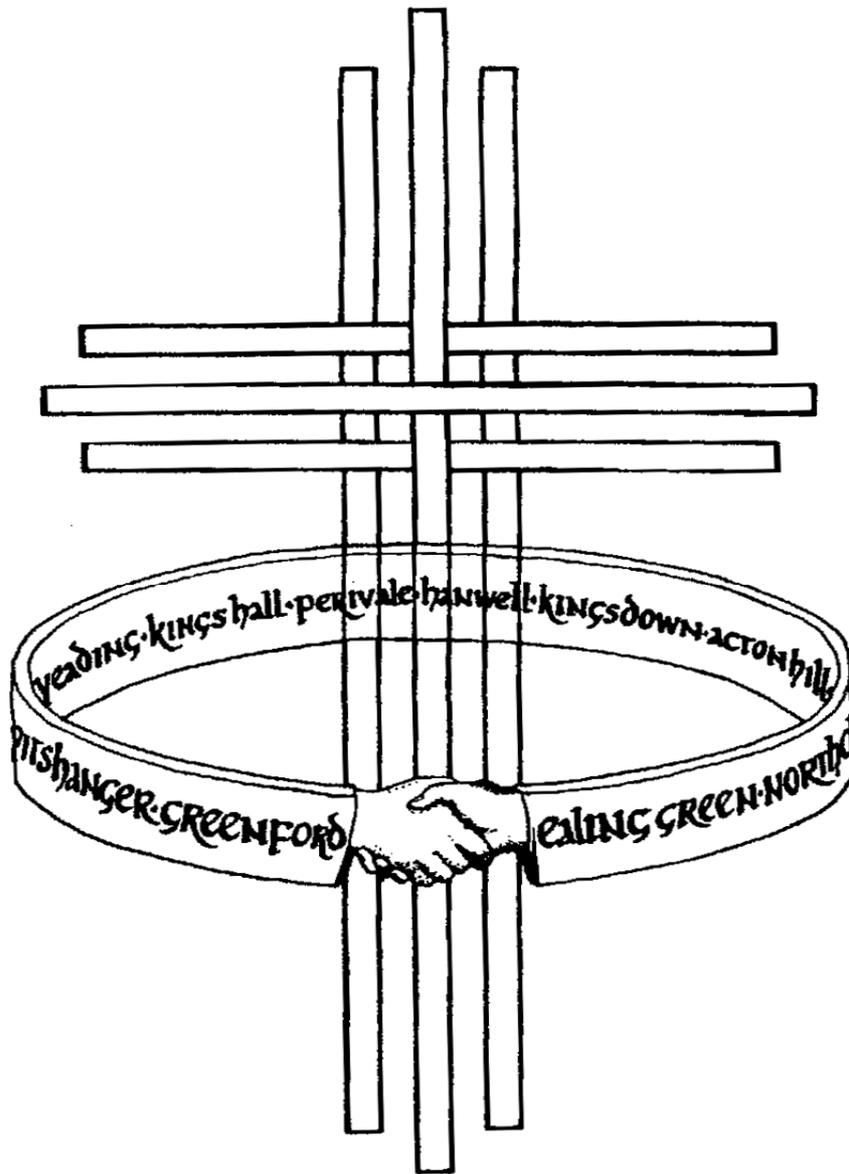


In-touch

No 64

June - August 2013



The magazine for *all* the Ealing Trinity Circuit.

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Circuit website
www.ealingtrinity.org.uk

Front Cover designed by Marion Narain

From the Superintendent

Welcome to the summer edition of *In Touch*, with news and reflection from around our Circuit. I write as we enter a season of development and growth in our church mission and programmes, having spent much energy this year on infrastructure and working practices. We have all done significant work of preparation this year – in each individual church, as in the Circuit. There will no doubt be more to come, but I am confident we are in a much healthier place to go forward.

First, to repeat the big news: from June 1st Suva Catford will become minister of Hanwell, Chrissie Howe of Kingsdown, and Peter Catford of Northolt and Greenford. All others stay the same, though Deacon Richard Goldstraw will be much more visible and active around the Circuit in addition to his ecumenical and community work in Southall. His Circuit role is developing as 'Welcome and well-being,' with 3 areas: 1) supporting pastoral care and carers, 2) supporting churches outreach and hospitality in their communities, and 3) health, healing and well-being. We will all be working more in partnership with each other, and sharing church resource and mission wherever possible.

Some updates on the development of significant pieces of Circuit mission and relationships:

- 1. The Sale of Moullin House was completed on 24th April**, and we are very glad to report that Ealing Hammersmith and West London College intends to keep the site as a hostel for their international students, and if possible, the name Moullin House. The money from that sale is now with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (all Methodist property is owned nationally) which will be making a grant back to the Circuit reserves in the coming weeks. The amount received by the Circuit from any sale of property is 80% of sums under £100,000 and 60% of sums over (after costs of sale etc); we do not yet know what the exact figure will be.
- 2. The Circuit partnership with the chaplaincy of the University of West London to support its international students is continuing.** Based at Ealing Green Church, the chaplaincy hosts a weekly drop in café and street conversation for students in which people from several Circuit churches have been involved. This began in September 2011, and has proved a small but durable work of mission which is very important to the students it has served.
- 3. The Circuit has begun a half hour joint mid-week communion service at Holy Trinity parish church on Southall Green in Southall (Weds 10.30am)**, replacing the service that used to be held at the King's Hall at that time. All are welcome, and the service alternates between 'Methodist' and 'Anglican' week by week, with ordained presbyters taking turns to preside in our own tradition along with Father Michael Bolley, the Vicar. This happens by permission of the Bishop and is the only place in the Willesden Area of the London Diocese where this arrangement exists. This marks a significant step forward in our partnership with the Church of England for future mission in Southall. **Our staff use this as the primary time to pray with**

and for each other, on a weekly basis, and we would welcome any of you who would like to join in.

4. We have begun this Spring to develop a **regular Circuit discipleship session on a Sunday late afternoon and evening**. After a wonderful membership/Confirmation course in the early Spring, and a series on the theology of René Girard, this will continue in early summer with a 'Bible-reading group', doing more in depth study of the weekly scripture. In each case, the session leads to a simple act of evening worship - watch for further notices and times. This is based at Kingsdown Church, and all are welcome to this Circuit offering! Of course, other courses, training and discipleship will continue to happen as well.

5. The **Circuit will have the chance to join the West London Citizens** organisation, the community advocacy group responsible for initiatives like the London living wage, the anti-loan shark work, and other political action – many churches, schools, and other faith groups belong to West London Citizens. More information will be available for the Circuit meeting, but have a look at their website, www.citizensuk.org/chapters/west-london-citizens/ If the Circuit decides to join, this will immediately make their training (1, 3, 5 day) in community development and organising/ managing and motivating volunteers, etc available to our members – a real boon especially for young adults building CVs, or newly retired looking to develop the next chapter.

6. Methodist Conference is in London, and **ordinations will take place at Hanwell Methodist Church, on Sunday July 7th in the afternoon** - including of Peter and Suva Catford's older daughter Elisabeth! Watch this space for helping with stewarding, attending Conference or the Ordination service locally, and learning more about national Methodism.

There would be much more to say, but suffice to say this is going to be an interesting, growing time for our churches – capitalise on the changes we are making and the resources available to spur your imagination! And as ever, stay in touch – and if you would like to be more involved in Circuit life, let me or your minister, or a Circuit steward know. We need you – these works of development do not happen on their own, and we are often at a loss for time and capacity to do that which we would like, or to build relationships we know are important!! When we say 'we are the Body of Christ,' sharing each others' burdens and dealing in each others' liveliness, it is not a platitude.

Every Blessing,

Jen

New Pastoral Sections

As most readers of In-touch will already know, the 'pastoral sections' in our Circuit change with effect from 1st June. The new sections are:-

Rev Jennifer Smith: Acton Hill and Ealing Green

Rev Suva Catford: Pitshanger and Hanwell

Rev Chrissie Howe: Kingsdown, King's Hall English-speaking, and King's Hall Urdu-speaking churches – and Deacon Richard Goldstraw at the King's Hall churches

Rev Peter Catford: Northolt and Greenford

Deacon Richard Goldstraw will also take up a Circuit brief for mission, welcome, and well-being. This will include supporting pastoral care and carers, encouraging church hospitality and outreach, and a Circuit strategy for health and healing.

In addition Rev Chrissie Howe will move to the manse at Elers Road, West Ealing.

In the Methodist Church, pastoral sections are the responsibility of the Superintendent Minister and these changes have been made following discussion and consultation with Circuit staff, the Circuit Policy Committee, the relevant District and Connexional Probationers' Oversight bodies, the Diaconal Order, senior stewards, and groups in individual churches. The Circuit Meeting considered the proposal and its background, and gave its broad endorsement at its meeting on 14th March.

From the Circuit Meeting

The most recent Circuit Meeting was held on 14th March at Ealing Green. The meeting had been planned for the evening before, but tragically before the meeting started, Bill Lovell from Ealing Green collapsed and died. Members who had arrived for meeting prayed for Bill and his family while paramedics tried to save him before adjourning until the following evening. Further prayers were said for Bill and his family at the start of the meeting.

Finance

The Circuit Treasurer, David Street presented the Circuit accounts for the 2011/12 financial year to the meeting. These showed income for the year at £275,847 – a increase of about 10% compared to the previous year. This increase was accounted for by higher total rental income from Circuit properties. Expenditure was £286,383, a decrease of 1.8% compared to the previous year. Overall, the Circuit recorded a loss of £7,516, down from £40,984 in the previous year.

It was noted that a meeting between the Circuit Treasurer and church treasurers had been arranged for 16th April to begin setting the Circuit budget for the coming financial year (2013/14).

Property

David also presented details of expenditure on Moullin House following its closure, and also on the costs of refurbishing the manse at Elers Road and the flats at Havelock House (a property acquired in the 1960's originally as an adjunct to Moullin). There was some debate about the level of these costs. However, it was noted out that it had been necessary to maintain Moullin during the sale not only as it was occupied by the Camelot guardians, but also to avoid the building deteriorating. In addition, regarding Havelock, there had been under-investment over a long period and the condition of certain items, particularly the electrical wiring had become critical and renewal could not be avoided. It was suggested by the Chair that a review of Circuit policy on property should be presented to the next Circuit Meeting.

Perivale

The meeting was asked to give its formal approval of Perivale's decision to 'cease to meet'. District approval could then be requested. The last service at Perivale was on Pentecost Sunday (May 19th). In the meantime, a small group was set up to oversee the use of the building until its future can be determined.

Circuit Strategy – Pastoral Sections

Following Perivale's decision to 'cease to meet', it had become necessary to review and revise the pastoral sections for our Circuit ministers (see separate article in this edition of In-touch). It had also become clear that the current spread of workload between ministers needed to be re-balanced to ensure a more even spread. The proposed new sections are as follows:-

Rev Jennifer Smith: Acton Hill and Ealing Green

Rev Suva Catford: Pitshanger and Hanwell

Rev Chrissie Howe: Kingsdown, King's Hall English-speaking, and King's Hall Urdu-speaking churches – and Deacon Richard Goldstraw at the King's Hall churches

Rev Peter Catford: Northolt and Greenford

Whilst the proposals had been discussed within the Circuit, the chair regretted that it had not been possible to consult more widely in the timescale available. Reaction to the proposals was mixed with some church representatives voicing strong opposition as their churches had begun to develop deep relationships with their new ministers. However, others felt that developing a strong Circuit team outweighed the concerns of individual churches. Overall, the meeting expressed

strong support for the proposed changes, although some members had clear reservations.

King's Hall

Readers of In-touch will be aware that in January, the King's Hall Property Trust took the decision to close the building and to put it up for sale on the open market. The meeting was asked to give its consent, which was agreed, to the sale of the building with the hope of being able to negotiate the retention of some space for Methodist and community use within a new development. As it has proved impossible for the King's Hall Property Trust to continue functioning following the decision to close and sell the building, if necessary, Methodist Conference will be asked to exercise paragraph 23 of the Model Trust. This gives Conference the authority to remove trusteeship from the Property Trust and to direct the sale of the building. It is to be hoped, however that this course of action will not prove necessary.

Methodist Conference

This year's annual Methodist Conference will be held in London and the ordination service for new ministers will be held at Hanwell.

Circuit Appointments

The meeting heard that Peter Chadburn had agreed to continue as a Circuit Steward until September. However, Bill Cocking, who has been Circuit Property Secretary since 1976 will retire from the post next March. Thanks were expressed to Bill for all his hard work.

The next Circuit Meeting will be held on 13th June at Northolt.

Circuit Finances

David Street, Circuit Treasurer

For many of us, the 'Circuit' may seem a long way from the life of our individual churches. It is, however, one of the fundamental building blocks of Methodism in Britain, responsible for providing Ministers and Local Preachers, support to individual churches, and training for our Worship helpers such as Junior Church leaders and Worship Leaders.

Importantly, the Circuit provides the vehicle through which our ministers are paid and housed. How much ministers are paid is a matter governed by the Methodist Conference and the Circuit has no direct influence over that. However, the Circuit must raise the funds to support its ministers. It must also provide a fair contribution to the running of the London District and the Methodist Church centrally.

So, how the Circuit fares financially is of direct importance to all of us in each individual church within the Circuit. The following table sets out a summary of the Circuit's finances for the last two Methodist financial years (these run from September to the following August).

		2010-11	2011-12
Income	Church Assessments	£201,252	£195,649
	Property rents	£43,600	£74,673
	Interest	£4,260	£3,649
	Other & Misc.	£1,528	£2,056
	Total Income	£250,640	£275,847
Expenditure	Ministers' stipends and expenses	£132,207	£145,045
	District Assessment	£5,001	£5,364
	Methodist Church Fund	£30,349	£31,603
	Circuit Administration	£16,340	£11,756
	Property expenses	£77,638	£76,866
	Grants	£1,497	£675
	District Advance Fund levy	£9,075	£8,788
	Other & Misc.	£19,517	£6,266
Total Expenditure	£291,624	£286,363	
Surplus/(Deficit)		(£40,984)	(£7,516)
Moullin House Loan		£49,649	£63,600

The first thing to note is that although assessments paid by churches fell last year our overall income went up. This is explained by the large increase in income from Property rents. The Circuit owns a number of manses which are not currently needed for Ministers accommodation and are rented out to provide income, and during last year the Circuit took over responsibility for Havelock House from the Moullin Hostel accounts. Havelock House is a large house near Ealing Broadway which has been converted into seven flats, three of which have been previously sold to leaseholders and the other four are rented out for income.

Our expenditure also dropped during last year, and the annual increase in Ministers' stipends and expenses (which includes pension funds) was offset by the absence of any URC Assessment since all our staff this year are Methodist ministers, coupled with a reduction in administration by accepting Kingsdown Church's offer of rent-free office accommodation.

Most other expenditure items are similar to the previous year. Property expenses always look high at first sight, but include Council Tax and Water Rates that the Circuit pays for its occupied manses as well as the normal maintenance and repairs on seven manses and Havelock House.

Although we reduced our deficit from £40,984 to £7,516 we have to remember that this has to be made good by drawing on our reserves. These have seen a hefty hit of £67,500 during the last three years (the deficit in 2009-10 was £19,000) which is over and above the monies loaned by the Circuit to Moullin Hostel. (The loan is direct from Circuit reserves and isn't included in the expenditure above)

Naturally, our first thoughts are always with the ongoing repairs and maintenance of our local churches, but we do need to be aware of the financial needs of the Circuit overall. We are fortunate that our predecessors have endowed us with property which enables us to enjoy a greater ministerial presence and support than we could otherwise afford, but that property itself brings its own increasing costs of management, maintenance and complex legal obligations to our tenants.

The Annual Methodist Conference is coming to London

From London District

This year's Methodist Conference will be held at Westminster Central Hall from 4th – 12th July. 'Conference makers' are needed to help welcome Methodist Conference members this July. We need help welcoming and directing people on:

6th July, in and around Westminster

7th July, at and around the Ordination venues

7th July, hosting the District photography exhibition at Central Hall Westminster

As a Conference Maker, you will receive:

- ❖ An official hat & sash
- ❖ A chance to meet people from all around the UK
- ❖ An opportunity to attend many of the events and debates during Conference, 6-11 July

If you're interested in helping, please contact the District Resource Centre:
admin@methodistlondon.org.uk or tel 020 7654 3850.

In addition, Hanwell will be hosting the ordination service for new ministers on Sunday 7th July at 5.00pm. Note that entrance to the service is by ticket, and that all tickets have already been taken.

Moullin House

Bill Cocking, Circuit Property Secretary

On Wednesday 24th April I visited our solicitors, Stephen Murray & Co, at Medway Parade in Perivale and signed the last document for the sale of Moullin House on behalf of the Ealing Trinity Circuit. Following the signing I went to Moullin to meet the agents of the new owners, Ealing Hammersmith and West London College, and their security people, to show them around the building and to hand over all the keys. Moullin House, therefore no longer belongs to the Ealing Trinity Circuit.

Moullin ceased to provide accommodation for students in July 2011 which happened to fall within one month of its official opening on 23rd June 1951, sixty years later.

The House, which was to provide a "Home-from-Home for young provincials", was given to the then Ealing Broadway Methodist Church by Mrs. Ada Moullin, the daughter of Thomas and Rachel Moullin and her husband Mr. Tom Moullin, in memory of her sister Miss Emma Moullin. Miss Emma Moullin inherited a considerable fortune from her father, Mr. Thomas Moullin, who, with five associates had started the Pearl Life Assurance Loan & Investment Company Limited in 1864. Mr. Thomas Moullin died in 1927 and Miss Emma Moullin on July 4th 1944.



The opening of Moullin House, June 1951

The idea for the construction of the hostel came from the Rev. W L Waights, a minister at the Ealing Broadway Methodist Church. On the opening day in June 1951, Mrs. Ada Moullin opened the front door with a golden key presented by the architects, Messrs. L H Fewster & Partners. The general contractor for the construction work was George Moss (London) Ltd and Messrs John Saunders supplied the furnishings. The Rev. Gilbert Jessop, the minister at Ealing Broadway Church, conducted a service of dedication in the lounge.

Easter Offering Service

Rebecca Catford

Beyond the Harbour Wall was the theme for the Easter Offering Service held at Greenford Methodist Church on Sunday 21st April at 6:30pm. Rev Peter Catford, who was leading the service, invited those present to think about what the harbour wall represented for them. Was it somewhere to look out towards the horizon with hope, longings or fear? The service, which was written by Methodist Women in Britain, offered space to reflect on this question and, as a response, the congregation made origami boats that were placed together on a blue cloth at the front. The prayers and readings linked into the theme of harbour walls and sailing into the unknown, which included a Pilot's version of the 23rd Psalm, and were read by women from around the circuit.

During the service, the Easter Offering was collected and representatives brought the envelopes from their churches forward for dedication. The total raised for the Easter Offering was £1,215.98. Refreshments were provided after the service and were an opportunity to continue sharing and remembering that, like the paper boats at the front of the church, we sail together beyond the harbour wall.

Health & Well-Being

Deacon Richard Goldstraw

As part of my role and responsibility, I have been assigned to lead the project on Health and Wellbeing in the Circuit. I am interested in leading a series of groups on the theme "**Living and dying well**". The London District, has highlighted our Circuit as a pilot project for the London District Social Responsibility Commission.

The intention is that there will be **two themes**:-'Living Well' and' Dying Well'. Topics below will be covered in Group Sessions that will last for an hour and a half on an afternoon /evening and the venue(s) are yet to be decided.

I am aware that there are a huge number of retired and active health professionals in the Circuit and it would be wonderful to draw on and learn from your wealth of experience. Blossom Jackson has been of great help in this area and volunteered to help me at the Circuit meeting in September 2012. In this regard a small group, yet to be formed, will put together the strategy for operating the programme, which we hope, will inform, guide and offer support as needed. Would you like to volunteer for the small group? We are looking for half a dozen people.

The subjects, all to be negotiated, under the heading "Living Well and Dying Well" are:

Living well

- Eating well. The healing power of herbs and plants.
- Living well with a disability - a talk from someone living with a disability and a talk from our District Disability Advisor
- Living well with an acute illness
- Exercising well
- John Wesley's view on health combined with a visit to Wesley's Chapel Museum
- Caring for loved ones with long term illness and caring for ourselves
- Living well in retirement

Dying Well

- Living with bereavement - be it partner/parent/friend etc
- A talk from someone involved in palliative care or a hospice chaplain.
- A visit to a crematorium or an undertakers.
- Letting go - the mini and huge bereavements in our lives that we so often minimise or dismiss.

My input would be to convene the groups and offer some thoughts at the beginning and the end. I hope that we will be able to share refreshments together as well! Please you contact me by phone or email, to let me know your interest in being part of the group, stating your afternoon or evening preference. Watch out for Pulpit Notices.

If you have any ideas about subjects we could cover or interesting speakers please don't hesitate to let me know. As I said before there is a wealth of experience in our Circuit.

John Wesley wrote:

- The passions have a greater influence on health, than most people are aware of.
- All violent and sudden passions dispose to, or actually throw people into acute distress.
- The slow and lasting passions, such as grief and hopeless love, bring on chronical illness.
- Till thy passion which caused the disease is calmed, medicine is applied in vain."

I look forward to hearing from you

'Telling Stories' Weekend, 13th – 14th April

Elizabeth Sherman, Northolt

This was an excellent training day for Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and others thanks to Joyce Pipet, who led the day and taught us a lot. We got off to an apparently slow start, but this meant that we got used to each other, sharing with each other and trusting each other. We started off looking at stories in the Bible of God calling, then broke up into small groups to discuss this at a personal level. After lunch we discussed books which, although not necessarily Bible-related, provided stories which could be used to illustrate the Bible message. The members of the group produced a wide range of ideas and Joyce had some which she found useful. We discussed telling stories during worship and had a wonderful example of creating atmosphere by closing our eyes and listening to a graphic description of the story of the risen Jesus meeting the disciples on the shore after their night's fishing. (I tried this out with a different story at our Fellowship meeting a few days later and it worked very well – thank you!). In our final session we split into two groups. One group produced a modern version of Psalm 23, whilst the other worked on Acts 16 which tells the story of Paul and the slave girl possessed by the spirit of divination to produce a story relevant to today.

Acts 16 – Update

Colleen Hicks, Pitshanger

This is what our group wrote during a session at the Story Telling day at Greenford. We had been asked to write a modern version of the imprisonment of Paul and Silas in Acts 16. We set the scene during Greenford's Walk for Water. Circuit folk are bringing water back to Greenford Church. There is a young girl selling drugs and charms in the street. Her pimp is watching her carefully. She shouts at Kip fetching water, "Why are you doing this for your God? You are ruining my trade, you and your friends!"

"You're being exploited, young lady," says Kip and explains further the teaching of Jesus. "Why don't you come and join us?"

Amazingly she does just that, but hurls her first bucket of water at her pimp instead of the Greenford pool. Then the man yells for his mates and starts a riot. The police step in and arrest Kip and Steve Pound MP who always helps on these Walk for Water days and take them off to the Police Station. They are put in a cell and left there till night. There is a power failure during the evening, meaning all the cell doors are unlocked in the darkness. But Kip and Steve call out that they are still there and have not run away. They were prepared to face magistrates in the morning, as innocent people with many witnesses.

The police asked why they had been carrying water in buckets and they explained and convinced the police of their innocence and good motives in carrying water in Jesus' name. And yes, the power was restored! The police were alarmed when they

learned that Kip was the local Methodist Minister and Steve was the local Member of Parliament and dropped all charges against them. Kip invited the young girl and the police to join them in church the next day and used the water in the buckets to baptise them when they accepted God into their lives.

What will happen at this year's Walk for Water?

Psalm 23 Updated – ‘The Master Chef’

Christina Tom-Johnson, Northolt

The Lord is my master chef,
I have all the ingredients that I need;
He makes me rest after we have all eaten;
He helps me recover, from my tiredness
He gives me encouragement for the next meal,
He guides me to the shop as he has promised,
Even though the prizes have gone up,
I fear no shortage of money, your health and safety rules will protect me, from
buying horse meat.
You prepare a banquet of five a day for me
Where all my enemies can see how healthy I look.
You welcome me as a honoured guest
And fill my glass with good wine from Tesco
I know your goodness and love will not let me have an upset stomach
And your house will be my sanctuary as long as I live Amen.

Pauline Booth

Deacon Richard D Goldstraw

Pauline Booth is now happily settled in David's House MHA Harrow. The photo is of Pauline celebrating her 88th Birthday on the 3rd of May with friends from the Kings Hall - Joan Chapman and Kamini James.



Why I Became a Minister...

Rev Suva Catford

On a cold, wet Monday morning, I was sitting in the foyer of the church, with a friend who shared my interest in Fair Trade. Business was particularly bad - in fact I'd been the only customer to buy a snack bar for our elevenses. "Nothing ever happens around here!" I lamented...

The following Sunday a man, who was speaking at all the local churches, had been invited to come and speak about Street Pastors. I listened very carefully - the most usual group able to help - mums with teenagers, with a concern for young people, hours 10pm to 5am, place Kingston town centre, one night monthly and a twelve week training course in Brixton. I was hesitant in asking the family whether they thought this was "up my street". The answer - raised eyebrows, and of course the joke about the minister's wife being on the streets! My diary was free and a few weeks later I had puffer jacket, cap and a stout pair of walking shoes...

A few weeks further along the road, I was invited to speak to the afternoon fellowship - something I had never wanted to do, but the subject was Street Pastors and I was passionate about that! The room had a very sleepy feel - in fact one or two were concentrating so hard on what I was saying their eyes were firmly shut. However, I watched as the lady welcoming people introduced me, each sentence of what she said was itemised on a clip board, which showed the care and effort and importance to her, and I felt a voice inside say, "You could do this, you can take up responsibility..." If I had been in a film, the scene would have become misty and a light call me to an open window: instead I felt a lightness, something inside had changed.

A few days later, the Chair of District came and listened to my new "call". She explained that to be considered for ministry, I would have to be a member of the church, I would also have to be a local preacher. If my "call" was toward presbyteral ministry, I would have then to be accepted to train. My first decision was about membership. I was very nervous about being accepted, but the church couldn't have been more welcoming and encouraging. The first step seemed to affirm my call. I thought God would probably draw things to a close when I approached the Local Preachers' meeting, saying I didn't want to be a local preacher, but thought I might be called to ministry. No-one raised an eye-brow - I received supportive encouragement from my mentor, who enabled a microphone- and- limelight. Shy me not only began to facilitate worship, but also stay at the end of the service and receive comments and criticisms. As the Local Preachers' Access course was being piloted at the time - and I was offered a place, hurdle number two was also cleared.

Preparing for the Candidates Committee involved me in travelling by train late at night to and from Earley, near Reading to attend EDEV group meetings. Having moved District, I failed to convince the District panel of my calling. However, after spending a lot of time embarrassingly crying after being rejected, I decided it was

right to take my “call” to the Connexional panel, where it just so happened my younger daughter’s journey had also taken her. We were both asked back to the final panel meeting - a place where things need further clarification, but we both thought we’d failed. A few days later, by email I received a unanimous acceptance of being called to ministry- and so had she!!! If I could have done cartwheels, I would have - WOW!

After training in Salisbury part-time for three years, (my daughter, Elizabeth, did full-time training and is to be ordained at Hanwell at Conference on 7th July this year), the most difficult hurdle yet was stationing. After the first round of stationing in November, we were at a loss as to how we would find somewhere we could both live and minister from as Probationers were not to be stationed until January. Things were very unsettled for us as a family through that time, but people started putting things together and we came to Ealing as one of the stations we had put on our list. By then there was no doubt of God’s hand in all of the journey. After being “called” God also gifts and equips. My greatest challenge has been facing new situations, but as anyone who watches “Strictly” knows, that part is very important in formation - as well as finding your way - finding yourself - and as a Christian finding God.

Throughout my journey many people have offered their care and encouragement, sometimes unknowingly. Often it goes without saying that the family help in busy times, or when interests coincide. But the family have always been my biggest supporters. Perhaps they’d rather have me out of the house, but they have without exception given me courage to face so many very challenging moments and fears. God has always brought me gently to situations, and always there is someone there to guide or reassure or affirm.

Why am I a minister? Not to be is unthinkable. To have experienced such warmth of love from the ladies at that fellowship that day, to have walked beside so many dedicated disciples and to know God’s gifting and equipping, every step of the way, has become part of who I am and who God is in me. Just like looking for new flowers appearing in the garden, there is excitement about the day’s journey. Sometimes things are frustrating, tiring and I have to check I’m just wearing a collar and not being strangled! But the part where someone else shares their journey with me, as in communion when we take bread together and drink the cup, binds us together in God’s love.

‘Treasurers and Finance’ Page Added to Circuit Website

A new page containing financial information relating to our Circuit along with other information for church treasurers has been added to the Circuit website. You can now download copies of the Annual Accounts for the Circuit for the last two years from this page. To see the new page go to:-

www.ealingtrinity.org.uk/treasurers-and-finance

Methodist Church Safeguarding Past Case Review

District Safeguarding Officer

In the coming weeks, the Methodist London District will be gathering information about all cases of safeguarding concern or action involving vulnerable adults or children since 1950. This is part of a national project mandated by the Methodist Conference in 2011. More information about the project can be found on the Methodist Church website – use this link to get to the relevant page:-

www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/safeguarding/past-cases-review

The Church hopes that the review can be as broad as possible, while being clear it is not intended to be a 'witch hunt' or an attempt to apply today's standards to times long ago.

There may, however have been cases of concern or abuse which occurred as part of church life, either on church premises or as part of an activity sponsored by the church and involving church members that you would like to record in this review, especially if these could teach the church something for its future policy, or if they have unresolved effects. If so, a form can be downloaded from the Methodist Church website (you can find it using the link quoted above – it's on the same page) which you can use to record your response - the Church would like to include any information you may have. Also, if you feel it necessary you can ask for pastoral support from your ministers or District Safeguarding Officer, as some of these things are very painful, and can bring up hard memories.

Ministers are also being asked to make reports of all cases they can remember since 1950. This needs to be done before the end of June.

Any questions you may have about the project can be sent to your Superintendent Minister, District Chair, or Circuit and District Safeguarding Officer. Thanks to you all, and for your generosity in this considerable review work.

District Chair

Rev Micky Youngson
michaela@methodistlondon.org.uk

Superintendent Minister:

Rev Dr Jennifer Smith
jennifer.methodist@yahoo.co.uk

Circuit Safeguarding Co-ordinator:

Christina Tom-Johnson
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District Safeguarding Officer:

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Grief, Survival and a Shining Light

Peter Chadburn, Ealing Green

One day I wrote a reflection that I called Grief, Survival and Shining Light. I have updated it and also shared it with members of Way Up, which is an online group for widowed people. I want to train as a Bereavement Counsellor next year and this reflection describes my journey. Some may recognise their own experiences but I have learned that themes may be common but experiences are just so personal and individual. Once trained I would like to start a group within the Circuit in order that people can be helped along that difficult journey

On 28th November 1987 I was out with a friend when I met a quiet girl in a nightclub who was a bit different. Within days I was hooked and in 1997 we bought a house together. Kathy and I were looking forward to so much and then her lungs got worse. On oxygen for 10 years she did what she wanted to do and hospital became an occupational hazard of breathing. But in 2008 the Brompton visits became more frequent and more worrying.

Two days before my treasure died came the realisation that this was it, then on the day before she died, Kathy told us that she had had a wonderful life, had no regrets and was at peace with God. Then when she died at 3:50 on May 24th 2009 I removed the oxygen from her nose and switched it off and said, "No more pain sweetheart."

As I started to deal with telling people the news and organising the funeral I was too busy to deal with my own feelings. I felt a strong sense of doing the duties that my love would want me to do. Perhaps she had jumped into me to ensure that everyone was looked after. It was all just so busy but everyone was just so kind and helpful. Her middle brother asked me to do a reading at his wedding a few days after the funeral and I felt it was the right thing to do. So after the funeral I went back to work, then to Dublin to help Simon celebrate his wedding. I just felt that I had enjoyed great love with a girl who had such generosity of spirit, so why not embrace the whole idea of others having a piece of that joy.

So whilst I was definitely operating in the blur of grief I felt that I had to create my world of survival. At church, two widows and a widower gave me the following same advice:-

- Do not feel pushed into anything, only you know when it is right to do things.
- Take up all invitations as soon as you can as others will help you get through this. Also by breaking the ice early ensures that others feel more comfortable around you.
- Do not make any big decisions for a couple of years.

So the collective wisdom was important, but also I noticed that these three people were happy souls and so at that point I knew that I would be OK in the long run, whenever that might be.

One thing about Kathy was her positive nature and so in my head I had a display cabinet full of positive images of my time with her and also how bravely she tackled life. Then I imagined a small Kathy sat on my shoulder like a Leprechaun and so when the darkness crept around and started to envelop me she would give it a slap and make it go away.

When you have cared for your loved one for a long period your whole world is wrapped up in a purpose. For me when Kathy had gone I knew straight away that I had no purpose. Then I thought "I have no purpose at this time," but as the months went on I knew that one day I may find a purpose again but for the moment did it really matter. We have too much going through our heads at times and so we should perhaps not worry about such things. A few people said that I should be gentle with myself and that is so true. We are our harshest critics and really we need to give ourselves some space.

So then I worked and muddled along and embraced any good news that came along. So my niece in Northern Ireland having a little boy was wonderful and then later in the year doing the readings also at Kathy's sister's wedding. I just knew that whilst I was surviving and running along below the waterline the rest of the world was experiencing joys and heartaches. I saw others at church lose their loved ones. Friends got engaged and the world kept moving along. Although I was with people I felt as if I was in a parallel world in which like Doctor Who I could see and hear everyone but somehow emotionally I was not able to reach out. I functioned and I got up everyday but sometimes I was just unable to summon any energy and the duvet looked after me.

I beat myself up over certain things about whether I could have looked after her better and after reading through the diaries and reflecting on things realised that she was in a lot more pain than she let on and that perhaps she did not share that as she wanted me to keep her spirits up. Odd random thoughts such as would I forget Kathy would torment me as well. But I did have memories that made me smile even if tears hung in the corner of my eyes. Tears were my badge of love. I knew I would function at a certain basic level but that occasionally an ambush would occur. I could not avoid that but just accepted that if it did I would deal with it. In the early days my then boss and colleagues knew that at times I would just have to get out of the office for 30 minutes.

Protecting myself was very important and I knew I was vulnerable and whilst with people and in a relatively good mood I could enjoy a drink. Sometimes I would drop out of events if I felt it wasn't right and I kept a rule of not having a drink on my own. Self preservation and discipline was the key. My alarm was set so I had to get up, shave, bath and breakfast and get out of the door to get my train. As I approached Paddington my mind would start to wander. Setting the alarm for 10 minutes earlier would have allowed me to think and I just would not have got up.

But Christmas came and Kathy's brother, who lives locally and his wife made it a lovely day in which we laughed and played on the wii till the small hours. Paula was a treasure who missed Kathy but wanted us all to enjoy Christmas. I then went to my folks and just plodded along with my life.

I read a book on bereavement and recognised myself in parts and then started to think about who I was. In life we start off with an umbilical cord and as we grow the wiring we have with our parents gets less and less. We become more independent. We do not love them any less but we become ourselves. Then we meet someone special and start attaching new wires. Over the years the cabling with this special person becomes more complex then suddenly it is chopped with a big axe and that is where I was. I imagined myself as having lots of loose cables flapping around and sparking. Occasionally a cable would be tidied up and put away and then sometimes an odd cable would come loose again. But with every 3 months that went by I knew I was a bit stronger. So I got through my first year and in my positive world I had allocated Kathy's birthday and the day we met as two positive anniversaries to be celebrated. So without those days my life would have not enjoyed that great love.

By my Church I had found through faith and support that each week I was reminded as to my good fortune in life. I did not allow myself get upset on the few occasions people said inappropriate things as I just knew they did not have a clue. I just took the sentiment behind it as the positive thing. I did explain the wiring and I felt that people got some idea of how adrift I felt.

I went to Northern Ireland and spent time with her family and old friends and learned more about a lovely girl. But after 15 months I was floundering again. I had booked to go to New Zealand but was finding things harder so booked some sessions with a Bereavement Counsellor and realised that one thing that I needed was to simplify my life. I was now a single man and my kitchen and house just seemed to be crushing me with clutter. What does a single man need with 13 saucepans and 4 frying pans? So I sorted the kitchen out and knew that eventually I would do the same in other parts of the house when I was ready. So still struggling but looking forward to getting away.

But a new boss at work and problems leading up to my special holiday led to threats from him about cancelling my holiday, and then I went away and travelled with my Kiwi friend John around his beautiful country. Kathy always wanted me to go there and so when I told John about her death, I said that once I had the paperwork sorted I would travel over. So a wonderful trip, which was partially blighted by the aggro at work. When I returned things got worse at work and eventually after complaining to HR I could not take any more and ended up with 7 weeks off with stress. They organised a therapist and over those weeks I had time to relax and possibly get through some of my own feelings and then coming up to the 2 year mark I dog sat for Kathy's brother. A Jack Russell and a Chihuahua following me everywhere for 9 days and sleeping with me did me the world of good and suddenly I realised that the blurred vision of the last 2 years had lifted. It was similar to the effect my mum described after her cataract operation. Also my anxiety had gone. I just felt so happy to be free from the constant dark shroud that had

enveloped me and whilst I have had odd down hours or the odd day I know that I have been pretty good.

I went back to work feeling stronger and that I had found a strategy to deal with an idiot boss. I imagined him as David Brent and used a method of polite indifference to get through the day. A few run ins occasionally, but I was stronger and knew that this halfwit could not hurt me anymore. I continued with the therapy and it acted as an insurance policy whilst I felt stronger.

More joyful events of weddings and babies underlined that the world is beautiful and my selfish indulgence of watching football gave me 16 matches followed by another 31 games last season and a probable 25 this season. Another Christmas came and went with the same special people and as I got round to finally sorting out some of Kathy's clothes I feel that I won't as such move on (I feel moving on is the wrong words) but move forward. I feel that I will become a freer person with a future that can be enjoyable. I also went to Queen's for the tennis and enjoyed a Coldplay concert. I even went on a few dates and I knew that I was becoming a lot more relaxed about life. It was fun to discover the joys of incompatibility again.

In my trips to Northern Ireland people have seen the great difference in me and it feels good to know that no one needs to worry about me.

I have learned so much about life and love in these years and know that perhaps I am a more understanding person and eventually next year I hope to train as a counsellor. I have a good friend doing that in Derry in Northern Ireland. I reflect on the fact that our friends are still very dear friends of mine. So life is good and I do feel that life is beautiful. I enjoy seeing people hold hands and kissing as I know how special it is. I had read that when your partner dies you eventually incorporate some parts of them in the new you and I have found a greater sensitivity that was something Kathy was so good at. But I am myself but perhaps a better version. During the last 9 months I have felt incredibly content with my life and whilst there are still some things to do I feel a lucky lad. My life is changing and soon I am hoping to be starting a new more exciting and satisfying job. So life is beautiful and I feel blessed by God.

*Lord, inspire me to live in such a way
that my choices each day
and my commitment to live in a positive way
may transform
the negative into something positive,
and the ordinariness of daily life
into something extraordinary. Amen.*

Accommodating Rita

Gerald Barton, Editor

Ever since I started editing In-touch I have written at least one article for each edition (and often also others which don't bear my name). This time, however I have been a bit distracted and my mind hasn't focussed on what to write. Not, I hasten to add, that I've run out of ideas, just that I haven't been able to focus on the need for an article. It happened like this...

At Kingsdown, the first Sunday in Lent happened to coincide with World Mission Sunday and we had an after-church lunch. As I was settling down in the hall before lunch began, Suva Catford came into view with a slight young woman in tow. "Does anyone here speak Italian?" she asked. I'm not sure if she was really expecting to find an Italian speaker in our midst, but Sue, my wife answered, "Yes, Gerald does." So, I was introduced to Rita who came and sat beside us at our table.

Now, once upon a time, my Italian was fluent enough for me to deal with Italian state railways in my work on Channel Tunnel rail freight (Italy being quite an important market for us). However, that was some years ago and I don't use my Italian that much these days so it's gone rather rusty. So, I forced myself to change gear and tried to get my head and tongue into Italian mode. Rita, it transpired had arrived in Britain in mid-January and had come here in order to learn English and was hoping to find work to support herself. Whilst in Italy, she'd worked in social care and was hoping to be able to find something in that line once her English is good enough.

As we chatted, I asked where she came from in Italy. Initially, I thought she was saying that she came from *Roma*, but immediately realised she was saying *Romania*. She had spend some years in Italy, which is how she came to speak Italian, but a Romanian in Britain just at present hoping to find work is in a whole different ball game. Well, we chatted away merrily and a bit before we finished Sue suggested I could help Rita with her English, so we arranged to meet the following week for a 'lesson'.

Rita came round for her lesson and we spent a fun few hours trying to do a few basics. The following Sunday she came back to Kingsdown and we invited her to lunch and spent the rest of the day with her. Another lesson followed during the week and so on. In the course of all this, we began asking ourselves how, with very little English, she'd managed to find accommodation in West Ealing and how she was able to support herself. Whilst she said she had saved some money from working in Italy, we reasoned it could not be a huge amount. Although Romania is a member of the European Union, until the end of this year Romanian citizens don't have an automatic right to work in the UK, so we couldn't see how she would be able to keep going.

Incidentally, if Romanians can demonstrate that they have skills that enable them to work on a self-employed basis, it's possible for them to register with the UK Border

Agency to work legally. For others, it's much more difficult and very restricted. Students can register to work up to 20 hours/week in term time (full time in vacations) and it's also possible to register to work on a voluntary basis for charities. The rub is the time it takes to register. The UK Border Agency promises to complete 95% of postal applications for registration within 6 months. Hardly what I'd call fast, especially as it involves sending such valuable documents as passports with applications. It's supposedly possible to apply in person for an immediate response, but I tried the on-line appointments system several times and concluded it's pretty much impossible to get an appointment. Replacing the Agency with two new departments of state as the Home Secretary has decided to do, might improve the situation as time goes by, but won't exactly do wonders for staff morale, and hence the speed with which applications are processed in the short term. Working illegally is perhaps an option, but that leaves people open to abuse from unscrupulous employers as well as being subject to fairly stiff penalties if they are found out, so isn't exactly a good way to go.

At this point, it's worth stating that Rita has not asked us for anything and clearly had no intention whatsoever of trying to claim UK state benefits, not that she'd be entitled to anything anyway. I'm aware that certain sections of the UK press have jumped up and down of late about the fact that from 1st January 2014 our government is obliged under its EU treaty obligations to remove all restrictions on Romanian and Bulgarian citizens working in Britain. There are moments when I have gained the impression that they want us to think that the entire populations of Romania (21m people) and Bulgaria (6m people) are just waiting to surge to our shores with hands outstretched for whatever benefits might be on offer. Whilst there may be a good case for a reasoned debate on the issue of immigration, I am not sure that these sections of the press would ever wish to engage in such a debate. At times, their coverage of this, and other issues seems to me to be about painting distorted pictures designed to pander to pre-conceived prejudices rather than anything that might be dignified with the term 'reasoned debate'. However, be that as it may....

We discovered that shortly after her arrival in London, Rita had been put in touch with 'The Upper Room'. This is a charity based at St Saviour's Church in Shepherd's Bush that runs a number of different programmes. Much of its work is about helping the socially disadvantaged – the vulnerable and the homeless for example. One of its unique programmes, 'UR4Jobs', provides help and support to migrants from Central and Eastern Europe. Apart from providing meals during the week, the Upper Room also helps them with advice and information on finding work and what they need to know to do so legally. It was through the Upper Room that Rita had managed to find herself a room to rent not far from Kingsdown. Incidentally, if you would like to know more about the Upper Room go to www.theupperroom.org.uk.

As we got to know each other a little more, we began to talk a bit about Rita's situation and her aspirations to enrol at Ealing Hammersmith & West London College to study English - she'd been taken to the College by the Upper Room, but had found to her disappointment that no places were available until September. One of her other concerns was the amount of rent she had to pay in relation to the savings she'd brought with her. It became apparent pretty quickly that the amount

she'd got might last until about the end of the year but not beyond. So, without the right to work and gain an income, we concluded that she would almost inevitably find herself in a dire situation. Furthermore, any hope of enrolling at the college flew straight out of the window.

We started to wonder what would be the best thing for her to do. Stay in London and hope for the best, or return to Italy where presumably she might be able to find work as she's worked there before. Returning to family was not on as she has none. Whichever, we felt that we could not in the event stand by and see her get into a desperate situation which could see her ultimately destitute and vulnerable to heaven, or perhaps hell, knows what.

Of course, thoughts have a habit of following their own logic and we started to wonder whether we ought to offer Rita space in our 'spare' room. Sue, being a very practical person soon worked out how we could move the furniture and other stuff around to make the room as private as possible so that we could, if necessary accommodate Rita. Equally, the thought came to us that it would be better if Rita could conserve the money she had so she could pay the College fees which would mean offering her space as a non-paying guest, and sooner rather than later.

During our almost 19 years of marriage, Sue and I have lived on our own. Sharing our house with a third person would be a big 'ask' of us both especially as it was obvious that it wouldn't and couldn't be for just a few weeks or months. Furthermore we had only known Rita for a matter of weeks. That said, she comes across as a bright vivacious sort of person who is sincere and also trusting. She'd also been coming to Kingsdown and had attended church regularly in Italy and we'd also very much enjoyed the time we'd spent with her. In addition, she'd started to get to know other people at Kingsdown some of whom like me, had started helping her with her English. So, despite the risks, we felt fairly sure of her. What to do though, apart from pray. This is where we were struck by a line from the Gospel of St Matthew comes in – *"I was a stranger and you took me in"*.

We took no immediate decision as to when we might offer Rita space, but when she came the following week, she was clearly uncertain as to what to do. The staff at the Upper Room had been asking how she was going to survive. If she enrolled in college, how would she pay the rent, and if she couldn't pay the rent where would she live – on the street? What was she going to do about getting an income? They had suggested selling 'The Big Issue' so she could legally register as self-employed, but even that costs as she would have to buy comprehensive sickness insurance as a condition of registering. The moment seemed opportune, so I made the offer of coming to live with us explaining that this would give her a secure place to live whilst also offering the opportunity to use her savings to enrol at the College. Although initially somewhat overwhelmed – she'd not expected us to do that, she accepted.

Oddly enough, the day before I'd made some enquiries about places on the 'English as a foreign language' courses at Ealing Hammersmith & West London College and had found that some students had dropped out so there might be the possibility of a place. Whilst Rita was with me that morning, I phoned again to see

how things stood and discovered that they'd already allocated her an appointment for an assessment that afternoon. The message had been passed via the Upper Room, but something had got lost in translation and Rita was unaware of it. Off we went to the College and Rita emerged a fully paid-up student. Although I don't normally give much thought to 'providence', when things fall into place like that I begin to wonder if someone up there isn't helping things along, just a bit.

The following days were taken up moving things around the house and sorting things out to free-up our back bedroom. That done, Rita has moved in. She's very happy to be with us, and we're very happy to have her.

We hope, and pray that things work out for the three of us together as a family, for that is how it feels. As I put it to Peter Catford just before we made the invitation, we were either doing something very good or very mad, but trusted it was the former! Whilst the main benefit might be for Rita, we also benefit as our lives have been enhanced by her presence – there's much more fun and laughter in our house now than there was before. I have to say though, if Rita had been a different sort of person, with evident problems for instance, we almost certainly would have acted differently – there is, after all a limit to what we could deal with. In the meantime it has felt a bit like '*I was a stranger and you invited me in*'. So, perhaps I could ask you to pray for the three of us as we go forward.

Oh, and I seem to have written my article after all....

Membership Class Outing

Deacon Richard D Goldstraw

It was a joy to meet with a group preparing for church membership over a period of six weeks. As part of the course we visited two great places of Methodism Central Hall Westminster and Wesley's Chapel; both were a delight to visit and the photo shows some of the group on the balcony of Central Hall. This is the balcony from which film crews set up their cameras for the great state occasions held in Westminster Abbey.



MWiB Sunday 2013- London District

Blossom Jackson

Three years ago the London District Women's Network initiated a 'Women's Network Sunday' as it was considered that the role and function of Women's Network was scarcely understood by the majority of women, let alone men. At that time, Women's Network started a consultative process in order to determine the future pathway which the movement should follow. District boundaries had changed and the Network connexional post at Church House had been abolished.



When it was agreed that a Sunday would be designated as 'Network Sunday', the hope was that more women would consider the option of not only joining the movement, but also that they would be better able to embrace its prime goals of discipleship and encouraging, equipping and enabling women in a variety of ways.



It was considered that the Sunday closest to the annual Women's World Day of Prayer and International Women's Day would be an appropriate day to designate, recognising that Churches could choose whether or not to use the specially prepared resources. Today more and more churches within and outside the London District are using these resources.

This year, the special Sunday has been named **MWiB Sunday** for the first time. Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) was launched at Conference in 2011 and has retained what I consider to be the main plank of its objectives - enabling, equipping and encouraging women.

Currently MWIB has two logos: - The Women's Network's logo and the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women. (WFM&UCW) logo which is the tree of life. MWiB is the British Unit of WFM&UCW. MWiB, rooted in Methodism, links women across churches and Circuits in the United Kingdom and churches across the world.

This year was the first that we have held the service at Kingsdown on the designated day. March 3rd. The liturgy that is presented each year includes stories that are written by members of the MWiB executive. Last year the theme chosen was 'Going for Gold', appropriate for the Olympic Year. What is important is that the stories are varied and the resources can be used at any time during the year. In fact, the District website still carries last year's resource with stories that included Eric Liddell, who refused to run on a Sunday and Jesse Owen who, although he had remained one of the world's most famous athletes, on his return from the 1936 Munich Olympic to a segregated America, faced racial discrimination.

So, why a women's movement in the church? Firstly, women make up about 70% of the membership of churches. Active MWiB members not only raise funds for

World Mission, through the usual routes such as Christian Aid, MRDF and other organisations, but also, uniquely, through the annual Easter Offering Service and a host of special projects. Most significantly, MWiB has solidarity with both secular and non-secular organisations, in campaigning for social justice in support of women who are illiterate, abused, trafficked or much worse.

The theme of this year's service was 'discipleship' and is actually the theme I have chosen for my term of office.

The resource includes six stories from the New Testament about individuals named by the Gospel writers and one monologue. It can be safely assumed however, that greater numbers of women have remained unknown and unnamed including, for example the woman of Samaria who went to draw water at Jacob's Well when she knew that the Jewish women who had ostracized her would not be there! There she encountered Christ, recognized him as the Son of God and went on to spread the Good News throughout Samaria.

We are told that the women named in the resource, including Joanna who was one of the women who first knew that Jesus had risen from the dead, like many other women followers of Jesus, had listened to Christ's teaching, professed their faith in Him, and helped to finance His and his disciples' journeys. Unlike the Twelve Disciples, they were not labelled as 'disciples'. In the Synoptic Gospels - Matthew, Mark and Luke, these women are included as followers of Jesus on his journeys, but are not explicitly described as 'disciples'. Similarly, In Leonardo's famous painting of the Last Supper, only the Twelve Disciples are portrayed at the table with Jesus and nowhere is a woman to be seen. We are told too that Mary Magdalene anointed Jesus' feet with expensive oil from an alabaster jar! She too was a follower of Jesus, but was never called a 'disciple' of Christ.

To return to some of these named women in the resource, they are Dorcas/Tabitha, who did much good work in her community, Eunice the mother of Timothy, and Lois his grandmother. If you who would like to read more about these women, can find more on the London District website.

In one of the Hymns chosen, '*There is a line of Women*' written by John Bell, a Church of Scotland minister and member of the Iona Community, the women of the Bible starting with Eve are celebrated as servants of God. Timothy tells us that discipleship rests on grace, that it is the gift of God who '*desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*'

It is my hope that the MWiB can grow and that by example help our young people to appreciate more fully how to make discipleship a means of Grace.

Church Services of the Future

Submitted by Christina Tom-Johnson, Northolt

PASTOR: "Praise the Lord!"

CONGREGATION: "Hallelujah!"

PASTOR: "Will everyone please turn on their tablet, PC, iPad, smart phone, and Kindle Bibles to 1 Cor 13:13.

And please switch on your Bluetooth to download the sermon."

P-a-u-s-e.....

"Now, Let us pray committing this week into God's hands.

Open your Apps, BBM, Twitter and Facebook, and chat with God"

S-i-l-e-n-c-e

"As we take our Sunday tithes and offerings, please have your credit and debit cards ready."

"You can log on to the church wi-fi using the password Lord909887"

The ushers will circulate mobile card swipe machines among the worshipers:

- Those who prefer to make electronic fund transfers are directed to computers and laptops at the rear of the church.
- Those who prefer to use iPads can open them.
- Those who prefer telephone banking, take out your mobile phones to transfer your contributions to the church account.

The holy atmosphere of the Church becomes truly electrified as ALL the smart phones, iPads, PCs and laptops beep and flicker!

Final Blessing and Closing Announcements...

- This week's ministry cell meetings will be held on the various Facebook group pages where the usual group chatting takes place. Please log in and don't miss out.
- Thursday's Bible study will be held live on Skype at 1900hrs GMT. Please don't miss out.
- You can follow your Pastor on Twitter this weekend for counselling and prayers.

God bless you and have nice day.....

Remember: Summer 2013

Compiled by Mary Newman, Pitshanger

Some thoughts for Every Day

The Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue. Fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise. The Lord is all I have, and so I put my hope in him.

Lamentations 3:22-24

What no one ever saw or heard, what no one ever thought could happen, is the very thing God prepared for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

Not on the heights of success, nor on the plains of contentment, but deep in the valleys of sadness are special treasures of fragrance and beauty to be found.

Anon

Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.

James Barry

A Prayer for All in Need

Heavenly Father, we pray for all who are in special need at this time. We pray for those who are sick in body or mind. We remember those who have been bereaved in recent months; especially thinking of those in our own Circuit who have lost loved ones. We ask your blessing on them; that they may find comfort and friendship in their loss.

We pray for all who face an uncertain future; for those in financial difficulties, for those who are unemployed, for those who have been diagnosed with life-limiting condition and all who care for them.

Give them and us the strength to face tomorrow with confidence, knowing that you are with us on our journey. Amen

The Christian Church

"The Christian Church did not begin with a new doctrine or theory. It began with a remembrance of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and with the wind and fire of God, sweeping through human lives and changing them forever."

Professor Keith Ward

Recently, I went with my grand-daughter to the Foundling Museum. I had been there several times but it was Louise's first visit.

You may know that the Foundling Museum explores the history of the Foundling Hospital; the first children's charity, which was started 270 years ago and given a

lot of support by Hogarth and Handel (who left the score of Messiah to them in his will.)

Well, I have a true story of the 20th century foundling, adopted by friends of ours, Barbara and David Lee, who now live in Highbridge, Somerset. My involvement in this story is something I should like to tell you about another time.

A new born baby girl, just a few hours old was left on the steps of the old King Edward Memorial Hospital, in Mattock Lane, Ealing, one bitterly cold night in March 1962, wrapped only in an adult overcoat. Her mother was never found.

It was probably unusual for a white couple to adopt a black baby and certainly a few years later it would not have been considered politically correct. However, Ealing Council did allow Barbara and David to adopt her and they named her Diana. At that time they were living in Hampshire.

Barbara's father was a Methodist minister and she and her husband have a strong Christian faith. Barbara and David have always been active in their local church. Barbara has also done some voluntary work in their local Christian bookshop and David is still a local preacher.

You may wonder what happened to Diana. Well I am happy to tell you that she is happily married with 3 children, Daley, Emma and Calais. Diana went to university, became a social worker and is now a team manager in Social Services. She has never been interested in finding her birth parents. However, her daughter Emma recently went on Twitter and asked if a mother who had left her baby in March 1962 would get in touch. She had no response.

If Diana's birth mother is still alive, I'm sure she would be happy to know that her baby girl was adopted into a loving family and given a future that for reasons we shall never know could not give her that care herself.

A Prayer for Summer

Dear God, as we wake up each morning this summer may we offer our thanks and our service to you. May we remember that each day is a gift from you. Help us to use each gift wisely and with compassion for all we meet. May we show them something of the love you have shown us. Amen

Some readings for summer

Matthew 28:19-20 – Sharing the good news about Jesus

Hebrews 10:23-25 – Concern for one another and vv32-39 – Keeping the faith

Acton Hill Church

Uxbridge Rd
Acton W3 9BU
(opposite the police station)

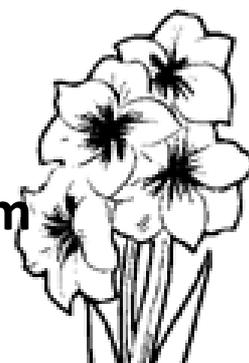


Flower Festival
Saturday 8th June 2013
10.00am – 5.00pm



&
Sunday 9th June 2013
9.30am – 1.00pm

- ❖ Come and see our beautiful flower displays
- ❖ Come for lunch or afternoon tea with homemade cakes
- ❖ Displays can be bought on the day
or
at the auction on Sunday 12.00pm – 1.00pm



Entrance: Adults £1.00 Kids Free

Circuit Directory Update

Rev Chrissie Howe has moved to:-

91 Elers Road, West Ealing, London W13 9QE
tel: 020 8840 3825
e-mail: chrissie.howe@methodist.org.uk

Forthcoming Events around the Circuit

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

June

8th Sat 10.00am **Flower Festival at Acton Hill**
5.00pm *Admission £1.00 adults, children free*

9th Sun 09.30am **Flower Festival at Acton Hill**
1.00pm *Admission £1.00 adults, children free*

13th Thurs 8.00pm **Circuit Meeting at Northolt**

July

7th Sun 5.00pm **Methodist Church Ordination Service at Hanwell**
*Please watch for notices regarding stewarding etc,
but note that all tickets for this service have already been
allocated.*

August

No events notified – *well, it's summertime and the living is easy.....*

Articles for '**In-touch**' Issue No 65 (September - November) should be sent by e-mail headed '**In-touch**' to the Editor, **Gerald Barton**, or as hard copy to the Circuit Office.

Ealing Trinity Circuit Office
Kingsdown Methodist Church, Kingsdown Ave, West Ealing, London W13 9PR
office@ealingtrinity.org.uk

Office hours: Tues & Thurs 09.00 – 14.00

Deadline for next issue: 1st August 30th