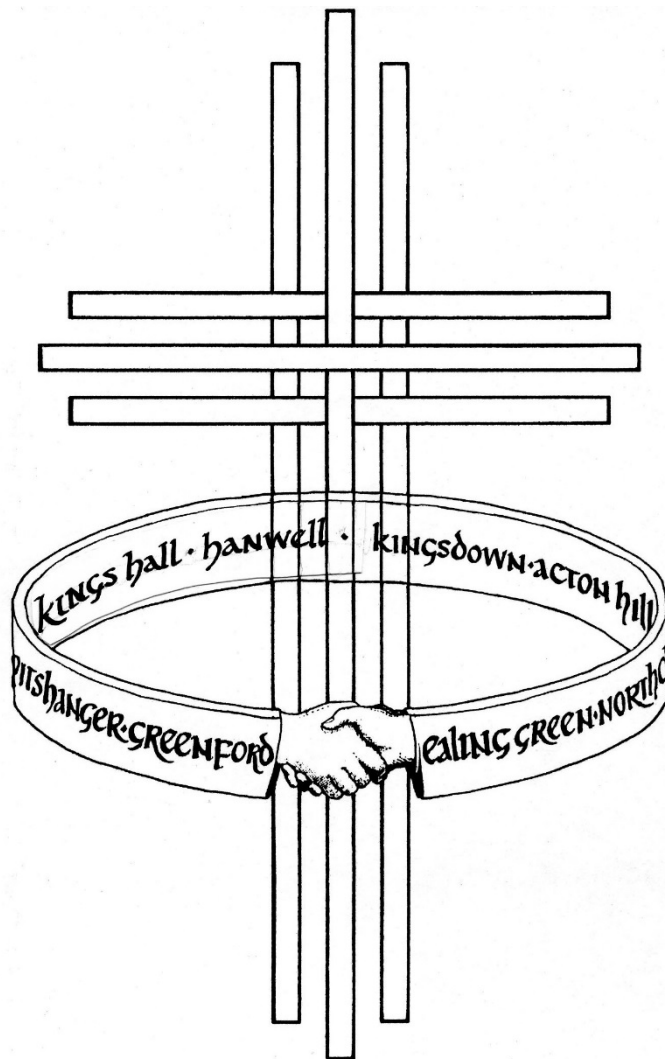


In-touch

No 70

December 2014 - February 2015



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 December to February In-touch, as the year turns again into Advent and God's coming among us. That phrase might sound like a rote spiritual greeting, but it is worth pausing to think about. The cycle of our church year is marked by periods of business and governance, study and prayer, fasting and wonder. Advent is an extraordinary time of promise, just when things look as exposed and vulnerable as they could be. God comes, and into our life as a circuit here. You should be exceedingly proud of the work being done across our Circuit – not just tasks or service, but community building in what has been a hard season for our communities, marked by public tragedy and increasing economic and service pressures. I am confident that our places are better because of what the Methodist churches have been able to offer. Well done, a wonderful testimony to the love of God.

This Autumn, our 'Quiet Zones' programme of schools and church-based outreach has been present as part of the curriculum and programme of several secondary and primary schools, with over 700 students of all faiths using it in the week of 20th October at Northolt High School, and later in November weeks at Willow Tree and North Ealing, and for central Ealing schools access at Pitshanger church.

Thank you to the many church volunteers who have staffed the Zones, and helped transport, set up, etc – this is a real model of excellent outreach to support our schools. At the same time, a number of our churches have opened themselves to their communities for families and children together to spend time in craft, prayer, noisy reflection, and general welcome – Hanwell and Acton Hill have both developed excellent relationships with varieties of people in their immediate communities, through wonderful concerts, outreach days, and Messy Church. The Circuit has also celebrated 30 years of healing ministry based at Greenford, among other events we could list. These things strike me as deeply Methodist – both going to where people are and then also welcoming them to our spaces as places of peace, fun, beauty, music and learning.

Also this Autumn our Southall mission development has begun to take shape – not only have the King's Hall congregation and Class Meeting helped to move the building development forward, but also we have launched the Salamaati project in partnership with Holy Trinity, Southall Park. We are also working to develop a proposal for a Christian Schools' worker in Southall and linked to our congregation there, again in partnership with the Church of England in Southall.

Foodbank, Winter Night Shelter, community meals, pastoral care and advocacy, healing ministries: these our churches have carried and worked for. But at the heart of it all is still our worship and discipleship. As I wrote in this space earlier this year, we are focussing on worship and welcome, growing our congregations and confidence. This autumn many from across the Circuit have participated in the 'Christ through Asian Eyes' course, based at Greenford. This winter you will see on the Quarterly Plan Circuit discipleship at Kingsdown on a Sunday afternoon. This will be a chance to study the Ten Commandments, with reflection about how we

welcome those new to church, and deepen our own relationship with Christ. What difference does it make, to be a person of Christian faith? The study is called 'Learning to be Free: a Rule for Former Slaves' and is based in my writing for the 'Fresh from the Word' book for 2016. Also you will see our 4 new 'on trial' preachers on the Plan – seeds sown over these past 3 - 4 years are now beginning to take root, as we build the life of our circuit gently and durably. On 2nd December at our local preachers meeting, we will invite all Pastoral Visitors and others interested as well, to reflect on disability in worship and church life, with the Revd Karen Bell.

Not everything grows at once in the life of our Circuit, but it is tending toward life and health, the real stuff of faith. Please stay in touch with the Circuit and give news of what is going on in your life, what themes or scripture seems most apt in your worship or service this winter. Folk really are interested!

Every Blessing, Jen

PS A reminder that I will be on sabbatical from March - May 2015, during which time Rachel Bending will be acting superintendent; other arrangements will be advertised!

100th Birthday Celebration at Acton Hill



Mrs Olga White, who is a member of Acton Hill Methodist/URC church recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

She was showered with cards, gifts and flowers on her special celebration.

Many congratulations, Olga and God bless!

Ealing Charity Christmas Card Shop

This year's Charity Christmas Card Shop will be at Christ the Saviour church in Ealing Broadway. The shop will be open Monday – Saturday from 10.00am to 5.00pm from Wednesday 5th November until Saturday 20th December.

As the shop is run by volunteers, all the money raised goes to the charities providing cards. Last year the shop raised over £500,000 and supported 60 different charities.

Circuit Property Administrator Appointed

The Circuit has appointed Monty Grigg as Circuit Property Administrator. Monty is well-known in London Methodist circles as he has been District Lay Employment Advisor for many years.

Monty's role will be to manage the Circuit's property portfolio, ie the manses and let properties – former manses no longer required for ministers and Havelock House. He will not have responsibility for church property, but will be available to advise church Property Stewards should they feel the need.

MHA Live at Home Scheme

In conjunction with Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA), the Circuit is developing a 'Live at Home' scheme for Ealing. This will aim to support people, particularly the elderly who wish to live independently in their own homes without becoming isolated. MHA operates over 70 Live at Home schemes throughout the country. The range of services varies at each scheme, as they are tailored to meet the needs of older people in each community. Each has its own Manager and – crucially – a team of committed volunteers.

Together they provide a wide range of activities -

:

- One to one befriending and support
- Information and signposting
- Lunch clubs
- Social activities
- Outings and holidays

Live at Home schemes are supported by MHA's national staff team, which ensures that standards are maintained and training delivered to volunteers.

The development of a scheme for Ealing is being led by Deacon Lemia Nkwelah.

Circuit Churches Provide Winter Night Shelters



Three of our Circuit churches will be participating in the Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter (ECWNS) this winter – Greenford, Hanwell and Kingsdown. Following an approach by the Project Co-ordinator for ECWNS in late September, Kingsdown agreed to join the scheme for four occasions in November/December. The original venue for those nights, Hope Community Church in Perivale had had to withdraw because refurbishment of their premises had made them unsuitable for use as a Night Shelter. In all 20 churches across Ealing are participating in the Shelter this winter.

During the winter months, ECWNS provides for the most basic and essential needs of homeless people – sleep and food. A person who has been made homeless faces enormous risks as a rough sleeper including substance abuse, poor physical and mental health, and acts of criminality. ECWNS seeks to minimise these risks by creating a safe space for homeless people to find temporary respite while helping them to secure more permanent accommodation. Each guest is offered a maximum of 28 days in the shelter, during which time ECWNS works with partner agencies (St. Mungo’s Broadway, Ealing Soup Kitchen and Acton Homeless Concern) and local housing services to look for a way to move on.

A total of 14 guests at any one time will be offered accommodation in the Shelter. All guests are referred to the Shelter by St Mungo’s Broadway, Ealing Soup Kitchen or Acton Homeless Concern after having been considered for their suitability bearing in mind that the Shelters are run by volunteers who do not have the expertise or experience to deal with ‘difficult’ cases.

Over 300 people volunteer their time and resources to provide for homeless people in our area through ECWNS. The network of volunteers at ECWNS has truly given proof to the saying, “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts”.

The Shelter starts at the end of November – please pray for the guests and for all the people involved in running the Shelter each night.

Circuit Discipleship – Bible Study at Kingsdown

Sunday 15th January – Sunday 15th February 5.00 – 6.30pm

‘Learning to be Free: a Rule for Former Slaves’

Studies based on the Ten Commandments with reflections on how we welcome those new to church, and what difference it makes to be a person of the Christian faith.

From the Circuit Meeting

The most recent Circuit Meeting was held on 17th September at Hanwell.

Firstly, Rev Jen Smith will be taking sabbatical leave from March to May 2015. A working group for sabbatical cover arrangements has been convened by Deacon Richard Goldstraw. Rev Rachel Bending will be Acting Superintendent during the sabbatical.

Rev Suva Catford described the ongoing programme of Quiet Zones around the Circuit, including plans to run them in three separate schools. Whilst they make demands on ministers' time, the programme was felt to be worthwhile, especially as it is unusual for schools to allow visits in this way.

The meeting also heard about the Salaamati Project and the project for developing an MHA 'Live at Home' scheme in the Circuit – see articles on both elsewhere in this edition of In-touch.

A grant application from Acton Hill was considered. This was to support their Community Meal project which has been running since 2012 and currently feeds 40 – 70 people when other facilities for the homeless are closed. Until now, the church had financed the project from its own resources, but now feels that assistance with the renewal of equipment and ongoing running costs is required. The grant was for £1,000, but the meeting proposed increasing this to £3,000, equal to one year's running costs. The meeting approved the application unanimously.

Concerning grants recently made by the Circuit, work at Ealing Green on refurbishing their premises is about to commence – pews have been removed from the church and the floor lifted to allow removal of asbestos. The work has been put out to tender and a preferred contractor identified. At Greenford, heating work has been completed and the first instalment of the loan portion of the grant made by the Circuit has been repaid. At Hanwell, work on the water supply is under way, although some complications have arisen and work is pending on fitting a balcony rail to the balcony.

King's Hall in Southall is under offer and a deposit has been received from the purchaser. However, completion of the contract has been deferred while the planning process runs its course, in order to maintain Circuit ownership of the building as that process is pursued and ensure that leasehold space for worship is secured. It is still intended that the redevelopment will be a mix of office and residential space with 2,500 sq ft retained for Methodist/community use. A small working group drawn from the former trustees of the King's Hall Property Trust will be co-ordinating the redevelopment for the Circuit.

The next Circuit Meeting will be held at Northolt on 12th March at 8.00pm and will be chaired by Rev Rachel Bending as Rev Jen Smith will be on sabbatical.

The Salaamati Project

September 7th saw not only the welcome for our new ministers, Rev Rachel Bending and Deacon Lemia Nkwelah, but also the launch of the 'Salaamati Project'. This is a joint initiative between Holy Trinity Church Southall (where the project is based) and our Circuit aimed at improving the health, wholeness and wellbeing of all in the local community by providing a range of high-quality services tailored to meet the needs of the people in and around Southall.

The name chosen for the project, "Salaamati" is a Punjabi word related to the Arabic "salaam" and the Hebrew "shalom". It means deep peace, wholeness and well-being.

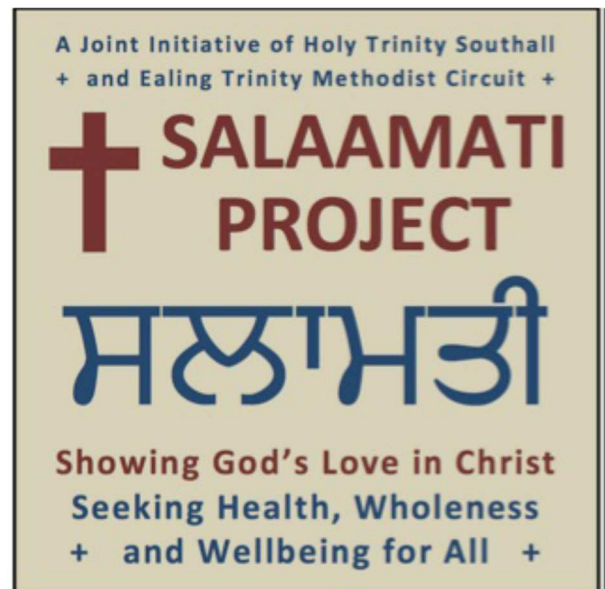
The project is motivated by the Christian belief that God loves each and every person, that He longs for fullness of life for everyone, and that He calls His church to the compassionate service of all, especially those most in need, irrespective of human divisions of any kind, including those of language, ethnicity, culture or religion. The Salaamati Project will work in partnership with statutory, community and voluntary agencies in the locality to provide services which complement and enhance those already available to people in Southall.

The services on offer from Autumn 2014 include:

- A weekly drop-in where people can find welcome, companionship, support and a listening ear.
- Information and education on healthy living, including health awareness training sessions on topics such as diabetes, heart problems, stress, depression and dementia.
- A place of stillness where people can take time out from the pressures and busyness of life, and find peace and refreshment as they encounter Christ in word and sacrament.
- A support group for those who have a particular role in caring for others including those who play a part in the pastoral care provided by our churches.
- The ministry of prayer in the name of Jesus Christ for healing and wholeness for any who wish to avail themselves of it.

The project is expected to develop over time. Possibilities for the future include:

- Creative arts workshop
- An agency providing social care in the community



- Professional counselling services
- An on-site GP surgery

The team running the project includes -

Fr Michael Bolley - Vicar of Holy Trinity, Southall and Healing Ministry Advisor for the Ealing Deanery

Fr Yaqoob Kushi - Anglican Chaplain at Ealing and West Middlesex Hospitals and Associate Priest at Holy Trinity.

Toby May Thomas - Toby was recently commissioned as a Pastoral Assistant at Holy Trinity. She has years of experience of giving support and help to vulnerable people living in the community.

L.M.Doss - a member at Holy Trinity and manager of Helplink, a charity which supports vulnerable people in the locality, including provision of health awareness training sessions.

Matwinder Randhawa, a member at Holy Trinity.

Rev Rachel Bending, from our Circuit and minister at King's Hall

Deacon Lemia Nkwelah, probationer deacon in our Circuit. Lemia is also leading the development of a MHA 'Live at Home' scheme in Ealing.

Blossom Jackson, Senior Circuit Steward and member at Kingsdown. Blossom has extensive professional experience in nursing, research and health education.

If you'd be interested in getting involved in the Salaamati Project, contact 020 8571 7665 or email info@salaamatiproject.org.uk

All We Can

Alan Smith – AWC Co-ordinator Ealing Trinity Circuit

As a guest speaker for AWC I have had the opportunity to visit a goodly number of churches over the last 7-8 years. Each visit is unique as each church is unique – it is quite amazing how in the same part of the UK groups of people who gather together can be so different.



**Methodist
relief and
development**

The presentations may be part of a service in place of the sermon, integrated into the worship or an afternoon or evening study group, or women's group who want to widen their knowledge.

AWC is still one of the best kept secrets within the Methodist connexion and audiences are quite often surprised to know that it started way back in 1947. The Methodist schools are another 'secret' that often surprises the groups when mentioned.

As AWC works to very tight budgets and does not spend vast sums on advertising but relies on the message of doing '**all we can**' to be spread by some regular News publications, e-news and an active website supported by the work of the volunteer teams.

Readers of this will know that In Touch kindly includes the AWC News as an infill each quarter..

Some years ago the adult members of our family decided that our homes should perhaps be getting ready for downsizing, not for more clutter added. It was agreed across the wider families that we should all consider 'Charity Gifts' as a more suitable option. Most charities offer some type of 'Extraordinary' gift catalogue at Christmas so we can each support our own charitable cause.

You should find a AWC Extraordinary Gift Catalogue included with this issue of In Touch' - why don't you consider buying a gift this way for one or more of your family members as a way of doing all you can to help those who need all the help you can give. Some of the more expensive gifts – like a goat - could be shared across members of the family.

Do you do some of your shopping 'on line': then why not consider using one of the '**give as you shop**' links that exist? By using these links when making your purchases the charity gets a small percentage as a donation at no cost to you.

Go to - <http://www.allwecan.org.uk/other-ways-to-give/give-as-you-shop>

One of the more interesting ways of raising funds is by using **Give-a Car** which will take away a car in any condition and sell it off with the profit going to the charity you specify.

Are there any people in the circuit who would like the challenge of holding an event, an organised walk, coffee morning or any other activity that could become a fund raiser for AWC?

If you need any more information or materials please contact me so I can help you to 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can'

e-mail allwecan@questa.co.uk or call: 07802 446 835

The Rubbish Diet

Gerald Barton, Editor

A few weeks ago, I found an e-mail in the Circuit Office 'inbox' with the subject "The Rubbish Diet and Our Campaign to Shrink the West London Waste Train". Before I read the subject properly, I thought it was yet another piece of junk mail, of which I get quite a lot. However, after a slightly more careful reading, I decided it warranted a bit more attention....



'The Rubbish Diet' is a non-profit organisation which seeks to encourage us to be a bit more thoughtful about what we throw away and what we recycle. Six days every week right throughout the year a train about 1/3 of a mile long made up of 26 60ft flat wagons carrying 78 20ft containers loaded with about 1,000 tonnes of waste in total leaves from West London heading for landfill sites. That's about 312,000 tonnes of waste every year. All of this waste comes from the six boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond. The staggering thing, given all the efforts that are made to encourage recycling, is that about 67 - 68% of that waste could be recycled. The contents of the train are roughly as follows:-

Food - mostly bread, potatoes and other foods still in their wrappings	33%
Paper and card	13%
Recyclable plastic	10%
Recyclable glass	4%
Other useful stuff (cans, clothes, shoes)	8%
Un-recyclable waste, eg disposable nappies, pet bedding etc	32%

'The Rubbish Diet' is an easy way to check we are recycling as much as we can and to slim our bins. Most people who sign up reduce their rubbish by at least 40% by just following a simple 2-step process. The first step is to check whether you can recycle one more thing and to share your ideas for avoiding waste. The second step is about making the most of your food.

When you sign up, you'll receive weekly emails giving you lots of good ideas to tackle what's in your bin. When you finish 'The Rubbish Diet' hopes you'll want to stay part of its community and will send you a monthly round up of news and waste-busting ideas. It's free, you can unsubscribe at any time and they will never pass your email on to other organisations.

The 'Diet' is tailored to our area and signing up is really easy. Just follow this link: www.therubbishdiet.org.uk/wastetrain

Wesley Cottage, Trewint

Gerald Barton, Editor

When we go to Cornwall to visit my father-in-law we usually travel by train. Occasionally, when we want to make our stay a short holiday, we drive so that we have the car available for trips out whilst we're there. It's a long drive, so we like to stop somewhere interesting *en route* to break up the journey. Coming back from our trip in late August we decided to stop at Wesley Cottage at Trewint, just off the A30, 8 miles west of Launceston. Personally, I was blissfully unaware of the existence of the cottage until Sue suggested we stop there on our way home. It seemed an excellent idea, so on a bright sunny day as we headed out of Cornwall, we turned off the modern A30 onto one of its old sections which is now just a loop giving access to Trewint, Five Lanes and Atarnun, in search of the cottage.



Wesley Cottage, Trewint

Wesley Cottage is on an old coach road scarcely wide enough for a single vehicle – I missed the turn to begin with as it was so small, but managed to get myself to the right place with a little manoeuvring. We were met by John, the very welcoming custodian who immediately offered us refreshments – a tradition recalling the initial association between the cottage and Methodism. John sat us down, gave us our coffee and cake and told us a bit about the history of the cottage and its association with John Wesley and Methodism before letting us wander around.

Wesley Cottage was once the home of Digory Isbell (c1718 - 95) and his wife Elizabeth (1717 - 1805) who moved there on their wedding day in June 1739. Both were from families of stonemasons. One of their descendants, James Isbell (1756 – 1840) built Dartmoor Prison, but that's by-the-by. During this time, Methodism was in its early days. John Wesley, or so John the custodian told us, considered the people of Cornwall almost beyond redemption – perhaps not surprising as until 1769 when a turnpike road was laid, the only overland access to Cornwall was via mediaeval tracks. However, a religious society not associated with Wesley had been founded in St Ives and, in 1743 it was visited by a Bristol sea-captain who took news of the society back to Wesley. As a result Wesley decided to extend his work into the far west. First, two of his lay preachers, then Charles Wesley and finally John himself accompanied by three helpers – John Nelson, John Downes and William Shepherd, travelled to Cornwall.

John Downes and John Nelson rode ahead of Wesley and Shepherd, sharing a horse – one rode whilst the other walked, in turns. As John Nelson later recorded,

“One day, having travelled twenty miles without baiting, we came to a village and enquired for an inn; but the people told us there was none in the town, nor any on our road within twelve Cornish miles: then I said, ‘Come brother Downes’ we must live by faith.’ When we had stood awhile, I said ‘Let us go to yonder house, where the stone porch is, and ask for something’: so we did, and the woman said, ‘We have bread, butter, and milk, and good hay for your horse.’ When we had refreshed ourselves, I gave the woman a shilling; but she said she did not desire anything; I said, ‘I insist upon it.’ We got to Bodmin that night; but it was late before Mr Wesley and Mr Shepherd arrived, having lost the path on the twelve-mile common, and found the way again by the sound of the bells.” The woman was Elizabeth Isbell, wife of Digory.

The story must have been repeated often in the family, but it was only written down until 1809 by Francis Truscott, an itinerant preacher. Elizabeth Isbell’s daughter related how her mother *“observing Mr Nelson and Mr Downes give thanks before and after they had received their food, and hearing them pray with her in a manner she had never heard before, was much delighted with her new company. On their asking if she would permit them to preach in her house on their return she said she did not know what preaching was but would consult her husband on the subject.”* That evening, on hearing what had happened, Digory Isbell paused a moment, then said, *“I have read somewhere in the Bible, how some have entertained angels unawares.”*

Some weeks later, John Nelson, travelling alone returned to Trewint. He was wet through from the rain. On knocking on the door of the Isbell’s cottage, he was welcomed in, his wet clothes taken off him, given dry ones and something warm for his supper. That night they sang a hymn, prayed and Nelson gave an ‘exhortation’. The following morning at 7.00am, Nelson preached again to a congregation that Digory Isbell had hastily gathered together. Digory and Isbell were so moved by Nelson’s preaching that they decided to open their home to any of Wesley’s preachers who might pass their way.

Some time after, Digory Isbell was reading his Bible when he came across the story of the visit of the prophet Elisha to the Shunamite woman – *“Now there came a day when Elisha passed over to Shunem, where there was a prominent woman, and she persuaded him to eat food. And so it was, as often as he passed by, he turned in there to eat food. And she said to her husband, ‘Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God passing by us continually. Please, let us make a little walled upper chamber and let us set a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; and it shall be, when he comes to us, that he can turn in there.”* (2 Kings ch 4 vv8 – 10). This seemed to Digory to be a divine command and he set about building an extension to his cottage containing two rooms, one up and one down, which could be used by preachers whenever they were in the area – a work in which he found himself “greatly blessed”.

John Wesley is recorded as having stopped six times at the cottage. On Monday 2nd April 1744 he arrived at Trewint cold and weary having travelled across a snow-covered Dartmoor. That evening he preached to many more than the house could

hold before departing the following morning, piloted over the snow-bound tracks by Digory Isbell. He returned on Monday 16th April on his way out of Cornwall, but was met at the cottage by John Bennet, the vicar of Laneast who took him to Laneast for a service and lodged him there. The following morning, however he returned to Trewint to preach at 5.00am. His fourth visit was on Monday 15th July 1745 when he preached at the cottage before going on to Laneast church. Wesley's Sermon Register shows him at Trewint again in July 1714, but his final visit was on Sunday 26th September 1762 when he preached at noon before going on to Launceston.

The Isbell's cottage was used for Methodist Society meetings from about 1748 until the end of the century when it became necessary to find new accommodation as a result of growing numbers as well as the infirmity of the Isbell. Travelling preachers passed through the village, stopping at the cottage and preaching, like Wesley before them, outside the stone porch. There was, however opposition from local people – the days were rough and there were unruly elements in the local population of surface miners. Threats were made to attack and even pull down the cottage when preachers came. These continued until one preacher, determined to continue gave out the hymn:

*If any ask the reason, why
We thus together meet?
To such enquirers we reply,
"To wait at Jesu's feet".*

*And if you will not seek him too,
Don't evil us entreat,
Your land, we're only passing through,
Our Saviour-God to meet.*

Between the visits of the travelling preachers, services were led by local preachers from the surrounding area and each week members would meet in their classes for spiritual fellowship.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century, a new chapel was built in nearby Altarnun and the cottage ceased to be used for meetings. The cottage was often referred to as 'Jack's house' in reference to Wesley and there was a curious legend that you could hear the bells of heaven ring by dint of running twelve times around the Isbell's tomb in Altarnun churchyard and then putting a finger in each ear.

By the 1860's the cottage had fallen into disrepair and part of it appears to have been used by a local farmer for slaughtering pigs. However, in 1932 it was still in good enough condition to be lived in as it was then occupied by a Mr and Mrs Wallis and a Methodist Union celebration was held there in October of that year. A similar service was held there in 1938 to celebrate the bicentenary of Wesley's conversion, but by 1947 it was in such a state of disrepair that the local council considered demolishing it. However, a local Public Health Inspector suggested to the Rev Ernest Porter that the Methodist Church might buy the property, which they did, and it was restored and re-opened in May 1950. Each year an open-air service

is held outside the stone porch (next year it's on Sunday 17th May at 4.00pm) with an evening celebration at Altarnun parish church (also well worth a visit).

About 3,000 people a year and quite a few school parties visit the cottage and it is also used for study days and retreats. Not surprisingly, there's only so much to see as it's only a small cottage. From the room where you are greeted, you can upstairs to an exhibition room. When we were there this had displays about the work of Forces Chaplains during the First World War and also information from the Methodist Peace Fellowship reminding us of the need for continuing work towards world peace. After you come back down, you pass along a stone-walled passage to the two small rooms of the 'Prophet's Chamber'. This consists of two rooms, one up, and one down. The lower room is a small chapel, probably the smallest Methodist chapel in the world, atmospheric and furnished in eighteenth century style. The upper room, where preachers used to sleep contains a small exhibition of Methodist memorabilia – items of Wesleyana, letters and some possessions of the Isbell family including a family Bible, a portrait and a class ticket. Across the road from the cottage and through a gate, is the 'Pilgrim's Garden', a quiet place to rest and pray awhile before continuing your journey.



Prophet's Chamber: the chapel



Prophet's Chamber: upper room

At the moment, funds are being raised to improve the facilities at the cottage and in particular upgrade the exhibition room to be a 'proper' education room – one of the aims is to encourage more school parties to visit. Once upgraded, the Cottage can apply for recognition from the Museum Association, which would then improve access to grant funding in the future.

If you're driving along the A30 to or from Cornwall, Wesley Cottage is a delightful place to stop for a while – John, the custodian will be only too pleased to see you! It's open from 1st May to 31st October Tuesday – Saturday from 10.00am to 4.00pm. During the winter, it's open by special arrangement only – you need to contact the custodian to make arrangements. There's more detail on the web, of course – go to www.wesleycottage.org.uk.

Remember – Winter 2014-15

Compiled by Mary Newman, Pitshanger

We give thanks to you, O God,
We give thanks to you!
We proclaim how great you are
And tell of the wonderful thing you have done.

Psalm 75 v 1

Recently I came across my autograph book, from 1953-54 and a dear friend of my mother's, Dorothy Tennant, who was a deaconess at Shepherds Bush Methodist Church, had written this poem:

Let us learn from yesterday
The things to do today,
To give a smile instead of a frown,
To lend a hand when one is down.
Gentleness will make us great,
Love is stronger far than hate,
God will open every gate,
If we trust His leading.

Some Thoughts about Peace, taken from "A Gift of Peace" a gift from the Methodist Church

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Matthew ch 5 v 9

I do not want the peace which passes understanding.
I want the understanding which brings peace

Helen Keller

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

Mother Teresa

We look forward to the time when the power of love will replace the love of power.
Then will our world know the blessing of peace

William E. Gladstone

All we are saying is, give peace a chance.

John Lennon

The Ebola Crisis

During the present outbreak in West Africa, who among us has failed to be impressed by the medical staff who have volunteered to go to Sierra Leone and Liberia to help those affected, putting their own lives at risk?

First there was the nurse brought to the Royal Free Hospital in London, suffering from ebola. A few weeks after his recovery he volunteered to go back a second time.

Yesterday I read about Christian Blango, a Royal Navy engineer who was sailing to Africa as part of Britain's task force days after he learned that 8 members of his own family had died from the virus. Christian was offered compassionate leave but turned it down saying. This is personal now and the deaths in my family have made me even more determined to help people suffering with ebola.

On the same day I saw on T.V. that 850 doctors and nurses have volunteered to go from the U.K. to Sierra Leone.

Isn't it wonderful that this terrible disease has brought out the best in so many people?

I'm sure that many of us are remembering the victims of the ebola virus and their families and also the volunteers in our prayers.

A Prayer for Those in Need

Heavenly Father, we pray for all who are in a special need; for the sick and the disabled; for those whose conditions may be life limiting.

Remember in your love the victims of violence and injustice; especially we think of the oppressed in Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq and other areas of the world where peace does not reign.

We pray for all for whom this Christmas and New Year will bring memories of happier times.

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

Amen

The Lost Coin

For a woman in Jesus' days on earth to lose a coin could have meant the difference between her family being fed or going hungry.

Jesus often used familiar people and situations and how we should care for each other.

The lost coin is a story with which most of us can identify. I hate to think how many hours of my life have been spent trying to find missing things!

For most of us, the things we would be most upset about losing would be those of great sentimental value. I have a silver cross and chain and a little ring bought for me by my father, who died when I was four. They are irreplaceable. Like the woman in the story, if I lost them I would look everywhere to try and find them.

Jesus taught us that in the Kingdom of God each one of us is precious and irreplaceable.

Once again, I recently saw some words of wisdom in the window of Ealing Boards and Timber:

'Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.'
Philo

Some Thoughts for the New Year

On the Way

We cannot see beyond the hill
The crises that await us there,
But He who made us loves us still
And we are His, no matter where.

from Gerald F. Fisher's book '*On the Way*'

Readings for Christmas and the New Year

Matthew ch. 1 v 18-24 – The birth of Jesus

Matthew ch. 2 v 1-14 – Visitors from the East

Luke ch.15 v 8-10 – The Lost Coin

Christmas Services Around the Circuit

Acton Hill

13th Dec 2.00pm Messy Church
 4.00pm
24th Dec 11.00pm Christmas Eve Communion
25th Dec 10.00am Christmas Morning Worship

Ealing Green

21st Dec 6.00pm Carol Service
24th Dec 4.00pm Carols on the Green
 5.00pm Holy Communion
25th Dec 10.00am Christmas Morning Worship

Greenford

24th Dec 5.00pm Crib Service
24th Dec 11.15pm Christmas Eve Communion
25th Dec 11.00am Christmas Morning Worship
31st Dec 11.15pm Watch Night Service

Hanwell

21st Dec 6.00pm Carol Service
24th Dec 11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion

Kingsdown

21st Dec 6.00pm Carol Service
24th Dec 11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion
25th Dec 10.00am Christmas Morning Worship

King's Hall (Urdu/Hindi)

To be advised

Northolt

25th Dec 10.00am Christmas Morning Worship

Pitshanger

25th Dec 09.30am Christmas Morning Worship

Circuit Directory Update

Forthcoming Events around the Circuit

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

December

Details of Christmas services around the Circuit are listed on page 19.

2nd Tues 20.00 **Local Preachers Meeting at Kingsdown**
Preceded by Training Sub-Group at 19.15

31st Wed 23.15 **Greenford Watch Night Service**

January

21st Wed 19.30 **Quarterly Plan Meeting** at Kingsdown

February

18th Wed *Deadline for grant applications to Circuit Policy Meeting*

25th Wed 19.30 **Circuit Policy Meeting** at Kingsdown

18th Wed 19.00 **Ash Wednesday Service** at Hanwell

March

7th Sat 10.30 **Ealing Animal Welfare Bazaar at Hanwell**
16.00 Admission free - many participating societies
For more info go to www.animalwelfarebazaar.info

Articles for '**In-touch**' Issue No 71 (**March - May**) 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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