



# Enfield Methodist Circuit



Edmonton Methodist Church



## Summer 2025 Newsletter



Grange Park Methodist Church

To know God and  
make him known



Ponders End Methodist Church



# Message from Revd Paul Weary, Superintendent Minister



Dear friends

As we enter into the last quarter of this Methodist church year, we say farewell to friends who will be leaving us.

After 5 years in Enfield, Deacon Jacqueline will be moving to the Staines and Feltham Circuit, where she will be part of a new team ministry with the new superintendent minister. Jacqueline's leaving service will be on Sunday 27 July at 4pm at Ponders End. Please come to show your appreciation for Jacqueline and her ministry with us. Of course, Jacqueline has much preaching to do around the circuit before then, so take the opportunity to speak with her while you can. We wish Jacqueline and her family God's blessing as they relocate to west London.

Last year we said farewell to Revd Jonathan Dean as he began his new role as Chair of the London District. This year Jonathan's co-chair, Revd Jongikaya Zihle, is moving to pastures anew. Part of Jongi's remit is working with circuits in the north of London, and he has been a great friend of the Enfield Circuit over the years. The district leaving service for Jongi is at Wesley's Chapel, City Road on Sunday 6 July at 4pm. I will be attending; if you would like to go, let me know as the district is asking for numbers.

Last, but not least, we have just received the news that following a staff reorganisation, Toni Fielding, MHA Communities Scheme Manager, will be leaving as her post is being made redundant. As I write, we are seeking an urgent conversation with MHA regarding the future of the MHA projects in our churches, and Toni's priority is to work with us to secure their continuation. We greatly value the work that Toni has been doing among us and we wish her every success for the future.

In the words of Psalm 121, our prayer for Jacqueline, Jongi and Toni is that as they move on "the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

With every blessing,

Paul



# News From Trinity

## Green Lent at Trinity

This year for lent we all focussed on being “more eco“. To help us along, we had a different theme for each week in lent and a few bullet points to consider. To map our progress we were invited to write down our personal eco



achievements on coloured egg shapes which we then hung on our eco trees. The bare trees slowly blossomed and finally we displayed them as part of our Easter decorations in church.

Thanks to all who participated in the game, we hope you enjoyed playing and that some ideas will be sustained throughout the year.“

## Hot Cross Buns!

On Holy Saturday, Trinity gave away 180 hot cross buns and chocolate eggs to passers by, along with a hot cross bun card (that looked like a bun!), explaining the significance.

It felt a really worthwhile action of outreach. Many thanks to those who came to help.





# **Taizé Worship**

**a service of song, silence  
and contemplation**

**All are welcome**

**At Trinity Church**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm**

## **Bible Study at Bush Hill Park**

We have been enjoying a Monday morning Bible Study for quite a while now. It is open to all and usually between 8-11 people meet together – starting at 10am to 11:30am. We meet in peoples homes with refreshments on arrival.

Paul and Helen lead and we have enjoyed a variety of courses and we have learnt and shared together and we have relaxed and appreciated each other more. If you have been wanting to know more of Gods word, to understand and to grow as a Christian, we can recommend Bible Study. Yes, we can grow on our own but it's also wonderful to learn together. Please speak with your ministers or leaders in your Church. The time is now to grow and be more effective for the Lord who loves us.

Carolyn Freeman

## **Soul Food**

Trinity was treated to an amazing piano concert on 26th April, by Ukrainian professional pianist and composer, Yaroslav Oliinyk. Bursting with energy and all-encompassing emotion, he made the piano come alive for us, playing without any music, and mostly his own compositions.

We had a social time at the Ukrainian Hub first, and then went up to the church. There were many visitors and, by the end, the audience numbered 55, plus a one month old baby who was silently mesmerised by the sound of the piano.

Yaroslav gave the concert free of charge. Donations in appreciation amount to £488 to date, which will be divided between the church and the Hub.

We are hopeful that he will return next year.

Nancy Hands



## **TLG (Transforming Lives for Good) News**

Summer 2025

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

### **Active coaching resumes at Chase Side Primary**

I rejoicingly report that Janet Clipsham has resumed active coaching at the Chase Side Primary School, after a long wait. Her sessions with her coached child are going well. Please pray for God's continuing guidance and direction in her invaluable work there.



## TLG Thursday

On the last Thursday of every month, TLG centres all over the country are invited to join in online for a half-hour prayer session at 9am. May I ask you to spare a thought and a prayer for us then, as we collectively lift up to God the cause of children and young people, families and schools.

## TLG Sunday at Christ Church URC

I report with profound gratitude that Rev. Ruth Dewis of Christ Church URC in Chase Side, Enfield has offered TLG the morning service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August, to share worship and the TLG mission with the congregation there; may I ask for your prayer support for this service, please. It would be an added bonus to see you there, if possible. The service starts at 10:45.

Have a blessed summer.

Richard Ockan

 **PONDERS END METHOSIT CHURCH**  
*Presents*  
**INTERNATIONAL  
DAY CELEBRATION**  
**Theme UNITY IN  
DIVERSITY**  
**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2025 | From 3pm**

- Ponders End Methodist Church invites you to celebrate our 19 nationalities with our Diversity Song and a journey through our multicultural history.
- Join us afterwards for a free international barbeque on our church grounds – everyone welcome! .....

**Ponders End Methodist Church warmly welcomes everyone to this free community event. Come celebrate diversity with us!**

**Sabbatical – Paul Weary**

It is a requirement of the Methodist Church that all ministers in active service undertake a three-month sabbatical every seven years. The church defines a sabbatical as “a period of release from ordinary ministerial duties, in addition to normal holidays, for the purpose of pursuing an approved programme of study, research, work or experience. It is intended as a time for re-equipping, refreshment and renewal.” (<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/ministries/sabbaticals/>) On 27<sup>th</sup> December 2024 I duly began the fourth, and last, sabbatical of my ministry.

Ministers are required to submit in advance to the District a ‘sabbatical prospectus’ which outlines the aims and objectives of the sabbatical and the activities to be undertaken. My overall theme was ‘Methodism in the Global City’ and I wanted to look at the mission of the church in four Asian cities (Manila, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong), especially with people ‘on the margins’. I also stated that I wanted to spend time with family and friends, visit new places and meet new people. My wife Mary Ann was able to take eight weeks leave from work, so this would be a rare opportunity to travel together.

On the first day of my sabbatical, we travelled straight to the Philippines where we would spend our first two weeks. Our base was Mary Ann’s home town of San Simon, Pampanga. We arrived just in time for Mary Ann to turn up unannounced at her high school class reunion, which was exciting for everybody; we saw in the New Year with fireworks (after attending a Watchnight service which included the Covenant Prayer); and had side trips to Manila which included buying outfits for my daughter’s forthcoming wedding.



We then flew to South Korea and Japan, where we were accompanied by Mary Ann’s cousins Arlyn and Armie and Arlyn’s husband Sito. Seoul was bitterly cold when we arrived (-16°C) but dry and sunny and we enjoyed exploring this amazing city, with its mix of the ultra-modern and the traditional. In Seoul we met up with my old colleague Revd Donghwan Kim, who brought us to Sunday worship services (in English and Korean) and the following day took me to the Korean Methodist Church HQ to meet some of the staff.

After five days in Seoul we flew to Japan, landing in Okinawa, which is the most southern of the



Japanese islands. The mild, subtropical climate was a welcome respite from Seoul's chilly winter. Our main purpose for travelling to Okinawa was to go whale-watching, an activity on Mary Ann's 'bucket list', but the sea was too rough for sailing and the whales will have to wait another day. From Okinawa we flew to Kyoto, which is a beautiful and historical city. It is also very walkable, so we did lots of sightseeing as well as touristy activities such as dressing in traditional Japanese attire for a demonstration of a tea ceremony. Near our hotel there was an Anglican church, where we were offered a warm welcome by the small and very international English-speaking congregation.

Our final stop in Japan was Tokyo. We travelled there in comfort on the Shinkansen 'bullet train', which zips along at speeds up to 200 mph. Tokyo is reckoned to be the world's largest city, with a population of 37 million, which is four times that of London. We stayed in Shinjuku, one of the main shopping and commercial areas, which has the world's largest – and consequently busiest - railway station. The station connects into a maze of underground shopping malls and (we discovered) is a place where it is very easy to get lost. Despite the crowds and ultra-modern high-rise buildings, within a ten minute walk of our hotel there was also the beautiful and peaceful Shinjuku Gyeon park, which (like our own parks in London) had formerly been royal gardens. We also visited Ueno Zoo and got to see the giant pandas Xiao Xiao and Lei Lei, which was a part consolation for missing out on the whales.



After a total of eighteen days exploring South Korea and Tokyo, we returned to the Philippines, where the weather was considerably warmer – in the mid 30's. One of the highlights was a family reunion to which all the descendants of Mary Ann's maternal grandparents were invited. About ninety were able to attend – which was around half of this very large family! We worshipped at several different churches, both Methodist and non-Methodist, and I had opportunities to meet with ministers and lay leaders, including sitting in a couple of sessions – admittedly uninvited – of the Executive Committee of the Asian Methodist Council, where there were a number of bishops and presidents of various Methodist conferences. We enjoyed a memorable road trip through the remote Cordillera mountains, browsing/shopping in Manila's malls and markets (there is even a word for it: 'mallng', the activity of hanging around in a shopping mall), and an all-too-brief overnight stay in a beach resort beach in Nasugbu, Batangas, where you can swim in shallow waters surrounded by fish. (And where I lost my wedding ring in the water...)



Eventually we had to say *paalam* (goodbye) to the Philippines, but we weren't quite finished as we had booked a five-day stopover in Hong Kong on the way home. This was an opportunity to enjoy meals with friends who are resident in Hong Kong, as well as visit the newly built, twenty storey, Methodist



International Church. We were warmly welcomed by Revd Eden Fletcher and his staff and enjoyed worship in this beautiful, modern church building, as well as sharing hospitality with the large Filipino community which is part of the congregation.

But eventually we had to return to the UK, as Mary Ann had to go back to work. I still had another month left of the sabbatical, which I spent in reading and reflection, worshipping at different churches each Sunday, day trips (we have just joined English Heritage) and catching up on filing/shredding.

I bought a new camera for the trip and took thousands of photographs, which I am now sorting through, and I'm hoping to organise a presentation to share some of these and a little more about some of the remarkable people we met and the places we visited. It was an honour, wherever we went, to be able to bring greetings from the Enfield Circuit of the British Methodist Church, and in return to bring the greetings of our fellow-Methodists back to Enfield. It was a reminder that we are members of a remarkable, global Christian family.

My thanks must go to my colleagues who helped to 'fill the gap' while I was on sabbatical leave and who ensured the smooth running of the circuit and the churches in my care. Thank you to the members of the Sabbatical Support Group and to the stewards of the churches who worked so hard in my absence. If I can mention two people in particular, thanks to Revd Papa Owusu for assuming the superintendency, and Helen Lunn for being the first point of contact for the churches and convening the SSG. As they say in the Philippines, *maraming maraming salamat* (thank you very much!)

## **A Visit to the Turin Shroud Exhibition in London**

The linen cloth known as the Turin Shroud is the most studied ancient artifact in history. It's also possibly the most controversial. Many believe it to be the actual shroud which covered Jesus in the tomb and was found by his disciples after his resurrection. Others think it's a medieval fake. Its major feature is the imprint of a naked man, front and back, who had suffered crucifixion. The body also shows marks of pre-crucifixion injuries described in the gospels, resulting from vicious scourging and blows to the face, plus blood flows from a cap of

thorns. If genuine, it's of huge importance to the Christian faith, as it provides a visual confirmation of the gospel accounts and shows the crucifixion process in graphic detail. I'm a member of the British Society for the Turin Shroud and I give talks occasionally about the subject. The shroud is rarely exhibited, but when I learned that a travelling exhibition had been created which has as its centrepiece a striking full size replica of the shroud, I hoped for an opportunity



to see it. Two years ago the exhibition was shown at two venues in London, one being St George's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Southwark. I visited the exhibition then and it was a moving experience. In April this year it returned to St Georges and I went again, this time accompanied by our friend Sue Urwin from Grange Park church. Sue had attended one of my talks on the shroud and her interest had been sparked by the research that had been carried out on it, and the evidence for its authenticity, which I had presented. She was impressed and moved by the exhibition. When the original shroud was photographed for the first time in 1898 it was discovered that the image was a negative and the photographic process actually turned this into a positive, which was much more realistic and detailed than anyone had realised before then. The exhibition also has life sized negative images of the front and back views, a replica of a Roman flagrum, used for scourging victims, plus actual Roman nails. There was also a great deal of detailed information on all parts of the image and the scientific testing done on it over the years. The evidence for it being authentic is very strong, and extensive examinations and testing

carried out on it in 1978 proved that it wasn't a painting or a scorch and contained real human blood on the wounds. However, when the cloth was tested by radio carbon dating in 1988 to find the age of the cloth, the results showed it was 14th century and it was announced as a fake. Since then, the dating process and the analysis of the data has been found to be faulty and many people have agreed the result was incorrect and should be ignored. Very recently, a new non destructive dating method has been developed. This was used on a spare sample of the shroud and it was dated to 1st century. Most scientists who have studied it now accept that the image could only have been made by wrapping a real dead man who had suffered crucifixion. So who can he be? All options for the origin of the man in the shroud don't hold up to scrutiny, except as Christ's burial cloth. No one knows how the image was

created. It's only a slight darkening of the topmost fibres. No other dead body has been known to leave a detailed imprint onto cloth. The shroud is unique. Recently a lab in Italy used a burst of high energy UV light on a small piece of linen. This created a mark on just the topmost fibres, just like the shroud image, but to do this over the whole shroud would need an impossible amount of energy and how could a dead body emit a flash of energy like this? Is it proof of the resurrection? Some of you may have watched BBC Songs of Praise on Easter Sunday, which came from St George's Cathedral. This programme included readings by a member of the Young Adults Group about Jesus' resurrection and the finding of his burial cloths. Unfortunately, an opportunity was missed to mention the shroud, or show the full size replica of it which, at the time of the recording, was on display a few metres away in a side chapel of the cathedral. Perhaps many in the congregation took some time while they were there to view the exhibition and ponder Christ's suffering, as shown on the shroud.

Colin Barratt

## Deacon Jacqueline writes....

Dear Enfield Circuit family,



It's hard to believe that five years of your invitation has flown by, and I am in full swing with planning arrangements to move out of the circuit this summer. I thank God for all the wonderful opportunities we have had since 2020 for fellowship and serving together.

## Ministry in the Covid-19 Pandemic

This was my welcome service in Edmonton Methodist Church 5 years ago.





The pandemic called into question a lot of assumptions about community and connection while at the same time stirred up in us all kinds of responses. I am so thankful to have had this chance of living out my diaconal calling of Prayer, Witness and Service to God's people at this very unprecedented time in the history of the world. Whether serving in the food hubs and coffee mornings, in the worship life of the circuit, in building community or in meeting people where they are, this season has been both humbling and deeply rewarding. It has been a true joy and privilege to get to know you and to share Christ's love to others in our community and beyond.



We are still living in extraordinary and unprecedented times and as a circuit, we have had several changes, reviews and discussions. We've gone from the constant motion of mission and ministry at the St John Methodist Church (turned The Space project) and now to the stationary pulse of a shell of a building waiting to be sold. However, I love how we can feel God's presence in all seasons and phases and at the same time see the nature of God through the lenses of the different circumstances.



In Philippians 3: 13, the Apostle Paul talks about forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, so despite the sticky moments, the circuit leadership team is committed to supporting all the churches in their strategies for mission and evangelism as well as making space to listen and encourage each other's faith journeys and make each moment count.

For me, this has meant shifting the mission imperatives from the Elsing estate to Ponders End and North East Enfield, as well as preaching across all the churches in the circuit, connecting with Methodist and Uniting women via the Methodist Women in Britain (MWIB) and serving in various committees around the Methodist connexion, enabling people to discern the call of God on their lives to serve in different ministries.



My family and I have been blessed with your love and support and prayers over this time. I remain convinced that I was sent to the Enfield circuit to serve you in the Pandemic. The Pandemic is long over, and the vision for the Space project is no longer viable. So, I write this last article for the Newsletter, not only as a protracted goodbye but I also want to encourage and challenge you to place your hope and trust in God's provision so that you may be blessed by God and be a blessing to others. I am indebted to so many of you for the support you have given me and allowed me to flourish in my ministry here- from the superintendent minister and ministerial colleagues, to the whole of the amazing staff team, to the wonderful team of volunteers and sponsors-both the visible and invisible. To you all, I offer these simple but heartfelt words- **Thank you!**





I would like to say a special thank you to Rosalie, Sandra, Nancy and Maggie from Ponders End, Bob from Trinity, Collin from Grange Park, Cathy and team from Bush Hill Park, Ann Collard and Lucretia from Southgate and Haniffa from the community, who have made it their sacred mission to support the Ponders End Food Hub.

This is a bittersweet moment for me, having to say farewell to you in Enfield and looking forward to the start of a new season in the Staines and Feltham Circuit. And for this I ask for your continued prayers.

My farewell service will be taking place on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 4:00PM at Ponders End Methodist Church. **You are all cordially invited.**



# GOLDEN CONNECTIONS



## A weekly space to connect with others

Wednesday's 10:30am - 12 noon

Grange Park Methodist Church  
Old Park Ridings



refreshments



crafts



games,  
puzzles and  
quizzes

Followed by Soup and Conversation  
from 12 noon till 2pm



## A Thoughtful Imprint'



What a privilege it was to be present at Edmonton on Saturday 5th April for the EDI seminar, to listen to Revd Dr Claire Potter.

She took her title from the last verse of the beautiful hymn StF 662, 'Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?'

'Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith

And believe it could be different?

Will you share your views using words of grace?

Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?'

Claire talked about the mark we leave - our legacy - as Christian people, on our families, communities and the world, and questioned what mark our churches leave and how 'church' is perceived. She emphasised how important it is to leave not only a thoughtful imprint but a truthful one.

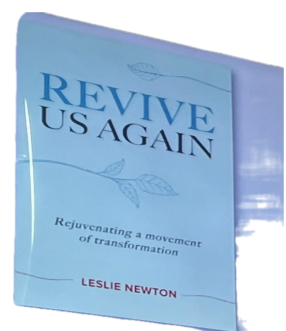
She began with a photo of a concrete path through her local park, on which someone had walked while the cement was wet, leaving indelible footprints: a very thoughtless imprint, causing damage.

Claire candidated for ministry from Smethwick Methodist Church in Birmingham: a wonderful fellowship that had become the only welcoming place of refuge for the Caribbean Community arriving on the Windrush in the 1960s. Ostracised, excluded and denied housing and decent jobs in Birmingham, these resourceful and resilient people found warmth, love, food and practical help at Smethwick. This profoundly affected Claire, her vocation and inspiration. We must make a positive difference by what we say and how we act towards those we meet, and particularly to those in need.

We learnt truths about John Wesley that are not widely known. Although revered and idolised by many - even considered saintly by some - she said it is important to remember he was a flawed individual, as we all are: a failed missionary in fact, who made huge mistakes and had some quite damaging ideas. But God used him so powerfully as to bring about a social and theological revolution.

Claire recommended a book by Leslie Newton, called 'Revive Us Again: rejuvenating a movement of transformation'. It is an invitation to be inspired by Wesley's message and methods and see how, by reclaiming these treasures, Methodism and the wider church may once again transform society. Perhaps we could all benefit from reading it.....

Nancy Hands





**METHODIST CHURCH  
ENFIELD CIRCUIT**

INVITE YOU TO

**A STUDY DAY FOR TRUSTEES AND STEWARDS  
DAY**

Facilitator

**SALLY RUSH**

*Learning and Development Officer*

Date

**Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Time

**10 am – 3 pm**

Venue

**Southgate Methodist Church,  
45 The Bourne, Southgate, N14 6RS**

**ALL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STEWARDS FROM  
OUR CHURCHES ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND.**

**There is no cost for this training, and a free lunch will be provided**

**For more information, contact:** *Revd Papa Owusu at 07939405322, or via email at  
papa.owusu@methodist.org.uk*



**PONDERS END METHODIST CHURCH**

*Presents*

# **INTER NATIONAL**

*Service*

**THEME**

# **UNITY IN DIVERSITY**

**PREACHER: THE REVD ALBERTA KONADU-YIADOM**  
(METHODIST MINISTER – BARNET AND QUEENSBURY CIRCUIT)

**Sunday, 27th July 2025 at 11:00 am**

**Please join us as we celebrate our diversity and give thanks to God**



# Puzzle Time

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*Worship opportunities across the Circuit*

As well as the usual Sunday services, why not try some of these different opportunities for prayer, worship and fellowship across the Circuit?



Ghanaian Worship – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month 3pm-6:30pm at Edmonton Methodist Church

“Words & Worship” at Grange Park on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 6.30pm



Tea service at Bush Hill Park on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at 3pm



“Open Church” at Grange Park Wednesday from 10am-12 noon for quiet prayer, reflection and conversation



Let Us Pray every Tuesday 10.00am via zoom (Contact Helen Lunn for details)



Soup and conversation at Grange Park every Wednesday 12noon-2pm



Bush Hill Park Wednesday Fellowship fortnightly from 8<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm



Faith and Fellowship at Southgate Thursdays 2pm-4pm. Bible Study, Fellowship and Tea