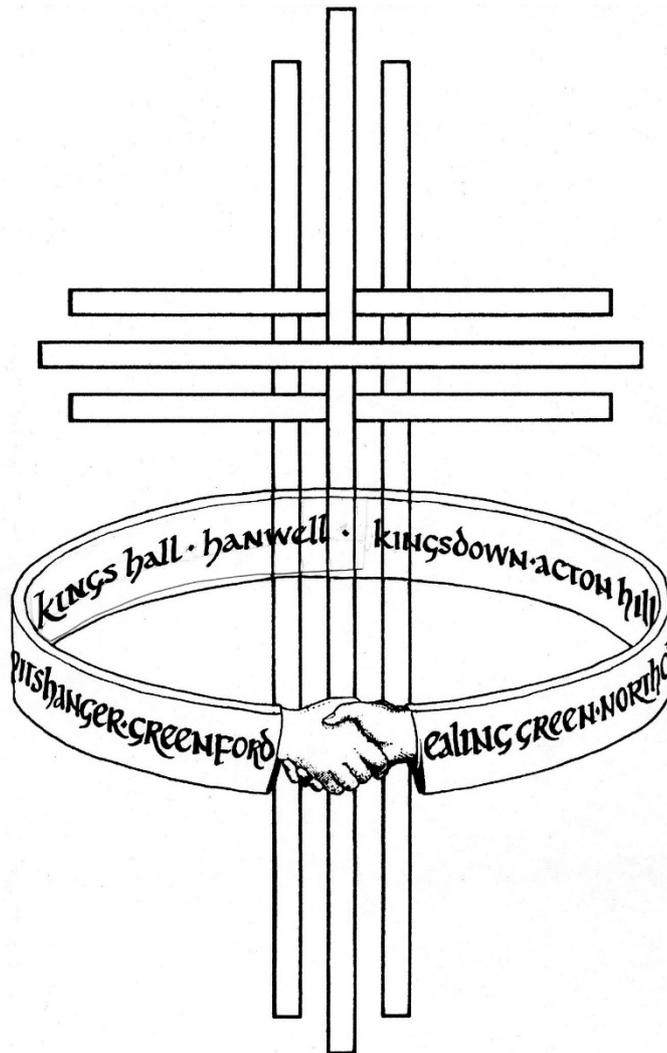


In-touch

No 77

September - November 2016



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

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Autumn edition of In touch magazine, with news, events, and reflection around the Ealing Trinity Methodist Circuit. As you read this the Revd Yemi Jaiyesimi and the Revd Shirlyn Toppin will be beginning their work in this Circuit, with Yemi serving Greenford and Northolt, and Shirlyn serving Hanwell and Pitshanger. Of course, you will see both of them around the Circuit as they take Circuit based discipleship and other responsibilities. Welcome to them, and also to Yemi's wife Moji.

In this season we are also appointing a temporary 'Associate Pastor' to cover some of the work Deacon Richard Goldstraw had been undertaking, and re-appoint a Circuit Finance Administrator: sadly the person appointed for that latter role in June had to withdraw because of family illness. So many new faces, but the same mission and direction: we are here to worship God each week in our local churches, to serve our communities, and to reach out to people of all kinds with the grace of Christ. We continue to try to nurture our younger members, and a small group will be going to the national Methodist event 3Generate in November: we could not get in all the young people who wanted to go, but are looking at alternatives in the meantime. Also we hope that our two local preachers in training who have been following the 'London Course', Ade Benson and Mark Budu-Manuel, will also be finishing their studies this Autumn and soon be received as fully accredited local preachers. As I write the process is not finished, so keep them both in your prayers!

Over the summer we followed the series 'Singing the Blues: Recovering Lament'; this encounter with the Psalms has generated much interest and feedback among you. I hope we understand lament to be the first step to action: we call out to God, and God calls out to us. We learn perspective in our burdens and call on the whole strength of God, and we resist evil together. I am so glad that you enjoyed the blues, and hope the Psalms will stick with you – that they will continue to give you food on every ordinary day, to name wounds and remind you of God's faithfulness. It is on ordinary days that we need feeding! And a special thank you to all of you who took the risk to try leading worship for the first, or the first-in-a-while time. If you would like to know more about leading worship or preaching more regularly, or you can think of someone who you would like to hear, please approach them and be in touch.

Friends, this Autumn as directed by the Circuit Meeting, your Policy Group is expanding – I hope you have been able to send a representative from your church, and had reports back – there is much afoot in our strategic planning as we look forward, not least as we pursue a partnership to redevelop the King's Hall, Southall as a Methodist-owned hotel, event, and conference centre with a church community at its heart. We are partnering with the national (Connexional) Methodist property development group, and with the Methodist International Centre that runs the 'Wesley' hotel in Euston. If it is God's purpose, we will be able to see real change

and development to benefit the local economy in Southall (creating jobs and investment) and at the same time secure an ongoing income for the Circuit, and the national Methodist Church. This project is at the edge of Methodist entrepreneurial developments in this country, and we are working very hard at the leadership level to deliver a good agreement. If you are interested to know more, by all means ask! This involves much outreach and community development work not least with local planners and politicians, as well as other Christian and faith groups, and your congregations in Southall have been rising to the challenge: they have been the ones on the ground doing the link work, and it is terrific to see them so energised.

Which leads into the other celebration coming up: on Saturday 15th October the King's Hall will celebrate its centenary, and you are invited to join with the Congregations, Methodist great and good, local leaders, and members of the community for a celebration festival in a massive marquee, from 2.00pm at Hambrough Primary School with a celebration meal to follow, at 4.30 pm. Come and pray for the next 100 years of Methodism in this community! More info from the Revd Rachel Bending.

Friends, often as we work on church infrastructure we can get distracted from growth and welcome: in the midst of all that is afoot, be bold for Christ and dare greatly. You are doing such interesting work, and reaching out to all sorts of folk more usually passed over by churches. Just ask any member at Northolt about what it was like to 'give up church for Lent' last year, and have courage.

With every blessing, Jennifer

A Message from Deacon Richard Goldstraw

Dear Friends

I write to express my heartfelt thanks for the gifts, cards and good wishes received at the circuit farewell service at Acton Hill on the 19th June 2016 ; it was so lovely to see so many members from churches in the Circuit.

To both the churches I have served in the past two years Acton Hill and Ealing Green a thousand thank you's for your many farewell kindnesses in the month of June and beyond! To members from the King's Hall, thank you for your kind and generous hospitality.

I have enjoyed reading your cards and will treasure your gifts. You are too kind!

To my colleagues over the four years, staff and Circuit Stewards, God bless you all, you have touched my heart in so many ways.

Change is not easy, and the Circuit has experienced many changes in the past four years, but as the old hymn goes:

***Through all the changing scenes of life,
In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still
My heart and tongue employ.***

Under the strong and kindly leadership of the amazing Jen may you know God's richest blessing. I look forward to working with you on the new profile for a new deacon for 2017.

Kind thoughts and prayers,

Deacon Richard

Circuit Welcome Service

for Rev Yemi Jaiyesimi and Rev Shirlyn Toppin at Hanwell Methodist Church
Saturday 3rd September at 4.00pm

King's Hall Centenary Celebration

The English-speaking and the Urdu/Hindi-speaking congregations at King's Hall invite you to the special Centenary Celebrations for the King's Hall on Saturday 15th October at Hambrough Primary School (adjacent to the King's Hall)

2.00pm	Arrival, drinks and exhibition
3.00pm	Worship and celebration
4.30pm	Celebration meal

There is car parking at the far end of St Joseph's Drive.

The King's Hall was designed by Sir Alfred Gelder of Hull and opened in October 1916. Apart from being a church, the King's Hall was used as a cinema by the Methodist Church from 1926 – 1937 and in 1952 world famous singers Elisabeth Schwarzkopf and Kathleen Ferrier sang there during Ealing Council's series of celebrity concerts.

King's Hall: Memorial to Conference

In view of the centenary of King's Hall in October, the Circuit Meeting decided to send a 'memorial' to the annual Methodist Conference. Here is the full text of the 'memorial' and the response from Conference.

The Ealing Trinity Circuit Meeting draws the Conference's attention to the 2016 centenary of the King's Hall, Southall, now part of the Ealing Trinity Circuit in the London District. Prominent in the High Street of this diverse west London

community and adjacent to a new Crossrail station, the 1,000 seat King's Hall church and site is now under redevelopment for church and community use. The King's Hall is the home of our oldest Urdu/Hindi-speaking Methodist society, dating from 1958. Both the Urdu/Hindi- and English-speaking congregations at the King's Hall thank God for the witness of Methodism in this place. Ealing Trinity Circuit Meeting asks the Conference to give thanks for God's many blessings in this changing community during the first hundred years of Methodism in Southall, to pray for the work of Christ in Southall, and to recognise the continued mission based at the King's Hall.

Response from Conference

The Conference thanks Ealing Trinity Circuit Meeting for this memorial and for drawing its attention to the centenary of the King's Hall. It joins with the congregations of the King's Hall in thanking God for the past century of Methodist witness in Southall and in particular for the church's pioneering work among Urdu/Hindi speakers. In sharing the Circuit Meeting's prayers for the future of mission in Southall, the Conference also encourages all those who are seeking to make innovative missional use of our connexional property in the spirit of "Releasing Property for God's Mission" and reminds Districts and Circuits of the opportunity also to apply for property grants in respect of suitable projects.

A Second Honour for Ethel Brand

Ethel Brand at Acton Hill has been honoured for a second time with the award of an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Ethel, who has already been honoured with an MBE, receives her OBE for her community work in London including her work with people from Dominica. In all, Ethel has given 37 years of voluntary service. She has also received the Meritorious Service Award from the Commonwealth of Dominica.

Award for the Kingsdown Messenger

Congratulations to Pam and Alan Smith who produce Kingsdown's monthly magazine, the 'Kingsdown Messenger'. Pam and Alan received the Silver Award in this year's Association for Church Editors competition for Best Magazine in the A5 Black & White Category against strong competition from entries from churches across the UK. The Award was presented to Pam and Alan by Rev Tony Miles during the AGM of the Association for Church Editors at the Westminster Central Hall on 14th May 2016. Well done, Pam and Alan!



From the Circuit Meeting

The most recent Circuit Meeting was held on 9th June at Hanwell.

First of all, Graham Preedy stepped down as a representative for Greenford. The meeting expressed its appreciation of his many years of service as a member of the Circuit Meeting. New members of the meeting, Hector Chidiya and Louise Singleton were appointed for Ealing Green, and Sylvia Murray for Acton Hill. All members of the meeting form the Managing Trustees of the Circuit and, as the Circuit is a charity in its own right must be registered with the Charity Commission.

David Street presented a finance report and a budget for the coming year (2016-17). As at 30th April the financial position was broadly in line with the budget and David indicated that that should also be the position at the end of the financial year. However, readers should be aware that the budget for this year was based on an income of about £281,000 and expenditure of £438,000. The shortfall of income over expenditure (£157,000) will be covered from the Circuit's Trust Funds. More of that anon.

The Circuit continues to have expenditure on the building at King's Hall (insurance, security etc) while its future is being determined. This has been treated as a 'mission grant' outside of the normal budget. The meeting decided, however that it should be brought into the normal budget in order to highlight the fact that the Circuit continues to have this on-going expenditure.

The budget for next year was based on having a total of 6 ministers. With Deacon Richard Goldstraw leaving to become Deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order, there will be only 5 ministers. The cost of a sixth minister has been retained in the budget on the basis that the Circuit is likely to employ pastoral support to assist with the work previously done by Richard. Although a job description has yet to be developed, any post would be advertised in the normal way. The target for applications would be supernumerary ministers, church workers etc.

As noted above, the Circuit has been covering shortfalls of income over expenditure from its reserves (ie its Trust Funds). This is clearly not a position that can be maintained indefinitely. Each year churches pay an 'assessment' based on an agreed formula to the Circuit. This, along with income from properties owned by the Circuit (ie some former manses and other let properties) forms the basis of the Circuit's income. In 2016-17 the total of the assessments to be paid will be increased by £10,000 to £180,000 as a first step towards bringing the Circuit's income more in line with its expenditure.

The meeting was also told that a new Circuit Finance Administrator has been appointed and will begin work in September. If any of our churches would like support from the new Finance Administrator, they should send a request to Rev Dr Jennifer Smith in the first instance.

Finally, on finance, David Street will soon have completed his term as treasurer and a new Circuit Treasurer will need to be appointed. David has, however done a lot of work to get the Circuit's finances on a firm basis and, with the appointment of the new Circuit Finance Administrator the new treasurer will be able to focus more on Circuit strategy than day-to-day book-keeping. If you would be interested in taking on the role of Circuit Treasurer, please contact Rev Jen Smith.

Whilst mentioning Circuit strategy, the meeting decided to change the structure of the Circuit Policy Committee. For many years this has been formed from the Circuit staff, the Circuit Stewards and one lay representative – originally there were three, but two stood down and were never replaced. In future, each church will be invited to send a representative to form an expanded Policy Group. These representatives will be able to take points for discussion back to their churches. In this way, the 'disconnect' between the Policy Committee and the Circuit Meeting can be overcome – at times discussions already had at the Policy Committee have been repeated at the Circuit Meeting. In addition, it is hoped that the new structure can also be used to identify and develop possible new Circuit Stewards.

Turning to King's Hall...

As was reported in 'From the Circuit Meeting' in the last edition of In-touch, bids had been received for the re-development of the King's Hall site. This process had involved marketing on the basis of a long lease with a licence to develop the site. In all, six bids had been received and four bidders interviewed. However, just two of these had complied with the terms of the offer.

In parallel with this process, on-going discussions are being held with the Methodist International Centre/Wesley Hotels who have shown considerable interest in the site. Architects acting for them have visited the site and have drawn up draft plans for discussion. In addition, the Methodist Church centrally is releasing funds for 'transformational property projects' which advance mission and also permit the Church to derive income from its property portfolio. There is a strong desire for the redevelopment of King's Hall to be one of the first of these projects. A project along these lines would be on a partnership basis with the Circuit receiving income after the initial development period whilst the trusteeship of King's Hall would most likely pass to the Methodist Council.

In outline, the Methodist International Centre/Wesley Hotels would develop King's Hall as a conference centre and church.

In view of the progress in the discussions with the Methodist International Centre/Wesley Hotels, the Circuit Policy Committee had decided to withdraw the sale of a lease for King's Hall to a developer and to focus on progressing discussions with the Methodist International Centre/Wesley Hotels. The meeting endorsed this approach. Authority to negotiate with the Methodist International Centre/Wesley Hotels was delegated to the Circuit superintendent, the minister for King's Hall, one representative from each of the King's Hall congregations, the

Circuit Treasurer and up to two further representatives from the Circuit Meeting. However, the Circuit Meeting would have the final decision over any agreement.

The centenary of King's Hall will be celebrated with a special Circuit Service on 15th October (*see details on page 5 of this edition*).

Some readers of In-touch will already have been to services conducted by Rev Randolph Turner who has begun preaching in our Circuit. Randolph is a minister of the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman with over 20 years experience and is exploring the possibility of transferring to the Methodist Church. He has also spent 8 years working for the Council for World Mission. A first step is for Randolph to seek 'Authorisation to Serve' from the Methodist Church. The Circuit voted to support him in this. Once 'authorised', Randolph would be under the leadership of the Circuit superintendent and would become a full member of the Circuit Meeting.

The Circuit is proposing to start regular sessions to address some of the training and development needs that have been identified around the Circuit. The meeting was asked to indicate preferred times for sessions to take place, the most popular being Saturday mornings followed by Saturday afternoons. In this context, the Circuit's Training Fund has been under-used during the past year. If churches feel that they, or some of their officers could benefit from training, they should consider making applications for support from the Fund.

Finally, the meeting heard that four members of the Healing Team that supports the monthly Circuit Healing Service at Greenford would be leaving. In addition, there was felt to be a need to train more Worship Leaders. The Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting was asked to consider how to encourage more people to take up these roles.

The next Circuit Meeting will be held at Ealing Green on 14th September at the earlier time of 7.35pm.

MHA Ealing Live at Home

You may not know, but Community Service volunteers have helped create a garden at Greenford for MHA Ealing Live at Home's 'Grow and Eat' project.

Food is now being harvested from the project and is being served at lunches at Northolt.

This is the kind of thing that should make you proud of your Circuit!

To become a member of MHA Ealing Live at Home and receive regular updates, send your details to ealing.liveathome@mha.org.uk.

‘Visions of the Sacred’

Methodist Modern Art Collection: Exhibition at Ealing Green

Rev Dr Jen Smith

We were not sure what to expect when the articulated lorry full of crated paintings pulled up outside Ealing Green Church on 6th April, 2016, a Wednesday morning. On the Monday we had received and set up two dozen large wooden display boards in the newly refurbished sanctuary, with one set of volunteers giving them two coats of white emulsion while another set filled screw holes and applied felt pads to the frames in an attempt to protect the new floor.

A scale model of the exhibition had looked utterly reasonable back in March, but now with the boards in situ the metres of floor space seemed to shrink visibly. Suddenly the project of preserving sightlines for the organ and choir, pulpit and table without either crowding works or isolating them looked daunting.

Most importantly, we wanted to curate the experience of these works of art: we wanted the succession of images to reveal the themes slowly, intentionally drawing a visitor into a sense of the sacred as she moved into the sanctuary. Alongside which, the usual busy life of an urban church building would continue. I began to understand our link MMAC trustee’s laughter when I had reported that all our plans were set and squared away: ‘Don’t worry, by all means plan, but everything changes during installation.’

In came the crates, and the paintings emerged. The Dalit Madonna, the Feeding of the Five Thousand: here were images of joy, pain, violence, and peace filling the space with colour and light. Striking just the right balance between encouragement and direction, our link trustee spent the full day working with us and the specialist installation crew from C’art. We did not get there on the first arrangement, but then suddenly everything fell into place. It took about six hours of experimentation and elbow grease, but by the end of the day we had an exhibition remarkably close to the scale plan, and ready to receive visitors.

Ealing Green Church had finished a major refurbishment in November 2015, and its exhibition ‘Visions of the Sacred’ launched the new building in the local community. The church had wanted to do something explicitly confessional to open its space, yet wanted to draw in those who did not think of themselves as interested either in art, or the Christian life.

With that in mind we felt that the Christian mission of this exhibition was not so much about asking visitors to appreciate the art (though many did), but about the ways in which we allowed the images to link to our thinking about current events and the life of our city. What would it be to read a story of refugees drowned in the Mediterranean, set against Maggi Hambling’s picture of Jesus calming the storm? How would the deep blue and frozen moment of violence in Clive Hicks-Jenkins’ ‘Christ writes in the dust’ make us feel about reports of so-called ‘honour killing?’

Whether people identify as religious or not, there are moments even in our image-saturated life when public opinion coalesces around a picture: a child's body on the beach, men raising a flag at the end of a battle, one person standing in front of a tank. Our hope in the exhibition at Ealing Green was that the works of art with which we were living during those six weeks would serve as moments like this from the life of Jesus. How would our shared response coalesce around these images?

We found in conversation that the works challenged us directly about our public responsibilities: How would we act, if someone was being hurt? How would we behave towards strangers? When have we acted selflessly together to do something kind? What has this to do with following Jesus Christ?

Over the course of the exhibition, nine groups organised private use/visits, including one visiting youth group from the French Reformed Church who slept overnight in the church, sleeping bags beneath the art. Over 230 individuals visited off the street while the church was open, with many offering strong responses in the guest book and spending long minutes engrossed in a single painting. Some wanted to be listened to and offered a cup of tea, others clearly wanted to be left in silence. An online self-administered volunteer rota worked surprisingly well, and we never struggled to staff the exhibition but for one day.

The exhibition also hosted a 200+ person 'Messiah from Scratch', with a full orchestra and singers raising money as they rehearsed and performed; local artists visited and regular worship thrived. Within the Circuit we have also used the exhibition for local preacher training and offered children's activities and non-traditional worship in and amongst the exhibition. Part of the preparation for this exhibition was 'Storms and Picnics', the Circuit-wide worship series during summer 2015 which used a different image from the MMAC each week. The series is in the process of being made available to download as individual acts of worship or a complete series, from the Methodist Church website. And as well, we hosted our local MP and Mayor, along with trustees of the collection, for a reception with talk about the public role of church, and public role of art.

Ealing Green had a budget of £5,000 for the whole exhibition, and came in only a little under with the major and worthwhile expense being specialist delivery and installation. The finance for the exhibition came from the Circuit's one-off 'Talents' grant offered to each church in the Circuit. While certainly this exhibition took planning over three years and strong work over the six weeks, it has raised our expectations of what our role in the community might be, and been well worth the effort.

When the same team returned from C'art to take down and crate the paintings in May, amidst the relief of a work complete there was real sadness to see these images leave our space. For any church or group planning an exhibition, be brave and have a go: the Art Collection is an extraordinary resource for our local churches, the trustees offer excellent practical support and advice, and the exhibition will exceed any expectation you have.

‘Visions of the Sacred’: A Volunteer’s View

Sue Garland (Barton), Kingsdown

After many months of planning it was great to see the exhibition finally in place and as a volunteer host to help welcome visitors. Even on the quietest wet weather days there were always some people visiting, ranging from maintenance men working at the church and parents collecting children who just cast a brief view at the pictures to others who had come from a quite distance and stayed a couple of hours deep in thought. There were members of other churches planning to host the collection themselves in future and even a couple of American tourists staying in Ealing who were wandering pas, popped in and were most appreciative of the opportunity. A few of the visitors were so impressed that they returned for further visits – one chap came three times!

One highlight of the exhibition was Rachel’s Saturday afternoon workshop which combined thought-provoking reflections with practical crafts enjoyed by children and adults alike. For myself, the hosting slots were also a pleasant opportunity to get to know better some of the folk at Ealing Green and to appreciate the beautiful airy nature of the newly refurbished sanctuary.

We are the Untouchables

Submitted by Kathleen Loveridge, Kingsdown

We are the untouchables.
No-one touches us.

They don’t touch, don’t look, don’t listen, don’t know.
Don’t want to know.
Don’t know what to think.

Don’t think about us.
Not worth thinking about.
Not worth anything.
We’re not worth it; not worth it.

He didn’t want to know, either.
Not who I was, or what I’d done, or how I felt.

He just wanted to touch, to help, to heal.

Response to Edward Burra’s ‘The Pool of Bethesda’ at the ‘Visions of the Sacred’ exhibition from the Methodist Modern Art Collection. Study day – Saturday 7th May, 2016.

EU Referendum: Conference Resolution

The 2016 Annual Conference of the Methodist Church passed a resolution containing the following text:

“The United Kingdom, as a result of the referendum on 23rd June 2016, has voted to leave the European Union. In this time of very significant change and uncertainty there is a need for leadership which seeks the common good and encourages people to work together, to respect one another and to uphold the dignity of all.

The Methodist Conference believes that the British Isles are enriched by diversity and celebrates the contribution made by those who have come from other parts of the world.

The Christian tradition calls for respect, tolerance, love of neighbour and hospitality to the stranger. All bear the responsibility of speaking and acting for healing, reconciliation, and mutual respect.

The Methodist Conference abhors and deeply regrets those actions and words which incite hatred and lead to the victimisation of groups within society and notes with concern that such actions and words have been normalised in recent public discourse. Believing that racism is a denial of the gospel and that to stay silent when others are abused is to collude with those who seek to promote hatred and division, the Methodist Conference calls:

- on the Methodist people to challenge racism and discrimination
- for a political debate which neither demonises any nor leaves the vulnerable (the foreigner, the immigrant and refugee) in danger of victimisation.
- on political leaders to work together for the good of the whole community putting the needs of the nation before party politics.
- on all those in positions of power and authority to hear the voices of those who have been marginalised and alienated and to respond to them in ways which offer real hope for the future.”

Conference requested that this statement be read in churches and spread as widely as possible. It is also available on the Methodist Church website www.methodist.org.uk/nationallife where it can be turned into an email which will be automatically sent to local Members of Parliament. Conference also encouraged Methodist people to join the campaign to wear an empty safety pin as a badge symbolising solidarity against racism (please see www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36661097 for details).

MWiB London District: Forum Report



Blossom Jackson - District Forum Representative

The year has been, has been a very busy one for Forum members and the Executive staff, with Anne Browse completing her first year as President and Linda Crossly handing over to Sandra Goodwin, who was confirmed as Vice President for 2016-2017, at the Forum held in February.

There have been other changes in the executive after sterling work by, Alison Judd, Area Officer - World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFM&UCW) and Liz Marriott, Communication Officer, completing their term of Office. MWiB, is the British unit for WFM&UCW.

Carolyn Lawrence, was elected WFM&UCW Area Officer and Judith Simms, Communication Officer from the New Church year.

The 13th World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, will take place alongside the World Methodist Council Conference in Houston, Texas from 29th August to 4th September. More than 800 women are registered to attend including 56 from the Britain and Ireland Area. The Assembly is a 'once in five years' opportunity to meet with women from all nine areas of the world, each one a member of the world-wide family of Methodism aiming to 'know Christ and make him known'; to share our stories, engage in prayer and worship and work for global social justice through the empowerment of women. MWiB have raised money to assist places for 10 people from Eastern Europe to attend the assembly.

District insignia – At the Forum held in February, two samples of pendants were offered for approval and agreement. These are for District officers and will be funded by a legacy so there will be no cost to Districts. The estimated cost is £5,000 - £7,000 for the 31 Districts and the pendants will bear the MWiB logo. It is anticipated that these will be available by the Autumn.

It has been decided that Training for new Forum members will commence, starting in July 2016 and will be offered in subsequent years.

Other activities that have proved successful are: - The MWiB Heritage and Archives exhibition at Epworth Old Rectory, and the Fund Raising Paul Field Concert for the Church of North India, both of which were held in May this year.

The Conference Fringe event, held in London this year, was also well attended.

For further information and details of MWiB activities go to the MWiB website – www.mwib.org.uk.

Acton Hill News

“The best ever!”

The Acton Hill Gospel Chorale under the expert conducting of Josie Moise gave a splendid concert on 9th July which was very well attended by friends and visitors who all agreed it was “the best ever!” Trudy Bango and Annette Calero were the stage managers spending days getting the church ready, arranging the programme, interval refreshments and in-house technical equipment (which was skilfully manned by Trudy’s son and partner). Josie, Sylvia Murray, Trudy and Francis Kenny (their brilliant accompanist) all sang solos which were enthusiastically received with well-deserved applause. The concert pieces were from the Chorale’s church repertoire and many gave the audience the opportunity to sing along with their favourite hymns and choruses. Charles Wiredu together with our Treasurer, Vinnette Small, welcomed visitors and ably managed the programme sales. The event raised around £400 and still counting! We are indebted to the Gospel Chorale for providing such an enjoyable and successful evening. Please note: Next concert **October 8th** in aid of Macmillan Nurses.

Acton Hill Flower Festival

Acton Hill held its fourth annual Flower Festival on June 11th and raised £417. The event attracted a large number of visitors, both local residents as well as church members and friends. The festival was expertly managed by Sylvia Jones and Deacon Richard Goldstraw who, unfortunately, could not be there on the day.

Sylvia, a recipient of many competition first prizes for her flower arranging, did a magnificent main pedestal in fresh flowers as well as numerous smaller arrangements with silk flowers. She was ably aided by her own star students from Acton Hill, Trudy Bango, Sylvia Murray, Julie Gwayu-Kyem and Annette Calero who each did many strikingly imaginative arrangements in both fresh and artificial flowers. Avon Jerrice did a beautiful arrangement in a card in memory of her husband whose anniversary fell on that day. Several of Sylvia’s friends from her flower club kindly donated stunning arrangements.





Ethel Brand was a key helper throughout the day doing a myriad of jobs to help it all run smoothly. Venetta Ferguson and friends made everyone welcome by manning the tea and coffee so wonderfully. Generously donated homemade cakes were on sale, as were home-grown garden plants. Our own minister, Jennifer Smith, did two arrangements even though she was unable to be there on the day. Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make this such a splendid and successful event.



Photos: Gerald Barton

Iris Axon Concert Series, Acton Hill

Jane Schopf, Acton Hill

Entering its 11th year, the **Iris Axon Concert Series** welcomes **Richard Boothby** (founder of the Viol Consort, Fretwork, and Professor of the Viol at the Royal College of Music) on **September 4th at 4pm** playing the newly discovered solo sonatas by **Georg Philipp Telemann** (1681-1767). Richard is an international virtuoso viol soloist. This promises to be an outstanding concert. The Viol was popular in Elizabeth I's time and is noted for its reedy tone. A member of the guitar family, it has frets and is played like a cello with an underarm bow. During the eighteenth century a considerable solo repertoire developed in both Germany and France.

On **October 2nd** we welcome **Haruko Seki**, piano, who has performed internationally including the Wigmore Hall and St John's Smith Square. She has also recorded for the BBC and German television. *The Times* has commented on her playing as "bathed in tonal beauty". This is Haruko's first appearance at Acton Hill and we are delighted she has accepted our offer to play. This will be a concert to remember.

On **November 6th** **Helen Karikari**, the British born Ghanaian operatic soprano will delight us with a programme of Romantic arias and songs. Helen trained at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and has performed internationally in America, Japan and Chile. She has also appeared at Opéra de Baugé in France and Hampstead Garden Opera. Helen is a rising star and you will fall in love with her rich voice.

Do come along and join us in this series which runs until June 2017– the first Sunday of every month (except January) at 4pm-5pm. Entry Adults £6.00, Concessions £5.00, children £2.00. There are crèche facilities available. Details on the church website www.actonhillurc.org.uk

Iris Axon Concert Series: 2016-17

Acton Hill Church

Corner of High St and Woodlands Ave, Acton W3 9UB

First Sunday of the Month at 4pm

September 4th	Richard Boothby the newly discovered Telemann solos sonatas for viola da gamba
October 2nd	Haruko Seki – piano
November 6th	Helen Karikari – soprano
December 4th	Yoshiko Miyagawa – soprano Lydia Newlands - piano
2017	
February 5th	Gisela Meyer – piano
March 5th	The Kingsway Trio (clarinet, viola and piano)
April 2nd	Richard Boothby solo viola da gamba
May 7th	Yura Zaiki – piano

Programmes at door £6.00, Concessions £5.00, Children £2.00

God is Our Guide: We Will, We Will, We Will be Free!

Kathleen Loveridge, Kingsdown

Travelling back from Dorset, I stopped at the small village of Tolpuddle, one of those places on the list headed, 'To be explored one day', and did just that. It's a name that sticks in the memory as somewhere every Methodist should visit once.

Why? You might ask.

Tolpuddle was the home of a group of six agricultural workers who in 1832 dared to challenge the status quo; to stand up to the landowners who kept wages low and costs high. They decided that they could no longer bear to watch their wives and children destitute and starving, so they took their grievances to their employers.

It was a time of severe rural poverty throughout much of Britain, but wages in Dorsetshire were significantly lower than the average. Having heard their case, the Tolpuddle landowners agreed to pay the local going rate, ten shillings (50p) a week, but as soon as the men returned to work they reneged on the deal. Even the local vicar, who had been a witness to the agreement, said nothing when wages were later dropped, first to seven, then to six shillings a week.

The men were determined. Something must be done about it, and if no-one else would help them, they would do it themselves. And so in late 1833 they initiated the Tolpuddle Friendly Society of Agricultural Labourers, which involved swearing an oath of secrecy about the Society's activities. Though trades unions had been legal for some time, there was still little organised action amongst farm workers and they were unaware of the risks of oath-taking. Legislation had been passed some years before against such oaths to prevent soldiers and sailors absconding from service in the Napoleonic Wars, and now this legislation was misused to convict the six men of mutiny and conspiracy.

The trial was a travesty, conviction inevitable, so determined were the local gentry who sat on the jury or appointed those who did. There was a real fear amongst many landowners that Britain's labourers would rise against their masters as had happened in France in the time of the Revolution. Nonetheless, the sentence – transportation to Australia for seven years – was so harsh and so obviously unjust that eventually their case was taken up in Parliament and the men were given free pardons. But not before they had all served at least half of their sentences in the miserable conditions of hard labour in Van Dieman's Land (now Tasmania) which one of the men, George Loveless, later recounted in a paper 'The Victims of

Whiggery.’ The Whigs formed the Government of the day at the time of the trial, but it was the Tory Government that confirmed their sentence. Later, however, many Whig Radicals joined the protest campaign and it was their party that finally agreed to offer the free pardon.

And where does Methodism come into it? At least four of the Tolpuddle Martyrs were members of the Methodist Chapel which had been erected in the village in 1818, and three were Local Preachers. It was local Methodists – most of them also poor working men – who kept the martyrs’ families alive after the breadwinners were transported. And it is largely through the efforts of the Methodist people that so much of the story is still known and celebrated. The annual Festival is now a joint enterprise between the Methodist Church, the TUC and the Tolpuddle Martyr’s Trust, taking place on the weekend of the third Sunday in July, including music, speeches, stalls, a grand procession and a memorial service in the Chapel. The Trust is also responsible for the small museum (free to enter) and the Martyrs’ Trail through the village.

On his return to England, as well as ‘The Victims of Whiggery’, George Loveless also produced a pamphlet entitled ‘The Church shown up’ – that is the Church of England as established by law. In it he was particularly vehement about the administration of the Poor Law which was largely the responsibility of the clergy who, he said, ‘had no appreciation of the real cost of living.’ Only ‘12 out of 200’ local clergy had voted for the passage of the Reform Bill intended to improve the conditions of poor working families. It was, of course, much the same argument that John and Charles Wesley had used in founding the Methodist Society, but they had hoped to improve things from within the Church.

It’s worth re-reading the final passage of George Loveless’s pamphlet. ‘Times would change,’ he argued, ‘and those who had a hand in creating wealth would get a proper return for their work. . . . In conclusion, sir, I would assure you, that from the Bible may be extracted all those principles of morality and justice, the practice of which would increase the happiness of mankind; and that, ultimately . . . it will rise above all opposition, and will go down with revolving ages, enlightening the faith, enlivening the hope, enlarging the charity, enkindling the love, upholding the zeal, and directing the conduct of men until the end of time.’

If he returned today, I wonder how far George would think we’d got in achieving this vision.

You can find out more about the Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum and Memorial Cottages by going to www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk - Editor

Three Days to Rio!

Athletes Family Homestay - The London 2012 Olympics

Blossom Jackson -MWIB Forum Rep- London District

First off all, here is wishing the 300 strong team GB athletes 'Good Luck' in Rio! It would be very remiss of me however, not to wish the iconic Usain Bolt and Team Jamaica- from the land of my birth, success and to continue doing what they do best!

The reason for this reflection however is to journey again to the 2012 Olympics, held here in the UK and its 'Athlete Family Homestay Program', which was recorded as the most successful delivery of its program since its introduction!

The program was one strand of 'More than Gold'- a charity which has organised the activities that has enabled Christians and churches to serve their communities during previous Olympics and Commonwealth games. Its *raison d'être* has been to encourage individuals and families to host the families of participating athlete, in their homes at no cost to their guests! It was an honour and a privilege to be a part of the planning team who assisted the then Methodist Connexional Project Officer, Ish Lennox in the implementation of the program. The team consisted of a small 'More than Gold' team, representatives from many churches and representatives, charged with other areas of work, including members of the Board of Executive; Program, Communication, and Engagement Committees plus a Prayer Team.

My work included monthly meetings leading up to the Olympics; being kept updated on the 'Get Set' road tours; training of Host Team Leaders for the Reception Centres; recruitment of hosts and volunteers for home visiting of prospective hosts and the manning of the Reception Centres; getting updates on guests from the sending countries and the launch of the program at Trafalgar Square in June 2012, where I was able to stand at the back of the crowd that included some of the hosts, waving our Union Jacks (this event can still be viewed on You Tube).

The program turned out to be a voyage of discovery as well as my being able to take part in a delivery of this important service. So it was of great satisfaction that I was supported and encouraged by the then President of Methodist Women in Britain (MWIB), Jill Baker, the London District of the Methodist Church, the Chairs, the ministers and particularly members of my own Church - Kingsdown in Ealing Trinity Circuit, many of whom helped to man one of the Reception Centres - too many to mention! Included in the activities of my service were; attending all the road shows and participation in the dissemination of knowledge about the program at these events; training potential hosts and Reception Team Leaders; making a podcast that was broadcast; speaking at the London District Methodist Church Synod and other churches; training interdenominational team leaders for the Reception Centres and carrying out home visits to prospective hosts accompanied by a member from Kingsdown, Kathleen Jarrett. The home visits included the vetting of hosts and accommodation, briefing of families and ensuring that any safeguarding issues were resolved especially where there were children in the

household. In every visit we were overwhelmed with the goodwill of people who were prepared to welcome strangers into their homes and to bear the cost.

The Reception Centres where hosts could meet, greet and collect their guests were beautifully decorated and transformed into places of welcome and we all helped to prepare lunch for those who manned the Centres offering refreshments to all. There are however two volunteers I would like to focus on who helped at the Reception Centre in Central London. The first is a boy named Kofi Afful, then aged 11 years old, who asked if he could be one of the volunteers at a Reception Centre after hearing me speak about the scheme during a service at my church. After consultation with the organising team, it was decided to encourage Kofi, but also to take into account safeguarding and so it was decided that his adult brother would cover him whilst he was on duty. What an amazing opportunity for this young boy, who is making great strides in our church's Boy Brigade!

Secondly, on one of my regular visits to the Reception Centre in central London, I was told by the Team Leader on duty that my grandson, Bertie Pennington, who at that time was a teenage music undergraduate at Brunel University, had protected her when both she and Bertie were on duty! It transpired that a man had come in from the street and had started to make a nuisance of himself with her whereupon Bertie had firmly seen him off the premises. I was very proud of my grandson's action!

The picture is that of a guest from Canada, whom Lita Stoll and I had met at Heathrow before taking him to the local Reception Centre. The other two people, dressed as Grenadier Guards on seeing Lita and I in our oversize T-shirts with the 'More Than Gold Emblem wanted to hear more about our scheme and posed for a picture with us!



There was a final 'Thanksgiving Service' held in central London during the Autumn of 2012, when '**More than Gold**' certificates were handed out for all who had taken part in this worthy and memorable program, followed by a sharing of our experiences with representatives from Scotland in Edinburgh, who were preparing for another 'More than Gold event for the Commonwealth Games in 2013! This has been an important milestone in my life, for which I am eternally grateful and it came about, by default with the then minister of my church, Rev Roger Dunlop asking me 4 years earlier whether I would be willing to become the Women's Network representative at Kingsdown. The rest they say is history!

More than Gold: *'They will show that you will be given Praise and Honour and Glory when Jesus Christ returns- 1 Peter 1: 7 - one of the captions on the **More than Gold Certificates**, issued in 2012.*

Does Your Toilet have a Twin?

Gerald Barton. Editor

We recently decided to renew our bathroom at home. The old bathroom had been installed by a previous owner over 20 years ago and over time had become rather 'tired'. Having it done was a bit of an upheaval since it involved stripping out everything including the wall tiles and ceiling. However, after a total of six weeks or so, we now have a spanking new bathroom. And very nice it is too.

A little while ago, in a church in Acton we saw some certificates declaring that their toilets had been 'twinned'. At first this idea of 'toilet twinning' seemed quite comical. Nonetheless we thought we'd take a closer look and decided that as we now have a very nice new bathroom we would have it 'twinned'. So what's this all about?



'Toilet Twinning' is a charity run by Tearfund. While we take our bathrooms and toilets for granted, 2.4 billion people (about a third of the earth's population) don't have access to safe hygienic toilets. Many people just use a field which, for women in particular is not a very safe thing to be doing. According to the World Health Organisation and Unicef, 1 billion people don't have access to any sanitation at all and openly defecate. This isn't exactly hygienic and leads to a variety of health problems which have knock-on effects on people's ability to work or study. Unicef estimates that poor water and sanitation result in economic losses of £153 billion annually in developing countries, or 1.5% of their GDP. Furthermore, more than half of primary schools in developing countries don't have access to water and sanitation. Without toilets, girls often drop out of education at puberty. In fact, poor sanitation is one of the world's biggest killers, affecting women, children, the old and sick the hardest.

For a donation of £60 (or more) you can have your toilet 'twinned' with a latrine in a developing country. Teams from Tearfund work alongside local communities to promote good hygiene and improve access to decent toilets and clean water. When a latrine is built, a photo is taken by Tearfund's team and its longitude and latitude coordinates are sent to Toilet Twinning HQ. When people make donations they receive a certificate of the latrine their toilet has been twinned with, along with its GPS coordinates so they can look it up on Google maps. Latrines are twinned *after* they've been built, so the funds raised may *also* be used to support water and sanitation projects in other communities – even other countries.

Having made our donation, our new bathroom is twinned with a latrine at Dix-Dollars, South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The certificate sits proudly in the bathroom.

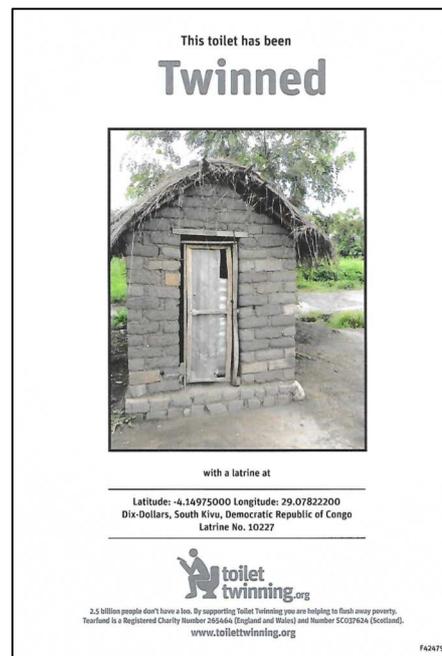
Oddly enough, through the microfinance organisation run by Care International, Lendwithcare, I recently made a couple of loans to women in Vietnam who wanted to invest in latrines for their families. Usually, loans through Lendwithcare go to support people's businesses, but these attracted my attention because they were a bit different.

In addition to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tearfund works with communities to provide latrines and better sanitation in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Cambodia, the Phillipines, Guatemala, and Haiti.

To find out more about toilet twinning go to www.toilettwinning.org. The process is very simple. You can, of course twin your church toilets as well. After all, we all need to 'go' and good sanitation is vital for healthy lives.

November 19th will be **World Toilet Day** – contact Toilet Twinning to get a 'Big Relief' kit and help flush away poverty.

info@toilettwinning.org
0300 321 3217



Healing Retreat

Please come and join the Healing Team from Greenford at the Healing Retreat, entitled: "**Refreshment - Refreshing the parts only God can reach**"

The retreat will be led by Sarah Swift, Chaplain at the Christian Healing Mission.

Venue: Ruislip Manor Methodist Church, Torrington Road, Ruislip HA4 0AS

Date: Saturday 12th November

Time: 10am - 4.00pm

There is no charge, but please note that lunch will not be provided.

If you would like to attend the retreat, please let Elizabeth Burke know by **Saturday 22nd October**, either by email: eburke5455@gmail.com or by telephone: 020 8575 6388.

Remember in Autumn

compiled by Mary Newman, Pitshanger

This summer our beautiful English countryside, parks and gardens exploded into colour, with hues of green and yellow; meadows filled with daisies, buttercups and poppies.

Soon we shall see the reds and golden leaves of Autumn.

Perhaps it is a good time to consider all the things for which we should remember to thank God.

I was sent the following by a friend who attends St Giles Church, Shermanbury and it is taken from their prayer diary:

Give Thanks

For friendships – past and present
For life's journey with all its ups and downs
For our minds and powers of thought and intellect
For animals and insects – creatures great and small
And finally for our faith that sustains and refreshes us
In times of sadness and of joy
Thank you, God

I was watching TV and saw a beautician in India who had been subjected to a horrendous acid attack by two men. Her face was so badly affected that she said that she stayed indoors for 18 months. During this time her mother wouldn't allow her to see herself in the mirror or any other object that could show her reflection.

Her face will never look the same as it used to, but this courageous young woman has now opened a beauty salon to help other victims of this evil crime

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is a magnet for attracting peace of mind; forgiveness to those who hurt you most.

Seen in the window of Ealing Boards and Timber; March 2016

On March 4th my Muslim friend, Thuraiya and I went to see Maralyn, our keep fit teacher, to offer condolences on the loss of her best friend, who had died in childbirth leaving a new born baby boy and a two and a half year old girl.

We were naturally very upset, Thuraiya said to me, "Let's go into a church and pray."

So that is what we did; a Muslim and a Christian lighting a candle and saying a prayer for a family we had never met.

"We didn't ask Maralyn her friend's name," I said.

"It doesn't matter," Thuraiya said. "God knows her name."

While we were in St Mary's C of E Church in Acton I came across the following: a lovely invitation which I hope is true of all of our churches:

Open Invitation

Come when you can - we know the pace and pressures of life today.

What is on offer here is unconditional.

There may be times when you don't come due to circumstances in your life or maybe our style doesn't suit you – but don't be estranged from us. You will be welcome when we meet again.

If you want to come home for Christmas or Easter, that's all right too.

We are here

We are pleased to share your happy times

We love your weddings and baptisms

We hope you tell us when you are in trouble.

What is on offer here is always available

In the Spring "Remember" I told you of my aunt's kindness to prisoners of war. She could also be very strict!

My brother and I had a happy childhood in a very quiet area in Herefordshire in spite of being separated from our mother for five years after our father died. Mum

came to see us whenever she could; probably 2 or 3 times a year. I did worry a lot in case she was killed by another bomb. We prayed for her every night. We were able to walk freely whenever we wanted, climb trees and pick flowers. I never heard about "stranger danger" till we came back to London.

In the Autumn we used to walk a mile or so to pick chestnuts in the woods. On one occasion, when I was about six, I asked my aunt if I might take a bag of chestnuts for my teachers. My aunt said I could but if Miss Seymour offered me any money in return, I must refuse.

Well, Miss Seymour did offer me a choice of a penny, or a book about Aladdin. I told her I would like the book. After all, my aunt had said I mustn't accept money!

I didn't know if I had done a bad thing but in case I had, I read the book secretly and never showed it to anyone.

I'm still not sure if I did wrong.

Decisions in life are not always clear cut, are they?

A prayer for those in need

Heavenly Father, as we look around our world we see many people in need of our prayers.

There are people who, at this very moment are being persecuted, even killed for standing up for the Christian beliefs.

We pray for an especial blessing on all who endure suffering for your sake.

We pray for all who are lonely, hungry, sick in body or mind;

For the bereaved and for the victims of fraud or violence.

May your healing, comforting hand be upon all who are in need at this time. Amen

The example that Jesus sets us

Jesus chose

to give in a world that takes,
to love in a world that hates,
to heal in a world that injures,
to give life in a world that kills

He offered

mercy when others sought vengeance
forgiveness when others condemned and
compassion when others were indifferent.

He trusted God's abundance when others said there was not enough.
With each choice he denied himself and showed God was present.

We need to attempt to follow that example and remember what he did for us.
And we need to remember that, every time we survey the wondrous cross on which
he died, for us. Amen

Taken from Rekha Cheriyan's sermon at Pitshanger, March 1st 2016

Some thoughts about anxiety

Elizabeth Cheney wrote:

The Robin and the Sparrow

Said the robin to the sparrow,
"I should really like to know,
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so."
Said the sparrow to the robin,
"Friend I think that it must be,
That they have no Heavenly Father,
Such as cares for you and me."

Word for Today, 16th January 2016

Readings for Autumn

A prayer for help Isaiah 33 v 1 – 16

A hymn of praise to God Jeremiah 10 v 12 – 16

The promise of the Holy Spirit John 14 v 15 – 31

Circuit Directory Update

Forthcoming Events around the Circuit

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

September

- 3rd Sat 16.00 **Circuit Welcome Service at Hanwell**
for Rev Shirlyn Toppin and Rev Yemi Jaiyesimi
- 14th Wed 19.35 **Circuit Meeting at Ealing Green** (note start time)
- 17th Sat 10.00 **Kingsdown Book Fair**
12.30 *Proceeds to All We Can*

October

- 15th Sat 14.00 **King's Hall Centenary Celebration**
at Hambrough Primary School
For further details see page 5 in this edition of In-touch

November

- 12th Sat 10.00 **Healing Retreat: "Refreshing the parts only God can reach"**
16.00 Ruislip Manor Methodist Church (*see p23 for more details*)

Articles for '**In-touch**' Issue No 78 (December - February) 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

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