

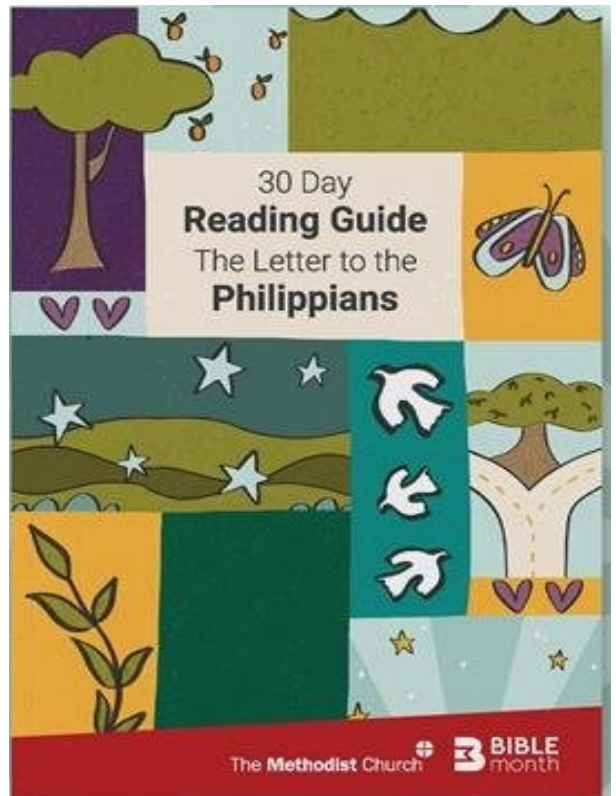
CHELMSFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

May & June 2026 Volume 42



Community litter picking in Halstead

JUNE BIBLE MONTH
Order your copy on line



Where is your ministry taking you?
Could you become an
Anna Chaplain?

“
Anna Chaplains have a wealth of lived experience, are good listeners and are responsive to people with complex needs.

CHELMSFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT
ACTIVITY DAY
27TH JUNE 2026

FREE For 7+ years old **FREE**

Essex Outdoors Bradwell

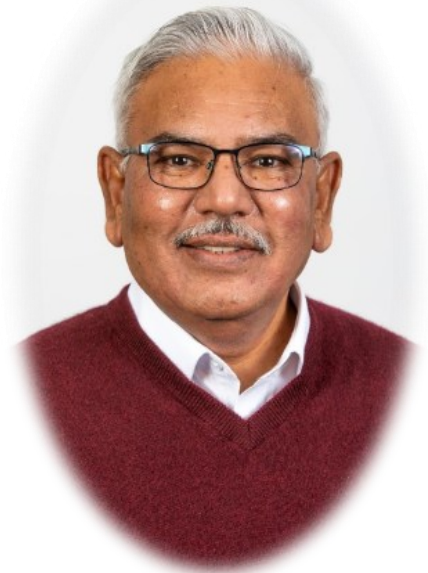
More info: Jennifer.Walters@methodist.org.uk

Contact: jennifer.walters@methodist.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM REV ASIF KARAM

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. As we continue in this joyful season after **Easter**, I have been reflecting on the beautiful Hebrew celebration of **Mimouna** today as I write this letter, which comes just after **Passover**. Mimouna is a time when doors are opened, tables are shared, and people come together with generous hearts. Families welcome neighbours and even strangers. There is food, joy, music, and a spirit of togetherness. It is a celebration of freedom, new beginnings, hospitality, and unity. This simple yet powerful tradition gently invites us to live and reflect on whether our churches are truly open, whether our hearts are open, and whether people feel genuinely welcome without any condition.



The message of the resurrection is not only something we speak about; it is something we live out. The risen Christ meets all people in community, in welcome, and in love. As we journey through this Easter season, may our churches be places where people of all ages experience that joy, warmth, and a deep sense of belonging.

I want to thank each one of you for all that you are doing; yet you continue to serve faithfully. You generously fulfil your calling and commitment, often quietly and without recognition. Please know that your faithfulness is seen, valued, and deeply appreciated. You are keeping the light of Christ shining in your homes, churches and communities. Of course, these are challenging times. As we look around the world today, we see armed conflicts in many places. Right now, the United States spends about a trillion dollars a year on its military, followed by China with more than 300 billion, then Russia with 150 billion. These vast sums finance arms and armies, and the weapons have never been more deadly ever before. *Pakistan hosted peace talks last week, seeking to bring both the United States and Iran to the negotiating table; while there were hopeful efforts, the outcome has not yet been what many had prayerfully desired.*

Many people still feel fearful because of wars and the unsettled situation in different parts of the world. Yet God has promised that one day there will be no more wars. That promise brings hope to our hearts. As Billy Graham once said, “Earth’s troubles fade in the light of heaven’s hope.”

On a personal note, thank you so much for your kindness during my recent unexpected surgery. Your cards, flowers, emails, and messages meant a great deal to me and my family. By God’s grace, I am recovering well. I am also very grateful to those who stepped in and to all the churches that continued their ministry so faithfully during my time of recovery. A special word of thanks to Karen, who continues to handle the circuit office work so brilliantly. We are truly thankful for her dedication and care.

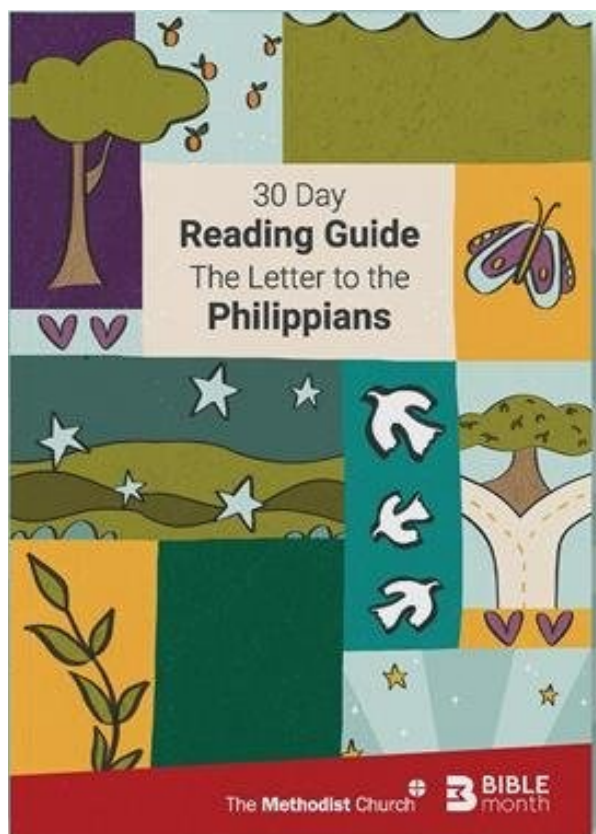
Friends, as we look ahead, we have four important connexional months before us. May I gently encourage every church to think about how we can support, accommodate and welcome young families. Even small intentional steps, prayer for young people, simple gatherings, or new ideas can make a difference.

At the same time, I want to honour our present congregations, elderly members. You are among us new legends of the old legacy. Your faith, wisdom, and commitment are a great blessing. Your help to guide and encourage the next generation, and your blessed presence, faithful roles are deeply valued and sincerely cherished. It is often said that food and fellowship make room in each other's hearts. Hospitality is love made visible, and the table is where it begins. In sharing food, we share life, and in sharing life, we reflect God's grace.

As we look ahead to June, which we will celebrate as Bible Month, we hope to learn from the book of Philippians growing together as a church, learning how to harvest and shine with humility, living with joy and contentment, building unity and collegiality, and sharing warmth and encouragement as we live gracefully, serving and thriving in our communities.

Let us without fear continue to walk together with open doors, open hearts, and open hands, trusting that the power of the risen Christ is still at work among us. With gratitude and every blessing,

**Yours in Christ,
Rev. Asif Karam | Superintendent
Chelmsford Circuit**



Daily reading guide

A free booklet which lets you read the whole book a small chunk at a time, with daily reflections, questions and a prayer prompt.

[Click Here to order your book.](#)

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/the-bible/bible-month/>

Welcoming the Stranger – A Reflection

Over the past few weeks, my household has been gently—and at times rather noisily—putting into practise what I often preach on: welcoming the stranger. We have welcomed a rescue cat, Bella, into our home: a small, watchful creature carrying with her the unknown contours of a previous life. I think I'm doing quite well: accommodating her needs and taking things at her pace. Cookie, my companion for the last four years and who came to me as a kitten, is not doing so well!



Bella arrived with a mixture of timidity and fierce independence, as though she had learned to survive by expecting little and trusting even less. For Cookie, this house is familiar territory; for our newcomer, it is a landscape of uncertainty.

As you might imagine, helping these two learn to live together is requiring patience, attentiveness, and no small measure of hope. At first, there was distance. Separate rooms, cautious glances, the language of hisses and hesitation. Each cat, in her own way, was asking the same questions that lie deep in the human heart: *Is there space for me here? Am I safe? Can I trust what I do not yet understand?*

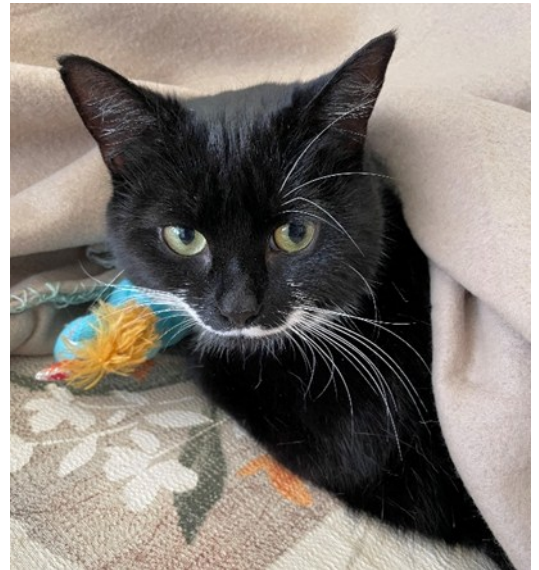
The early days were full of careful choreography. I introduced them slowly—sharing scent before space, offering brief encounters before longer ones, providing reassurance in small, consistent ways. Progress was not measured in dramatic breakthroughs but in subtle shifts: a moment of calm where there had been tension, a willingness to remain in the same room, a quiet curiosity replacing fear. These tiny signs became reminders that trust grows not through force, but through gentleness repeated over time.

Watching these two cats negotiate their shared home, I have been struck by how deeply this mirrors the work of welcoming the stranger. Making space for another—especially someone whose story we do not yet know—is both a practical and a spiritual act. It involves a kind of self-limiting love: choosing not to dominate the space, but to share it; not to insist on immediate comfort, but to allow time for trust to grow. In theological terms, we might recognise echoes of *kenosis*—the self-emptying love we see in Christ, who does not cling to power but enters fully into the vulnerability of relationship.

There is also something here about identity and belonging. My new cat, Bella, does not yet know, in any deep sense, that she is safe. Cookie does not yet know what it means to share what has long been hers. And yet, day by day, they are learning. Not through coercion, but through repeated experiences of provision and peace. It makes me wonder how often we, too, need to relearn that we are held within a

larger grace—that our place in God’s household is not secured by defending it, but by receiving it as gift.

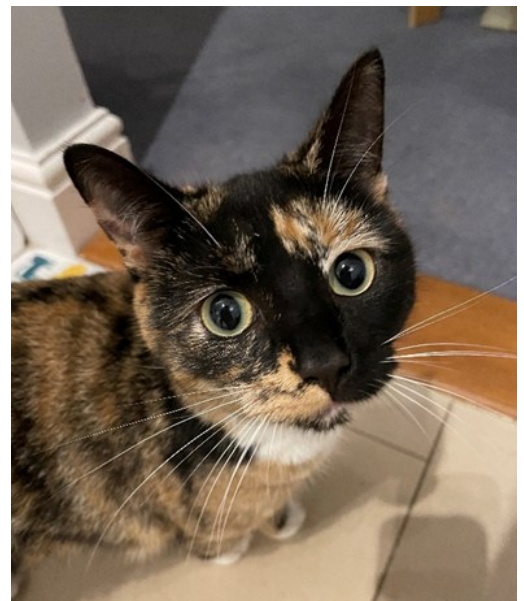
As a church community, we are often engaged in our own forms of “introduction.” New people join us, bringing their stories, their questions, and sometimes their uncertainties. Some arrive carrying wounds from previous experiences; others come tentatively, unsure of what they will find. At the same time, those who have been here longer may find themselves adjusting, perhaps even wondering how the shape of the community is changing. These moments can feel delicate. There may be hesitation, or even resistance. And yet, they are also sacred opportunities—to practise hospitality, to extend patience, and to trust that God is at work in the spaces between us.



Bella

Welcoming the stranger is not simply about politeness or friendliness, though those things matter. It is about recognising the image of God in the other, even before we know their story. It is about making room in our routines, our expectations, and sometimes even our preferences. It is about trusting that the God who welcomed us—long before we understood what that meant—invites us to do the same for others.

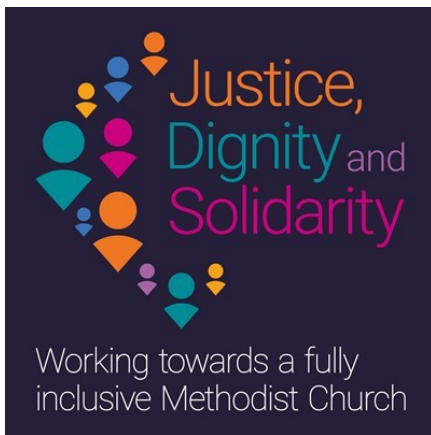
In a world where many feel displaced, unseen, or unsure of where they belong, the church has a profound calling: to be a community where strangers become guests, and guests become family. This does not happen overnight. It happens through small, faithful acts—remembering a name, offering a listening ear, making space for difference, allowing time for trust to grow. It happens when we choose curiosity over suspicion, generosity over defensiveness, and hope over fear.



Cookie

As I watch these two cats slowly learning to share a home, I am reminded that hospitality is rarely tidy. It is often slow, sometimes awkward, occasionally noisy. But it is holy work. And every small step toward welcome—whether in a household or a church—we participate in the expansive, gracious love of God, who in Christ has welcomed us all.

Rev Jennifer



CIRCUIT EDI GROUP

On 21st March 2026 all Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Church Champions were invited to join a meeting on zoom.

Opening devotions:

Verses from 1 Corinthians 12: (12, 14,17, 19-20, 25-27)

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is there are many parts but one body....so there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.

Prayer

Loving God,

Hear our prayer for all those in our world
who seek to further your will here on earth -
those who work for peace,
who campaign for justice,
who strive to relieve poverty,
who fight for the hungry -
all those who struggle for the oppressed, the exploited,
the under-privileged and all denied their proper rights.
Prosper their efforts and give them inspiration
so that they may challenge people everywhere
to give of themselves in the service of others.

God of justice and mercy – hear our prayer. Amen (P4Asi p556)

After introductions we shared thoughts about how to be a “Sensory Aware Church” using information and slides from a recent Connexional training session. These slides were shared with participants after the meeting along with the EDI Champion Job Description (which can be found on the Circuit Website and other resources and training – Methodist Church website.

The plan is to meet at most 3 times a year on zoom to share ideas, support and resources. **Interested? val_carter08@hotmail.com**

Val Carter

Circuit EDI Champion

THE BREAD OF LIFE

On Sunday 19th April at Halstead we all had a really good time making bread during the service.

We were talking about the fact that is made up of different components, all in their own right. When mixed together they become an even more important element , a loaf of bread. So it is that the different components of our beliefs when brought together form the most important part of our faith.

Jesus is the Bread of life and will always be there to love , help and support us in everything we do.

The children from the Sunday school helped Val Carter make the bread and we then cooked it. At the end of the service everyone ate some of the hot bread. It was delicious .

Heather Williams



A busy time in Maldon

Over the past few weeks there has been lots of activity at Maldon Methodist Church, and we have been able to welcome lots of people into our building from outside of our regular congregation.



In the middle of March we held our first beetle drive as part of our fund-raising for the work needed on our church roof. We had 30 people supporting the event from the church and from the wider community, and I know that it was a lot of fun. People have already been asking about the next one, which is in the diary for

Saturday 13th June at 2pm.

Everyone is very welcome to come along and no previous experience is required!



The regulars from Maldon's Monday toddler group had a special Easter treat before they broke up for the school holidays. All the children joined in for an Easter egg hunt in the church and managed to find all 100 hidden eggs in about 5 minutes! They had a lot of fun filling up their Easter bags with eggs and everyone went home with a lovely chocolate egg and a booklet with the Easter story.



On the Easter weekend we opened up the church on the Saturday morning for an Easter Fun activity drop-in. It was lovely to welcome so many families from the local area into the church and they enjoyed all the craft activities, especially rolling and cutting their own Easter cookies which were then baked for the children to decorate. This was something new for Maldon but the church really got behind it and there was a lovely atmosphere and warm welcome for everyone who came along.



Dementia Training—28th March 2026



A very simple but effective test highlighting the challenges that those with dementia face with lack of co-ordination.



The Dementia Training held on Saturday 28 March 2026 at South Woodham Ferrers was very successful. **Sincere thanks are extended to Val Carter and her trainer, Kieun Kwon for delivering an informative and practical session that enhanced our understanding of recognising and supporting those affected by dementia.**

Kieun Kwon has worked for Runwood Homes as their Dementia Lead for 22 years and she has spoken at National and International level about Dementia care and dignity.

We are also grateful to the team at South Woodham Ferrers for their warm hospitality and refreshments. Opportunities such as this are invaluable, not only for training but also for strengthening connections with colleagues across our churches. Many thanks to the sixteen people who took time out on a Saturday to attend this training—it was much appreciated.

TABLE TOP SALE



SATURDAY 16TH MAY

10AM TO 2PM

**MALDON METHODIST CHURCH
HIGH STREET
MALDON**

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

**IN AID OF THE
CHURCH ROOF FUND**

Tables £10. To book a table contact
Mark Grundy
tmarkg@gmail.com



**Maldon Methodist
Church**



Beetle

Drive



**Saturday 13th June
14:00 For 14:30 start**

Maldon Methodist Church, High Street, Maldon



£5.00 per head
Light refreshments available

**Proceeds in aid of
Church Roof Fund**

No Need To Book



Cafe W

Belong. Believe. Build Up.

A time of worship for everyone

Cafe-style with refreshments

Every 2nd Sunday @ 4pm

Starting 10th May

Trinity St Mary's School Hall
South Woodham Ferrers

All Are Welcome

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR WEDNESDAY GET -TOGETHER

NO NEED TO BE LONELY!

Step inside, get comfy, meet new people and enjoy an afternoon of friendship and fun.

Speakers - Games - Quizzes
2pm till 4pm

No need to book!
Just £1 per person.
April 29th, May 27th, June 24th & July 29th continues



Halstead Methodist Church New Street,
Halstead CO9 1DB
(opposite Halstead Public Gardens)
Use the side entrance door.
Queries email Karen:
chelmsford.circuit@gmail.com




Evangelism at justice-seeking events

We are Methodist

The Methodist Church

We are committed to being evangelistic and justice-seeking: we want to share the good news way beyond the walls of our buildings, including to justice-related events such as demonstrations and marches.

[Click Here for resources.](#)

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/>

HALSTEAD

Sunday School

Theme - 'Go With God'



In Sunday School the children looked at the idea that to grow strong roots in God we must sow the seeds of truth in our individual lives. The children drew the truths about God that they wanted to remember to help them in their own lives.

To demonstrate how things can grow from small seeds, each child planted cress seeds in individual pots. They then took them home and watered them. They watched them grow, thicken and cover the whole pot. The children realised how from small

seeds anything can grow. This is how the love of God grows in our lives and leads us, in faith to follow him.

Heather Williams

Easter Sunday



On Easter Sunday, Halstead Church had a visit from the esteemed Detective Sherlock Holmes.

He came to see us as he was investigating the case of the missing body and he wanted to know if we had any idea where the body might be. At one point the body had been buried and everyone present saw the body in the tomb. By the next morning the body had disappeared into thin air – where could it be? Sherlock Holmes interviewed some of the witnesses but the guards had no idea what had happened and neither did the other people seen in the area. This was a total mystery and everyone was baffled by the disappearance. Had the body been stolen? Did friends of the dead man come in the middle of the night and take the body - nobody knew.



Heather Williams

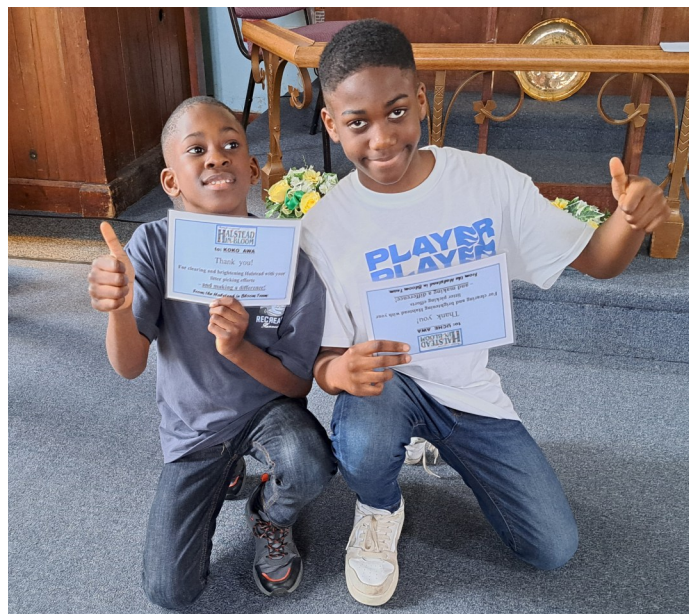
Community Litter picking

In February I was asked if I could assist with finding something that Uche could do in the Community, as had been suggested and encouraged at his school. On approaching Halstead in Bloom we were given Hi Vis vests, litter pickers and special plastic bags. Uche's younger brother, Koko, requested that he also join us so the three of us spent 2 trips out searching out discarded litter – it did not take long and within an hour or so had a full bag. On our second trip out on a Saturday morning the boys collected two bags of litter and were congratulated by several strangers in the street on their efforts which was very encouraging. On Sunday 12th April I was pleased to present both boys with Certificates from Halstead in Bloom for them to take into school.

Well done Uche & Koko.

Eventually there was a break through. A woman came to see Sherlock and told him that the man was not dead as everybody thought but that he was risen and she had seen him. At first Sherlock Holmes did not believe her, but when she took him to see for himself, everyone realised that indeed she was right, Jesus had risen from the tomb and was alive and well, so the mystery was solved.

Thank you Mr Holmes, Jesus is alive for all of us today.



ANNA CHAPLAINCY



This is now the third year of five to which I was commissioned, over halfway! So, it is important to review what has happened so far and look forward to the next stage.

Anna Chaplaincy is the most amazing way to share the love of God, the message of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

*I visit care homes and join in a sing-along,
I talk with a manager stressed by staff sickness,
I join a relative's meeting and hear about guilt,
and sometimes I just wash up the cups.*

*I share a monthly church service in homes,
I am supported by a faithful team,
I say prayers by the bedside of the dying,
and sometimes I just hold hands.*

*I hear the struggles of poorly paid carers,
and listen to a woman whose violent partner is out of prison,
there are staff whose children have special needs,
and sometimes I offer a hug.*

*I sit in the coffee shop in the afternoon,
I chat to passers-by and staff.
They ask, "Why do you have a tablecloth?"
and sometimes "Can I sit with you?"*

*Three times bereaved spouses have come to the table,
in tears and confusion and loneliness.*

"I have to be strong for the family..."

"But sometimes I just need to cry."

"What is there after this life?"

Continued....

“What do Methodists believe about...”

*“I’m a racist, is that so bad?” Lots of questions
and sometimes I don’t have an answer.*

*I have a tablecloth so people can find me,
I am present so folks can find God in the everyday,
I make visible the unseen and sidelined,
and sometimes I just sit and pray.*

*I visit the lost and the lonely,
I talk with the “difficult” ones,
about life at the end of the journey
and sometimes forgiveness comes.*

*I work with dementia trainers for staff
relatives, carers and pastoral visitors.
I hear things that can help, and the things that are hard
and sometimes I just make the tea.*

*So, what is next in this amazing ministry?
In two years I’ll have finished my stint.
Will I pass on the baton to new workers?
Sometimes I plan to just stop.*

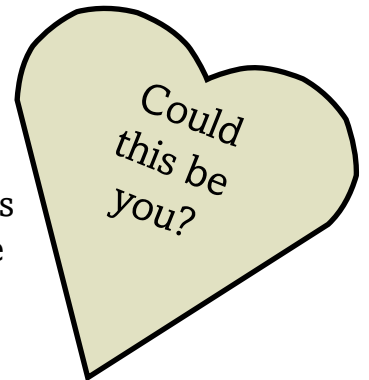
Well, there you have a snapshot of my days – the hours have increased from 7 to 15 a week (on the same pay – £0) and I love every moment. Those who accompany me to the residential homes will attest to the moments when God’s presence is tangible and we meet with the true spark of humanity within the shell of frailty and dementia.

I hope that you will feel able to continue supporting this ministry during the next year when we must discern the way God wants us to go. To move on and recruit new Anna Chaplains or move on and close down. Each decision needs a plan.

Val Carter

Interested? Click on the link to read more...

<https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk/>



Churches Together in Witham and District Easter Witness Service 2026

The Churches in Witham – Church of England, Catholic, United Reformed, Baptist, Assemblies of God and Methodist - came together as one body to proclaim the hope of the Resurrection at our annual open-air Churches Together Easter Witness Service held on Holy Saturday at the Grove Precinct.

The service, coordinated by Revd. Howard Schnaar, was led with warmth by Revd Dr. Jonathan Pritchard. The service began in a spirit of unity. Together we lifted our voices in song with old hymns and new, with music played on the keyboard by David Brett, affirming our shared faith in the Risen Christ.

Representatives from our different congregations shared in reading passages from the Bible from the events of Good Friday to the joy of Easter morning. Hearing the familiar story through many voices reminded us that the Gospel belongs to us all. Some who passed by stopped to listen.

Revd Lorna Bantock delivered a powerful message, she challenged us to carry Easter hope and New Life secured by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, back into our streets, workplaces, and homes. Just before the message, A Melodrama based on the Sacred Song, “Were You There When they crucified my Lord?” was enacted yet again by Stanley Njie, David Cole-Njie and Olive Anofienam. The atmosphere was deeply moving.

Revd ‘Femi Cole-Njie led us in closing prayer and the blessing. We’re grateful to everyone who took part, read, sang, acted, and served in other ways.

Fellowship continued as Holy Family Church hosted the sharing of hot cross buns. Over tea, coffee, buns, and conversation, churches, we believe became family. Thanks to all who came and witnessed together. The tomb is empty. Jesus is alive. And our Town heard it!

Churches Together in Witham and District Easter Witness Service 2026



STEWARDS GATHERING 25TH APRIL 2026

Thank you to Rev Jennifer and Val for bringing our stewards together on Saturday, 25 April 2026. It was great to see so many attend and feel appreciated; our hosts truly made sure our efforts were recognised. It was suggested that we hold regular stewards gatherings to learn from each other and to talk about things that would be helpful. The team identified several subjects but a popular one was training on IT. Watch this space....



BRADWELL PILGRIMAGE

4TH JULY 2026

LIVING STONES

BRADWELLPILGRIMAGE.CO.UK

SAVE THE DATE AND MAKE A PLAN TO JOIN US AS WE
JOURNEY TOGETHER ON THIS YEAR'S PILGRIMAGE.

4th July pilgrimage

'Living Stones'

Join us for the annual Bradwell Pilgrimage & Gathering, a day of faith, fellowship, and reflection in the beautiful and historic setting of Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex.

This cherished tradition brings together people from all walks of life to celebrate our shared spiritual journey.

A Day of Worship & Community

Starting at St Thomas' Church, Bradwell-on-Sea, the pilgrimage follows a scenic route to the ancient Chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall, one of the oldest churches in England,

founded in AD 654.

The day will be filled with:

Inspiring talks and reflections

Live music and worship

Time for prayer and contemplation

Refreshments and fellowship (Bring a picnic)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WITHAM AND DISTRICT CHILDREN'S HOLY WEEK

The Holy Week Holiday Club held from Monday March 30 to 01 April at the Witham Methodist Church was a remarkable success. There were nineteen children in total that attended the three day session. The theme was “Heroes of Holy Week” – Jesus being the Super-Hero.

The Heroes focused on were Simon of Cyrene: An African from present day Libya who carried Jesus’ cross; Joseph of Arimathea: A wealthy, former secret disciple who provided the tomb for Jesus’ burial and Mary Magdalene: A devoted follower and the first witness to Jesus’ resurrection. The Bible lessons explored stories of these heroes, emphasising their faith and courage.

The Memory Verse for the three-day session was Philippians 3: 10-11 - “That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his suffering, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” The children impressively recited the verses from memory.

The Club programme included a variety of activities: namely songs and prayers; Interactive elements, Ice-breaker games, and drama; Creative crafts, colouring crosses, painting stones, making of empty tombs, and baking resurrection rolls. Snack time was a special and enjoyable part of each session.

On the final day, the children gave presentations and two parents kindly brought gifts to share. Prizes were awarded to the three children who read the memory verse (from memory) without a single mistake. It was wonderful to witness the fun and laughter of the children and their desire to learn and understand the importance of Holy Week in the Christian calendar.

The Holy Week holiday club was led and supported by a dedicated team. Grateful thanks go to: Revd Howard, Beverly, Carla, Petrina and Mouttou from St. Nicolas, Church of England and to Revd Femi, Janis, Olive, and Maggie S from Witham Methodist.

Overall, the Holiday Club was a successful and meaningful experience, allowing children to learn about the Easter story through fun and creative activities.

Glory be to God for His guidance and love, and for shining His light upon the children in the Witham community and surroundings. We give thanks to God for leading us through the course of the Three - Day Holy Week Holiday Club.

Amen! Maggie Shumba
On behalf of the Team



Jesus Christ Superstar

Witham Public Hall 21st April 2026

This was the second of six performances of this Rock Opera by Witham Amateur Operatic Society, but the first production at Witham directed by Jimmy Hooper, who himself had played Jesus in *Godspell*, half a lifetime ago. The hall was around 90% full of people, but as the musical themes were introduced and the singing began it was 110% full of sound. The Musical Director did really well with the five piece band that she had, Lloyd Weber is not known for writing music in easy keys and rhythms and the transition from song to dialogue was smooth. You couldn't describe this as a family show, with the concepts of betrayal, rejection and suicide, building up to torture (39 lashes) and execution; however, for a small stage and merely 28 players and a handful of singers it was certainly an accomplished performance.

In fact, one would question whether it's meant to be enjoyable, when the final curtain fell there was no celebratory or congratulatory stance from the cast, more a sense of relief that it was over. As the audience went out, there seemed to be an unspoken parallel to the original ending of Mark's Gospel: "What just happened here?" with perhaps a remaining whisper in the ears of the audience: "Could We Start Again Please? (*Mary and Peter long for forgiveness and a return to innocence*).

It is more than likely the haunting memory of Mary singing: "I don't know how to love him" would be the melody that many would take home and remember. It was performed beautifully, an easier song than the more lilting: "Everything's Alright" where Mary comforts Jesus, to the annoyance of Judas. Judas himself was a powerful singer, but unfortunately at times the sound system needed taking down a notch for clarity.



At our Witham Church we have sometimes enjoyed hearing and seeing the YouTube clip of "Hosanna" played out on Palm Sunday, and in this public hall performance Caiaphas gave the Priests viewpoint in exactly the right profound way. His costume was not as exuberant (i.e. no big black turban) but it was certainly

well presented in a semi-modern style; as all the costumes were. 'Jesus' had an amazing vocal range and his falsetto was astonishing. Perhaps one day we may be treated to a coda to the musical, so that the ending becomes John 20: 19-31, instead of John 19: 41, after all, the song: "Peace to you" already exists! Then 'Jesus' could end his repertoire on a more upbeat note.

Continued/....

One of our recent reminders at Hatfield Peverel was a song: “He never said” by Martyn Johnson (<https://youtu.be/e4QyByYgJq8?si=nQuVXVSKjmkBTNZI>) which describes in the chorus the sayings of Jesus, and in the verses the things that he didn’t say. A careful approach is needed in scene 10 at the temple when Jesus is overwhelmed by supplicants. Apparently, Jesus in the script says: *there are just too many of them*, well, I didn’t catch that on this occasion, but I remember hearing it previously. Furthermore, when he sings his last song: “I Only Want to Say” part of this chorus includes: *Once, I was inspired, now I’m only sad and tired*: this is more in line with Mark’s Gospel 14: 33, “he began to be deeply distressed and troubled”. John’s Gospel contrasts this point with high-brow: glory, sanctification, and unity offered. Luke 22: 44 describes Jesus as: “being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground”.

After this, it was strange seeing Herod Antipas flamboyantly dressed as a boxer punching Jesus about with over-size boxing gloves. This kind of musical drama became popular after “Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat” had Pharaoh portrayed as Elvis Presley, and Joseph’s brothers were Calypso singers. Interestingly, the script does not acknowledge Herod’s wife’s dream, but bypasses her by giving it to Herod (Matthew 27: 19) For extra reading, Charlotte Brontë has a very detailed poem on this.

In conclusion, it would be wrong to use the hackneyed phrase: “A good time was had by all” so, using the synopsis provided: The story culminates in Jesus’ trial, suffering, and crucifixion. The narrative ends not with resolution, but with reflection – leaving the meaning of these events, and the legacy of the man at their centre, open to interpretation.

And next year at Witham someone else dances back to life:

John Clemo



3 GENERATE 2-4TH OCTOBER 2026

** SAVE THE DATE **

Are you 8-18yrs old? Do you want to meet other young Christians? Then 3Gen might be for you.

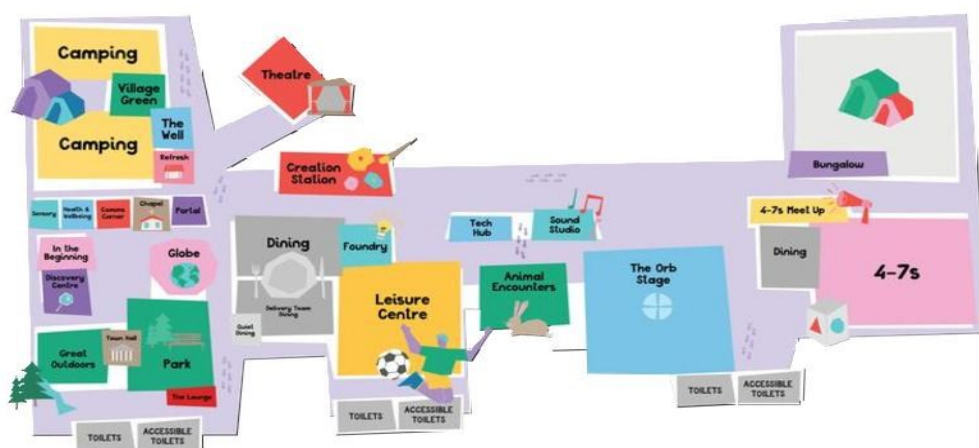
3Generate, the children's and youth assembly of the Methodist Church, aims to create an inclusive and diverse space for the prophetic voice of children and young people to emerge and be heard.

3Generate 2026 promises to be a huge party—celebrating the joy of being together after so long apart. You wouldn't want to miss it! From the big launch happening on Friday, through to the energetic mass worship on Sunday and plenty of activities, workshops and talks in between, 3Gen is a blast!

Last year there were 6 new venues:

- **Orb Stage** - for even bigger performances and communal worship
- **Sound Studio** - hosting music workshops and spaces for free-play and jamming
- **The Lounge** - for those in school year 11+ to go deeper on key topics that relate to them
- **In The Beginning** - a storytelling-focused venue hosting workshops and talks from authors
- **Leisure Centre** - an even bigger sports venue with lots more space to get involved
- **Comms Corner** - a space for young people to learn about all things social media and communications, from influencing to consuming media responsibly

There is also a Great Outdoors, Leisure Centre and Park space within our 3Generate Town, which will be home to a range of all ability sports activities throughout the weekend.



Accommodation is indoors in groups in the accommodation village which is within very large, well-ventilated halls. Each group will have an assigned plot in the village with plenty of space for the group and space between groups. Tents will be provided and will be put up before arrival.

If you would interested in being a part of group going to 3Gen from Chelmsford Circuit or you would like some more information, please get in touch with Rev Jennifer Jennifer.Walters@methodist.org.uk

HATFIELD PEVEREL EASTER EVENT

We had a lot of fun at Hatfield Peverel on Palm Sunday when we followed our time of worship with our Easter Family Event. We offered a selection of crafts and were pleased to have a visit from the puppets too! The room where we worship is adjacent to the Coffee Lounge which provides lots of opportunities to engage with those in the café and include them in our activities.

Our room also gives us great flexibility to enjoy informal, creative ways to engage in worship. We recently shared as the early Christians did, reported in Acts 2:46-47.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

We may not meet every day or see a daily addition to our numbers (yet!), but we shared a simple meal and fellowship, with singing, praise and prayer. What a blessing we enjoyed as a church family!

Jane Cook



THE CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

This is **YOUR** newsletter.

By contributing to the circuit newsletter, you play a vital role in enriching the spiritual life of the entire circuit. Your articles can inspire others to take action, provide comfort in times of need, and encourage a deeper understanding of faith.

Moreover, your contributions help to create a vibrant and dynamic newsletter that reflects the diversity and richness of our church communities.

Email: karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk

WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM YOU



Circuit Administrator: Karen Murrell.

Email: karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/chelmsfordcircuit>

<http://www.chelmsfordcircuit.co.uk>