better information to farmers - in Africa and India, text-message services provide farmers with price information from markets in their region. This allows them to offer their produce at the most profitable time and place. Farmers also need to organise so that they can learn from each other, and also so they can strengthen their position when dealing with governments and agribusinesses.

Good governance also emerges as a key factor. This can be taken to mean stable, reliable governance that focuses on advancing the interests of the 'common people', rather than those of the ruling clique or just one sector of the population. Although the IFAD report doesn't say it, the lack of good governance in various poor countries doubtless goes quite some way to explaining why they remain poor.

Finally, the IFAD report stresses that there is no one solution to reducing poverty amongst the rural poor – each country/region is different and policies need tailoring to meet individual circumstances.

IFAD's Rural Poverty Report 2011 can be downloaded from their website at www.ifad.org.

A Touch of Class?

Discipleship • Cell • Mission

The Hayes, Swanwick 9-10 May 2011

Small groups developing big hearts for their communities. In a society that's being urged to tighten its belt, how can the church learn to be more open-hearted as disciples of Jesus?

A Touch of Class? is a conference that builds on the Methodist heritage of small groups to explore the way that Cell Church and small groups can help Christians to be generous with God's grace. £75 per delegate including accommodation – discount of 5% for groups of 4 or more from the same church/circuit

A Church with No Potential?

Jarel Robinson-Brown

I look around me and all I see is a Church.
A Church that fails to recognise its past and imagine its future.

A Church so ready to give up and give in and leave the world to sin -
and yes I can't deny that there are those within who try to save this
"sinking ship" from ruin, but I wonder.....are they really in?

For the manse, the collar, the stipend? and not the real win
of souls, and teens and prostitutes at +kings.

Committees, Councils and those blimming panels
won't help us make it across this rough sea channel
until we learn to adopt those who are ready for this spiritual battle.

God knows where we've got this stupid defeatist attitude from!?
Not from Wesley or Weatherhead or Sangster's mum it's just drum-
med into our synods and our conferences
and we sit there and listen like a bunch of bums!

"Barnhill Methodist Church closing",
"Sion Methodist Church closing"
and we sit there whilst we're dozing,
posing like a bunch of posies.
It's the kingdom we're destroying!
Yes I know it has to happen as the finance just ain't pouring
but this message is just boring - like your snoring Reverend Goring.

Wake up! Realise your potential, it ain't all gotta be detrimental!

How I wish you could see what I see! A blessed future -
not with pews that are full or hymnbooks that are blue
but Christians anointed and appointed
carrying your message into all places,
for all faces,
to all races
in a way that is fresh and new and all about You!

I know it can happen. If we just let the great I AM work His power in His Land
put our selfish wills to end and then.....

Eleanor Roosevelt

Gerald Barton, Editor

In our meanderings along the lower Hudson Valley, we felt that one of the 'must see' places was the Franklin D Roosevelt museum at Hyde Park, about 90 miles north of New York City. The site, which is run by the US National Park Service includes FDR's Presidential Library, a museum dedicated to him, and his family home 'Springwood'. One Saturday, we made the journey from Norwalk and did the tour, starting with the house. Following that, we went round the museum until pretty much chucking-out time. Most of us will know at least something about FDR as the man behind the New Deal during the Great Depression and as President of the United States during the years of World War II. The part we found most fascinating, however was the section of the museum dedicated to FDR's wife, Eleanor. Whilst we were aware of her as FDR's wife, we hadn't realised quite how much she'd contributed to the US and to the broader international arena both during and after FDR's presidency.



Eleanor Roosevelt speaking at the United Nations in 1947

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born on 11th October 1884 into a wealthy New York family. She was a sober child so much so that her mother nicknamed her 'Granny'. By the time she was 10, both her parents had died and she was cared for by her grandmother, Mary Ludlow Hall (1843 – 1919) at Tivoli in New York State. Described by biographers as feeling insecure and starved of affection as a child, perhaps not surprising given the loss of both parents, at the age of 14, Eleanor understood that her prospects in life were not totally dependent on physical beauty, writing wistfully that "*no matter how plain a woman may be if truth and loyalty are stamped upon her face all will be attracted to her.*"

Eleanor was educated privately at home until she was 15 at which point she was sent to England to Allenswood School, a 'finishing school' outside London. The headmistress, Marie Souvestre was, however a noted feminist educator who sought to cultivate independent thinking in the young women in her charge. During her time at the school, Eleanor learned to speak French fluently and gained self-confidence. In 1902, when she was 17 her education finished and Eleanor returned to New York to enter a life of wealth and privilege. Later that year she was presented at a debutante ball at the Waldorf Astoria and also had her own debutante party. Nonetheless, Eleanor had a social conscience and joined the New York Junior League, becoming one of its earliest members. Through this organisation she volunteered to do social work in New York's eastside slums.

Also in 1902, Eleanor met her father's fifth cousin, Franklin D Roosevelt. Their courtship began the following year and, despite opposition from FDR's mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt, they were married on 17th March 1905.

Between 1906 and 1916, Eleanor and Franklin had 6 children, one of whom died in infancy. Whilst all appeared well, in 1918 their marriage almost collapsed. FDR, as Assistant Secretary for the Navy had toured the Western Front but had developed pneumonia. Nursing him back to health, Eleanor also took control of his mail and was horrified to discover love letters to FDR from Lucy Mercer, her social secretary. She confronted him and demanded he end the relationship or she would sue for divorce. Eventually, FDR agreed for the sake of their children, and also to save his political career. Nevertheless, this episode saw the end of their physical relationship. What is perhaps remarkable following this, is the degree to which they each supported the other throughout the remainder of FDR's life. As some biographers have commented, they could help and support each other, but they could not make each other happy.

Just three years later, FDR was suddenly struck by an illness that left his legs paralysed. Long thought to have been polio, some suggest it was Guillan Barré syndrome – a condition not recognised at the time. This could have ended FDR's political career, but with Eleanor's support he was able to continue once he had recovered sufficiently from his illness. During this time Eleanor became active in the Women's Trade Union Movement and was a leading figure in the New York State Democratic Party. This gave Eleanor wide contacts with women members of the party, something which proved valuable to FDR when he ran, successfully for the governorship of New York State in 1924.

In 1933, FDR was elected President and Eleanor became First Lady. She was initially deeply concerned that she would have to adopt a largely ceremonial role – she had seen how circumscribed the role of her Aunt Edith, President Teddy Roosevelt's wife, had been and did not wish to find herself in a similar position. However, with FDR's support she was encouraged to continue the active business and speaking agenda of her pre-First Lady days. She actively supported the New Deal by appearing at labour meetings to explain how it would improve the lot of the average American and became closely involved in the civil rights movement.

As she could trace her family back to active participants in the struggle to oust the British from America, Eleanor was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. However, in 1939 she resigned her membership when that organisation refused to let Marion Anderson, an African-American singer perform at Washington's Constitution Hall. In response to that refusal, she was instrumental in arranging for Anderson to sing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. This was a brave move as segregation was rife throughout the United States and there was heavy discrimination against black Americans. In many respects she was FDR's conscience on the issue of civil rights. Whilst he sympathised with her views, he never felt he could move as fast or as far as Eleanor wanted – he was always aware of his dependence in the Congress on Southern Democrats, who were firmly opposed to extending equal rights to black Americans, if he was to succeed in pursuing his New Deal programmes.

Her other great concern was the position of women. At the time, only 25% of American women went out to work, the remaining 75% lived lives limited to home

and family. In 1936 she began writing a daily newspaper column 'My Day' which was syndicated to many papers across the country. Although taken by fewer papers in later years, she continued writing 'My Day' until her death in 1962. She used this column not only to record her days, but also to comment on current issues, often reflecting her humanitarian concerns. 'My Day' was supplemented by a monthly column in *Women's Home Companion* magazine. At times, she was criticised for straying too far into the political arena in these columns, but had she stayed with the anodyne, they would have lost their impact.

Following the outbreak of war, which came in December 1941 for the US, Eleanor found ways of supporting the war effort. In 1943 she toured the South Pacific – a tour which became a legend. She visited hospitals full of wounded soldiers patiently spending time with as many of them as she could. The tour proved a great morale-booster and she won praise from Admiral Halsey, who had initially opposed her tour, as well as Republican congressmen.

The issue of civil rights were not forgotten, despite the war. At the time, the US armed forces were segregated and black servicemen were assigned subsidiary roles. Nonetheless many wanted to play a full role in serving their country. Eleanor supported one group in particular, the Tuskegee Airmen. This was a group of black airmen who wanted to take on a combat role, something they were denied. In March 1941, Eleanor inspected their unit and took a flight with their civilian instructor, Alfred Anderson. After landing she cheerfully announced, *Well, you can fly all right*. The public impact of this flight was such that later that month, the unit commenced training for a combat role. In April 1943 they were considered ready for combat duty and were deployed to North Africa to support the invasion of Sicily in July of that year. In all, from 1941 to 1946, 994 black airmen were trained at Tuskegee and about half were deployed overseas. They flew some 15,553 sorties and 150 lost their lives in combat or accidents.

Not long after FDR was re-elected for a fourth term as President, he died of a stroke on 12th April 1945. Eleanor's time as First Lady drew to a close. Nonetheless, she was touted for political office by many members of the Democratic Party – possibly as Governor of New York State, or a seat in the Senate. Eleanor was opposed, however, saying that she'd "*had her fill of the stereotyped form of public life*." That said, she corresponded frequently with the new President, Harry S Truman, offering her advice on a wide range of issues, including how to handle Winston Churchill. Initially, Truman actively sought and used this advice, but as he gradually found his feet he came to depend on her less.

It was not long, however, before she was persuaded to re-enter public life. In December 1945, Truman asked Eleanor to be one of four US delegates to the first organisational meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in London the following month. When she was told that she was being assigned to Committee 3 on humanitarian, educational and cultural issues, she wondered whether the other three delegates hadn't conspired to sideline her. However, she soon realised that this committee might be more important than she had expected – something which

proved to be true. Incidentally, Eleanor was one of only six women delegates to the General Assembly - out of a total of 750.

She worked on the issues of displaced persons (DP's in the jargon of the day) and the return of Jews to Palestine, both deeply controversial issues. Then, she was asked to join a new committee which would begin work in 1947 to plan the creation of a permanent Commission on Human Rights. Because of her prestige, Eleanor was unanimously elected as chair. This gave her a key role in the commission's task of developing a Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This was no easy task given the deep philosophical differences between the delegates. The US emphasised individual political and civil rights, whereas the Soviet Union emphasised socio-economic rights, something unpalatable to the US, and downplayed individual rights. Added to this, many in the US were ambivalent to say the least about human rights – especially if it meant extending full civil rights to African-Americans, and were certainly opposed to such notions as the 'right to work'. Every word was argued over, but eventually an agreed document emerged. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted unopposed by the General Assembly in December 1948 with 48 countries voting in favour, and 8 abstentions, including the Soviet Union, South Africa and Saudi Arabia. Whilst the Declaration had no legal force, it had great moral weight, and gained in importance over time, being used as the basis for UN resolutions against apartheid in South Africa and Namibia and justifying military intervention to protect civilians from slaughter and human rights abuses.

When the Republican Dwight Eisenhower was elected President in 1953, Eleanor resigned from the Human Rights Commission. The winds were now blowing against the declaration in the US. The new President had other concerns and feelings on the right were such that there was even a (failed) Senate attempt at a constitutional amendment to forbid the president from signing any human rights treaties. This was also the era of anti-Communist fear, stoked by Joseph McCarthy whom Eisenhower had endorsed for the Senate. Eleanor struggled against this climate of fear with its attendant erosion of democratic rights, using her 'My Day' column to speak out against McCarthy and the Un-American Activities Committee. Such was her prestige that, although she said she was happy to appear before the committee, McCarthy dared not touch her.

In addition to opposing McCarthy, Eleanor continued the struggle for civil rights. Whilst she seemed to adopt a 'gradualist' approach when supporting Adlai Stevenson for President in 1956 (he lost to Eisenhower), she subsequently argued and worked for a much more transformative approach. Probably because it was becoming clear that change was becoming inevitable, there was a good deal of turmoil in the Southern states. Civil rights workers were being openly attacked (and incidents ignored by the police), and there were segregationist efforts to frustrate African-Americans trying to register to vote and absurd legal cases.

A weak bill had been passed in 1957 by the Eisenhower administration – weak, because segregationist Congressmen had managed to amend it to the point of

toothlessness. Eleanor attacked the administration for its weakness, and felt a backlash from the South. When she went to Texas to speak, the White Citizens Council ordered her to leave the state “immediate”. When she refused to be intimidated, her talks were picketed. In North Carolina dynamite was exploded near the church where she was speaking. Even the FBI cautioned her to avoid going to Texas.

Finally, after much effort a new Civil Rights Bill was passed in 1960. This removed the obstacles southern congressmen had used to frustrate the previous bill. At last, judges had greater powers to help black Americans register and vote and there were criminal penalties for bombing and bomb threats.

Although Eleanor was unsure of John F Kennedy – his opposition to McCarthy had been lukewarm, she gave him her backing during his successful presidential campaign in 1960. Eleanor then found herself back in the role of personal advisor to the young president. She urged Kennedy to intervene in voting rights disputes and to protect civil rights workers. When she learnt that only 9 of his first 240 appointments were women, she sent him a list of competent women. In 1962, Kennedy appointed her to chair his Commission on the Status of Women.

By this time, Eleanor’s health was failing. “*When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die,*” she wrote, so she carried on her active public life. In May 1962, horrified at the reports of violence against non-violent protesters in the South, she left her sickbed to convene the ad hoc Committee of Inquiry into the Freedom Struggle in the South. This was one of the most difficult experiences of her life – she found it “intolerably painful” to learn what was happening in the United States at that time, and likened it to the way the Nazis had behaved towards the Jews in Germany. She continued struggling against reactionary politicians right to the very end.

On 7th November 1962, Eleanor died at the age of 78. In 1960 she had been struck by a car in New York City and had never fully recovered. At that time she was diagnosed with aplastic anaemia and subsequently developed bone marrow tuberculosis having been treated with cortisone which reactivated the dormant tuberculosis that she had contracted years earlier. Throughout those final two years, despite the gradual encroachment of her illness, she had carried on the struggle for civil rights, the rights of women, and other causes. Her work was universally recognised, except perhaps by the Southern segregationists and reactionary politicians who had sought to deny black Americans their rights. She was buried next to Franklin Roosevelt in the rose garden at Springwood. “*No flowers*”, she had said, but her funeral was attended by Presidents Kennedy, Eisenhower and Truman, Vice-President Johnson and a host of other senior figures.

The FDR museum has on display a cartoon published shortly after her death, which I wish I could include. It shows two angels peeping out from behind clouds. One is saying to the other, ‘*It’s her*’. That, I think makes a fitting final comment on her life.

Women's Network News

Blossom Jackson, Network Secretary

Women's Network Service 2011

Like the first London Women's Network Order of Service last year, this service has been prepared by the London District executive. This will be circulated to ministers and our Network reps for each church shortly, with the hope that each church will have the option using this service on a designated date, whenever possible.

Methodist Women's Network Spring Festival - Monday 7th March' Theme: 'From the Old to the New'

As you are already aware, there will be no Daffodil Service at Westminster Central Hall this year. Women's Network will be holding a service at Wesley's Chapel instead. As the seating capacity there is only 400, only 200 seats have been allocated to the London District including 5 for each Circuit – note that Ealing Trinity's seats have already taken.

Women's World Day of Prayer (Ealing) - Friday 4th March 2011 at 2.00pm Theme: 'How Many Loaves Have You?'

The Ealing service this year will be held at Hanwell Methodist Church and has been prepared by the women of Chile. The speaker will be our Superintendent, Rev Michaela Youngson.

Circuit Easter Offering Service

This year's Easter Offering Service will be held at Greenford on 22nd May at 6.30pm. Being a Circuit Service, all are invited to attend.

Women's Network- London District - President's Induction Service

The induction service for Blossom Jackson will be held on September 24th at Wesley's Chapel at 2.00pm.

Ealing Animal Welfare Bazaar

Hanwell Methodist Church Hall

Saturday 5th March 10.30am – 4.00pm, admission *FREE*

Many participating local, national and international animal welfare groups.

More information at www.animalwelfarebazaar.info

Sector A Spring Craft Day - Uxbridge- Saturday 12th March 2011

The classes on offer are listed below. Places are usually at a premium, so if you are interested, please apply and send in your fee asap.

A booking form for the Craft Day can be found on the next page.

A. Parchment **Half-day workshop AM & PM**

Prick a pretty pattern to make a card

Trainer – Sheila Griggs

B. Decoupage **Half-day workshop AM & PM**

Create 3D cards

Trainer – Sandra Barry

C. Fabric Gift Boxes **Half-day workshop AM & PM**

Put together a simple fabric box - suitable for a small gift.

Trainer - Doreen Smith

D. Craft Miscellany **Half-day workshop AM & PM**

A selection of crafts including serviette folding, pyramid gift box and beaded Easter card

Trainer – Beatrice James

E. Origami **Half-day workshop AM & PM**

Try the ancient art of traditional Japanese paper folding

Trainer – Wendy Lowes

F. Cushion Covers **Half-day workshop AM & PM**

Buttons and bows decorate these covers

Trainer - Christine Fellowes

G. Fantasy Film **Half-day workshop AM & PM**

Bend and dip into film to make a fantasy bouquet

Trainer - Julie Bwye

H. Fimo Jewellery **Half-day workshop AM & PM**

Make beads, earrings and broaches in polymer clay

Trainer – Gillian Oxman

I. Counted Thread Embroidery **Half-day workshop AM only**

Make a card, pincushion or biscornu using counted thread embroidery.

Trainer – Susan White

Booking Form for Craft Classes

Please fill in your choices in order of preference.

All workshops are offered for ½ day at a cost of £5 per session.
If you can only come for 1 session, please state clearly which session it will be.

Name (print clearly)

Address

..... Post Code.....

Telephone Number

Church..... Circuit.....

Blue Badge Holder requiring parking at the church? Yes / No

Sessions: All Day Morning only Afternoon only

1st choice..... 2nd choice.....

3rd choice..... 4th choice.....

Return this form with a cheque made payable to:

London District Network, Sector A

To:

Mrs Gillian Oxman,
2 St Catherine's Rd, Ruislip, Middlesex,
HA4 7RU

by 28th February.

Please include an **A5 STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

You will be notified of your workshops and what you need to bring after the closing date and before the day, in your stamped addressed envelope.

Concert at Hanwell Methodist Church

Including -

Barbershop

Irish Dancing

items by the Brownies, Guides, Scouts, Cubs etc

Saturday 2nd April at 7.00pm

Tickets £5.00 adults, children free when accompanied by an adult. Refreshments will be available during the interval.

In aid of repairing the church roof and masonry

A date for your diary.....

Concert at Kingsdown Methodist Church

Tuesday 5th July at 7.30pm

Rogue Valley Chorale

The Rogue Valley Chorale from Medford, Oregon will be singing at Kingsdown as part of its 2011 tour of the UK. This versatile chorale was founded in 1973 and performs music ranging from classical to Broadway, contemporary, folk and spirituals. The programme for its 2011 tour includes inspiring American and English anthems.

You can find out more about the chorale, and hear it singing, on its website at www.roguevalleychorale.org. More details of the concert, including ticket prices will be available nearer the time.

Circuit Directory Update

Forthcoming Events around the Circuit

[as notified to, or discovered by, the Editor]

March

4th Fri 2.00pm **Hanwell: Ealing Women's World Day of Prayer service**

5th Sat 10.30am **Hanwell: Animal Welfare Bazaar**
4.00pm Many participating societies. Admission FREE

10th Thur 8.00pm **Circuit Meeting at Northolt**

12th Sat 10.00am **Kingsdown Book Fair with Stalls**
12.30pm Admission 40p. In aid of Mulberry Centre

12th Sat 10.00am **Pitshanger Coffee Morning with Stalls**
12.00pm In aid of Action for Children (formerly NCH)

13th Sun 6.30pm **Greenford: Circuit Accreditation Service
for Jarel Robinson-Brown**

April

2nd Sat 7.00pm **Concert at Hanwell**
Tickets £5.00 adults, children free when accompanied by an adult

May

10th Thur 7.15pm **Local Preachers Meeting at Greenford**

14th Sat 10.00am **Kingsdown Annual Book Fair with Stalls**
12.30pm In aid of Christian Aid

22nd Sun 6.30pm **Circuit Easter Offering Service at Greenford**

28th Sat 10.30am **Greenford: Spring Fair**

Articles for '**In-touch**' Issue No 56 (June - August) should be sent by e-mail headed '**In-touch**' to the Editor, **Gerald Barton**, or as hard copy to the Circuit Office.

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24-26 Mount Park Road, Ealing, London W5 2RT
ealingtrinity@btconnect.com

Office hours: Tues & Thurs 09.00 – 14.00

Deadline for next issue: April 28th