

THE CHELMSFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT Newsletter

Issue 38: Sept & October 2025



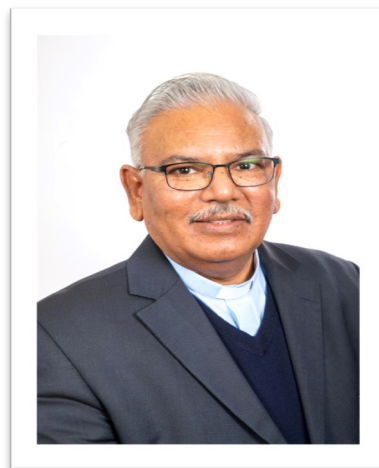
Dear friends,

As we begin the 2025–2026 connexional year, we do so with a spirit of anticipation and renewal. The Methodist Conference has given us a rich and timely theme “**Our Story, Our Song**” inviting us to celebrate our heritage, share in our mutual calling, and sing together with hope and purpose.

This year also marks a new chapter in the life of our circuit, as we welcome new ministerial team into leadership roles. These appointments are not merely administrative changes; they are spiritual moments of opportunity and promise.

In their calling, we glimpse something of God’s unfolding story for us. Welcoming new ministers, Honouring and Walking together. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27

Our ministers are part of this body, called to minister, mentor and multiply, with the good news. We attend, aid and appreciate their ministry not just through words but by praying for them, supporting them, allowing and aligning ourselves to be led in vision and faith they preach.



To **Appreciate** is to recognise the weight and responsibility of the calling they carry, offering our prayers, encouragement, and gratitude for their ministry among us.

To **Attend** is to listen attentively to the voice of God through their preaching, teaching, and example engaging with humility and openness as they lead us in faith.

To **Align** is to move forward together, ministers and members, embracing the vision and direction of the Spirit as we step into new opportunities for mission and service.

"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith." Hebrews 13:7

Continued/

Let us embrace this new season and switch with open hearts. Let us be courageous in mission, generous in fellowship, and united in song and story. Let me share the story of Sarah “Singing Hope in the Supermarket”

It was an ordinary Thursday afternoon in a busy town centre. Sarah, a young mum and part-time music teacher, had just finished her shopping. As she was leaving the supermarket, she noticed an elderly man sitting alone on a bench outside. He looked anxious and confused.

Feeling prompted, Sarah approached gently and asked if he was all right. He explained that he’d become disoriented after his regular carer couldn’t come, and he didn’t know how to get home. Sarah called for help, stayed with him, and began talking to comfort him. When words felt insufficient, she softly began to hum an old hymn: **“What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”** The man’s eyes lit up. He smiled and began to sing along, note for note, word for word. A quiet moment became holy ground. A stranger became a neighbour. Music became ministry. A hymn became healing. Later, as he was safely taken home, the man’s daughter told Sarah that her father had been a Methodist local preacher years ago, and music had always been the language of his faith. We are the people of singing the faith. The theme of this year’s conference “Our Story, Our Song” in my view offers three guiding emphases that we are part of a larger,

living narrative. Methodism has always been a movement of people transformed by grace and bound together in community. These three emphases will guide us as we journey together in,

Celebration Song and Worship

Singing is our shared heartbeat. It lifts our gaze and unites our voice. “Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord.” (Psalm 95:1)

Connection Community and Fellowship

We are not alone. Our unity across churches reflects the love of Christ.

Continuity Heritage and Global Unity

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. Their stories of faith and sacrifices inspire us to be faithful in our own time. At the same time, we celebrate our connection with the worldwide Methodist family a vibrant reminder that God's story still continues across nations, religions and generations.

So, as we begin this new year with fresh leadership and renewed energy, let us lift our eyes and look ahead. God is not finished with us. There are new stories to be written, new songs to be sung, and new souls to stir to be transformed. Let us walk forward, carefully, cheerfully, and collectively, as we write a chapter of the gospel every day, through the deeds we do and through the words we say. Every blessing in Christ,

Rev. Asif Karam | Superintendent
Chelmsford Methodist Circuit

HPMC 150th Year

After the Olympic Torch came through Hatfield Peverel in 2012, a village celebration started which became known as *"Party in the Park"* usually occurring on the first Sunday in July. In the early years it was a simple enough thing to apply for a stock movement licence, then, take 2 of our goats up to the event. We spent the afternoon explaining what goats are about, selling cakes, or holding the tent down from blowing away, and "flying the flag" for the Methodist church. As the goats got older, they didn't look so good, the hurdles felt heavier, the music got loud, and the afternoon felt long and hot.



Last year the event was cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions - strong wind. This year we agreed to pick up the traces again (without the goats), and thought we might provide a quiet place for people to have a meaningful chat or prayer, or general discussion about the weather. I thought I could come up with something to act as a conversation starter. Lately, I have been putting together stuff for "Tools with a Mission" (see Broomfield for details) and one day was going through tatty carpentry tools with little life left in them. It came

to me that Jesus and Joseph were carpenters, and in thousands of years many hand tools are unchanged. So, I cleaned them up, mounted them on hardboard and this gave us something to talk about.



Before Christmas 2024 I approached the Chelmsford Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple, who now owns our old building, to see if it was possible to have our Cross back. This had been retained in the building as we had sold it to another Christian group. It took six months before I was able to collect it, but it was pleasing to be able to have it on display at "Party in the Park". The spin-off from this was that the Temple people brought along the "Methodist Church" large lamp which hung at the church entrance. I am now hoping to restore the rather ornate gothic script emblazoned on the front ready for our 150th Celebration.

Ageless Purpose in the Hands of an Ageless God

By Rev. Asif Karam

I was reading recently, yes, *reading*, not scrolling, a bit of wisdom from **Dr John Dunlop**, a gerontologist and Christian writer. Now, why was I reading that? Well, perhaps it's a sign I'm getting old... or just finally taking the advice I used to ignore! Dr Dunlop offers two brilliantly simple (and rather profound) rules for staying mentally healthy as we age:

Rule 1: Wake up every morning knowing what you are going to do that day.

Rule 2: Go to bed every night knowing that you helped someone.

These words resonate with a biblical truth, that each day holds purpose, and no season of life is wasted in God's economy. In fact, one of the greatest gifts of growing older is the deeper perspective we bring. Our wisdom, patience, and prayerfulness can be a blessing to younger generations and a steady hand in the life of the church.

Age is often seen as a barrier in our society even in churches, a time to slow down, to step aside, or even to become less visible. But in God's kingdom, age is never a limitation. We worship an ageless God, and His purposes for our lives stretch far beyond what the world might expect from our years.

In both the Old and New Testaments, we see countless examples of God working through people regardless of age. Abraham "**Khalilullah**" in Arabic is a title given to **Abraham**, and it means: "**The Friend of God.**" This title reflects Abraham's unwavering faith, obedience, and closeness to God. He is revered as one of the greatest prophets and a patriarch of monotheistic faith. He was 75 when God called him to leave his home and set out on a journey that would change history (Genesis 12:1–4).

Moses "**Kaleemullah**" in Arabic is a title given to **Prophet Moses** and it means: "**The one who spoke directly with (God).**" This title comes from the belief that **Moses** had the unique honour of speaking directly with Allah, without the intermediary of an angel, Moses was 80 when he confronted Pharaoh and led the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 7:7). Anna the prophetess was well on in years when she recognised the infant Jesus as the promised Messiah (Luke 2:36–38).

These stories show us that God doesn't retire us, He redeploys us. Each new day is an opportunity to serve Him in fresh and meaningful ways. As the psalmist wrote, "*They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green*" Psalm 92:14.

As the psalmist wrote,

"They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green"

Psalm 92:14.

Continued/.....



In our own British context, there are numerous examples of people who have defied the limits so often imposed by age. Take **Dame Judi Dench**, a name many of us know well, especially from the film *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel in India*. That delightful comedy brings together different cultures and generations into a rich, heartwarming story. You might recall the memorable line: ***“Everything will be alright in the end. So if it is not alright, it is not the end.”*** Dame Judi continues to take on major acting roles

well into her 80s, showing us that passion and purpose need not fade with age.

Or consider **Captain Sir Tom Moore**, who, at the age of 99, walked laps in his garden to raise millions for the NHS during the pandemic. His remarkable effort captured the heart of the nation, a powerful reminder that no one is ever too old to make a difference.

There are many ways we can continue to serve our churches and communities, whether through mentoring, prayer ministry, music ministry, offering hospitality, or simply being a listening ear.

Supporting the mission of the church does not always mean standing at the front, sometimes it means quietly holding others in prayer, writing cards of encouragement, or sharing life experience with those who need it.

So, let us not allow age or others’ perception of it, to silence the call God places on us. He has a purpose for you to fulfil every day of your life. And that, surely, is good news for us all.



“Even to your old age and grey hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”
Isaiah 46:4

Rev Asif Karam

Churches Together in Witham and District
Summer Holiday Children's Club
At the Witham Methodist Church
11-13 August 2025

This year's Summer Holiday Children's Club was a huge success. It was filled with fun, laughter, learning, and faith. Our theme was *Kingdom Builders*, a Roots for Churches Holiday Club resource. The sessions referenced Lego, Roblox and Minecraft, building games with which children are familiar, two of which are digital games. There was also the opportunity to talk about online safety. The creative use of these building games helped the children engage with Bible stories in a fun and interactive way, learning what it means to build their lives on solid foundation the Lord Jesus Christ.

Across three exciting days, a total of 19 children joined us for songs, prayer, games, crafts, refreshments, and unforgettable Bible teaching. The children were welcomed with a lively theme song *Kingdom Builders*, sung to the tune of *Bob the Builder*. It quickly became a favourite and set the tone for the rest of the sessions. In addition to the memory verse, which was 1 Peter 2: 5-6, the children were led in an action responsive reading of the whole armour of God in Ephesians 6. The aim was to enable the children appreciate the fact that whereas the sword was used for destruction in games like Minecraft, the Imagery of the Sword in the Bible is used as God's word to build the Kingdom of God.

The session on Day one focused on the Creation story. The children enjoyed a brilliant Lego video that retold the six days of creation, followed by a fun activity with Lego blocks, which helped them remember what God created on each day. To reinforce their learning, each day was paired with themed crafts, which allowed the children to express their creativity while deepening their understanding.

Day Two brought another highlight as we explored the parable of the wise and foolish builders. Through stories, demonstrations, and hands-on activities, the children learned the importance of building their lives on the strong foundation of God's Word. This lesson was made even more powerful by daily reminders about the *Armor of God*, a theme we revisited each day, which tied beautifully into the message of building on solid ground. The children enjoyed a baking activity, making "rock cakes" as a practical demonstration, there was an experiment with sand, blocks, and water to see what happens when houses are built on weak foundations. These activities brought the Bible story to life in ways the children will not forget.

On Day Three, we looked at the story of Solomon building the Temple. For many of the children, this was a completely new story, and they were intrigued by the wisdom God gave him and the importance of seeking God's guidance. Throughout the three days, the children were not only entertained but also encouraged to grow spiritually, learning about God's love and how to stand firm in faith. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive so much so that many of the children were asking if the club could run for more than just three days!

Parents were invited to the closing session. A summary of the three-day session was presented, and they watched a video of the club sessions. They received an explanation of the Prayer Wall made with prayers written by the children. Prizes were awarded to three children who had memorised the Bible Verse and presented it without a mistake. Every child received a little packet of Haribo sweets because they had all done so well.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed whether through planning, leading, volunteering, or supporting from behind the scenes. Special thanks go to our Witham Methodist Team and the Team from St. Nicolas, Church of England - Revds. 'Femi, Howard and Noah, Janis, Deidre, Maggie, Jenny, Beverley, Carla, Petrina, Mouttou and Arnaud, whose teamwork and dedication helped make the event so memorable.

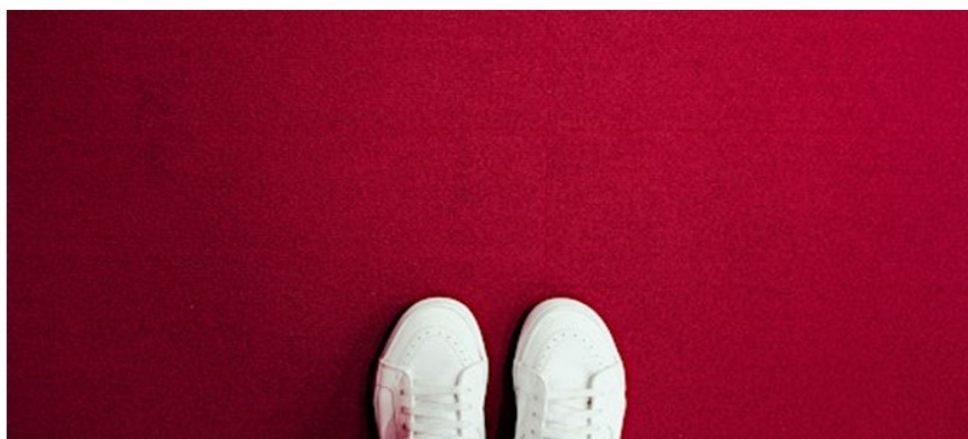
We look forward with great excitement to running the club again next year, praying it will continue to grow and bless even more children and families in our community. To God be the glory!

Olive Anofienam

Team member, Witham Methodist Church



NEWCOMER FRIENDLY COURSES



Two Online Training Sessions - with some homework in between! - to get your church, circuit or new Christian community ready for newcomers this Christmas.

Are you hoping for visitors to your church this Christmas? Are you ready for them?

This two-session training course - with a little homework! - aims to get you ready for visitors to your church.

In this first session, we'll explore how to welcome people in person and how to make our buildings as welcoming as possible to newcomers.

Please register for **ONE** of the sessions:

- **24th September**, 10.30am-12noon OR
- **25th September**, 7-8.30pm

Feel free to bring along others from your church or circuit.

Please also register for session 2 on 16th October (daytime or evening) to complete the course

Please register for **ONE** of the sessions on **16th October**:

- 1-2.30pm OR
- 7-8.30pm

Feel free to bring along others from your church or circuit.

This session is only suitable for those who have already attended session 1

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/newcomer-friendly-church-4439213>

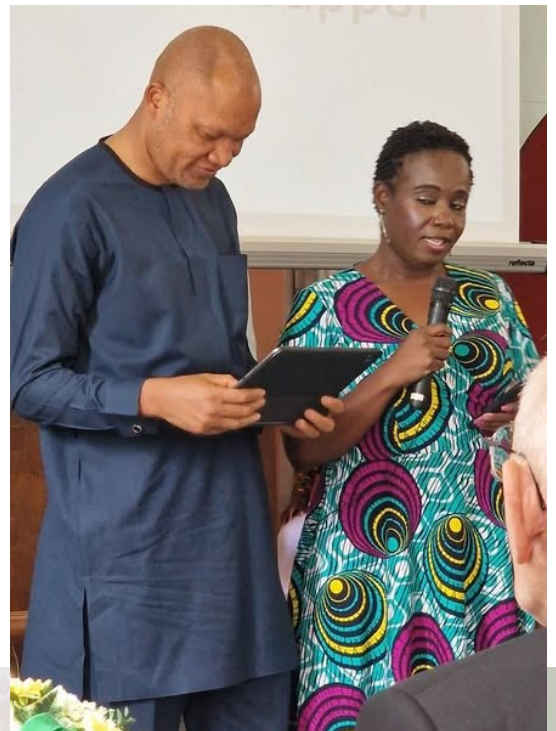
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/newcomer-friendly-church-4439213>

HALSTEAD 'RAISED THE ROOF'

Sunday 10th August 2025

The invitation to Halstead's annual 'own arrangement' service on 10th August was an opportunity not to be missed. Although we'd been told to expect a busy turnout, we were more than surprised to see more than 90 adults and children gathered for the occasion. The event celebrated a truly multicultural and diverse community, and the atmosphere was nothing short of electric—hard to believe this was one of our own Methodist Churches! Heartfelt thanks go to the Church Stewards and to William and Priscilla Larty for their planning, and the many volunteers and guests who put together a spectacular cultural buffet.

Karen and Nigel Murrell





Churches Together in Essex and East London The Bradwell Pilgrimage and Gathering 2025

The Bradwell Pilgrimage began with a commissioning of the pilgrims at St Thomas' Church, Bradwell-on-Sea on the morning of Saturday 05 July. The Service which included inspiring hymns and prayers was led by Claire Barford, Churches Together in Essex and East London lead and Rt. Revd. Adam Atkinson, Bishop of Bradwell, Rt Revd. Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield and Revd. Canon Dr Jessica Martin, Dean of Chelmsford. The Salvation Army Band was in attendance. Claude Halm, the Ecumenical Lead for East London led the prayers of Intercession. Rt Revd. Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield offered the prayers of blessing.

The Pilgrimage Walk to St. Peter's Chapel took an hour. We were truly pilgrims on a journey sharing our stories, helping each other walk the mile, enjoying the natural world and praying for one another. On arrival at the gate leading to the St Peter's Chapel, there was a call for silence as we walked into the field just by the sea.



A time of worship ensued, with hymns and sacred songs, Bible Readings and a Talk by Dr Elaine Storkey on the theme for this year's pilgrimage, People of Hope. The message she brought was mind blowing – Bible based and filled with touching personal stories and illustrations. In a nutshell, she stated that people of hope place their hope in God, who is with us in our predicaments, and this hope is rooted in a God who forgives. Ours is hope anchored in faith, a hope cemented in love. As people of hope, God expects us to put our energy into bringing hope to those who live without hope. The prayers of Intercession which followed saw pilgrims bring forward Jig-saw pieces which were put together to form a central cross,

The rest of the programme for the day included the picnic, acoustic worship led by Revd Dan Pearce. There were also optional workshop style sessions, and I attended one on an introduction to St. Cedd and Celtic Spirituality, which took place in the Chapel. Stalls and Activities on the field included refreshments, Bradwell Crafts, Children's Lego led by the Mustard Seed Team and A Rocha to name a few.

Blessing and sending of Pilgrims followed the closing worship which was led by the Bishop Michael Ipgrave and Dean Jessica Martin.

Pilgrims went away with the hope of resurrection, from strength to strength to go on!
(Words in the closing hymn written by Revd June Boyce-Tilman)

I am so glad I went on the pilgrimage even though it was a last minute decision, and pray that many more of us will join in next year's pilgrimage, God willing, - 04 July 2026.

Continued/



Olufemi Cole-Njie

Trinity Methodist Church
Sunday 14th September 2025
at 6pm

Service led by Rev Asif Karam

Reaffirmation Service
for all
Local Preachers
and Worship Leaders
in the
Chelmsford Circuit

Everyone is Welcome
Please come along to show your support

Rainsford Road,
 Chelmsford CM1 2XB
<https://www.trinitymethodistchelmsford.org/>

**WE ARE BLESSED
 TO HAVE OUR
 LOCAL
 PREACHERS
 & WORSHIP
 LEADERS**

Let's show our respect and appreciation by attending this service.

Do you know that 80% of the services in the Circuit are led by Local Preachers !

What would we do without them?

RESOURCING AND EQUIPPING FOR LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE LOCAL PREACHERS' MEETING

23RD JULY 2025

In recent months, our Circuit has been facing heavy and pressing challenges. The shortage of preachers available to share in the preaching ministry has been deeply felt, leading in some cases to church doors closing on certain Sundays and congregations joining together for united services more than twice in a month. We recognise that these are not one-off difficulties, but ongoing realities that require both courage, cooperation and creativity in our response.

To tackle such evolving and existing challenges, we are determined to invest in and generate relevant, strategic, human resources from within our own fellowship. As the old saying reminds us, "God helps those who help themselves." With God's Spirit guiding us and with our own willingness to step forward, we can ensure that every Local Arrangement is not merely filling a gap but becoming a moment when the Church shines with the light of Christ. We want to enable our churches to face these circumstances with resilience, not merely covering the shortages, but sensing and seizing the chance to uncover and nurture the God-given gifts already in our midst. **One of our key approaches is to develop a Circuit-wide collection of sermons, service outlines, and worship materials from our existing preachers.** These will be made available to every church for use in Local Arrangement services, ensuring that no Church /fellowship feels under-resourced or unsupported.

Our Main Objectives

- **To make local churches resourceful:** providing practical tools and tested worship materials to strengthen confidence in planning services.
- **To equip and encourage individuals:** enabling members to step forward in reading, praying, leading worship, and sharing testimony.
- **To inspire new callings:** helping some to recognise God's prompting to preach or serve in other forms of ministry.

To keep the church relevant in a changing age: ensuring that our worship continues to speak into today's world with clarity, hope, and the life of the Spirit. We hold that, when underpinned by prayer and careful preparation, Local Arrangement services have the potential to be occasions of profound spiritual significance, not mere placeholders in the preaching plan, but moments in which God's grace is made manifest through the committed ministry of His people. Let us meet these challenges head-on, with faith in the God who calls and equips, and with a renewed commitment to serve one another in the ministry of the Word.

Rev. Asif Karam

Minister Chelmsford Circuit 34/9

<https://www.chelmsfordcircuit.co.uk/admin6/training/local-arrangements/>

REV BARRY AND RIA ALLEN—SCHOOL WORKERS UPDATE

St Andrew's Primary School



We are relocating to Dorset and therefore have come to the end of our time here at St. Andrew's. It is with sad hearts that we are leaving the children and this extraordinary school.

We have walked a long road with a lot of children, many who have already left for senior school. What a joy it has been sharing stories from the Bible where the children participated actively in the acting out of it.



Every Monday, as they come into Lunch Club, there would be shouts, "Ria, can I say the prayer today!" or "What are we doing today?"



Of course, the craft was the highlight of their time with us. They love being creative and so enjoyed seeing how it all turned out. We always tried to give them craft that would remind them of the message we brought for the day.



It is our prayer that these times spent with us will have a lasting effect on their lives. May they always know that God loves them, cares for them and will always be there for them.



We love St. Andrew's, not just the children but also the staff.

We have always felt at home among you. We will always remember you and keep you in our prayers.



May God's blessing rest upon you, may his face shine on you, each and every day.

With much love,

Ria and Barry

St Andrews asked if Ria would meet with the SIAMS inspector. Ria has and the inspector (Rev. Julie) was impressed with what Ria was doing in the school.

The headteacher Mrs Black hopes that this ministry will continue in St Andrews as it has made such a difference within the whole school, staff and children.



Hatfield Peverel Methodist Church

SUN 28TH SEPT


HARVEST Craft Event

10:30 - 12:00
Room 3, Hatfield Peverel Village Hall

LEARN HOW TO HARVEST
(COLLECT) AND REPURPOSE
ITEMS TO CREATE
SOMETHING NEW!
MAYBE CREATE AN ENTRY
FOR THE AUTUMN SHOW!

Admission is free, adults & children welcome.
Learn skills to recycle, reuse and repurpose.

Bring a gift for Chelmsford Foodbank!
Visit <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/chelmsford/>



Beds, Essex and Herts
District
Methodist Women in Britain

DISTRICT DAY

SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER

at PUTNOE HEIGHTS CHURCH
PUTNOE HEIGHTS,
BEDFORD, MK41 8EB

11.00 am - 3.00 pm
Coffee served from 10.30 am

Bring your own lunch Drinks provided

Morning Speaker : Richard Luscombe
On behalf of CHUMS, our new partnership project

Afternoon Speaker : Maggie Woods
On her recent visit to Rwanda

St Augustine of Canterbury
North Springfield, St Augustine's Way CM1 6GX

'Murder Mystery' Harvest Supper

Saturday 4th October
6:00pm

The plot is set in Heathcliff Manor, where Lord Heathcliff is hosting a dinner party to celebrate his recent marriage. But before anyone can toast his happiness, Lord Heathcliff is killed with the candlestick in the pool room!

Join us for a 3 course meal
(soup and roll, ploughman's, fruit crumble and custard/ice cream)
And find out whodunnit!

We would love you to participate by taking on a role - script and guidance will be provided. Let us know when purchasing your ticket, or just come dressed as if you were a guest at Lord Heathcliff's party.

Come along for an evening of entertainment, food, fun and friendship!




Ticket only event
£15

Disclaimer: Some of the material may not be appropriate for under 14s

Email for tickets:
infoaugustines@gmail.com
Or phone: 07935557668 or available to purchase on Sunday mornings

Fund raiser event for  **for every child**

CELEBRATE THE JOY OF ADVENT TOGETHER WITH CHELMSFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT.

SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT
4PM, BROOMFIELD METHODIST
CHURCH CM1 7AG



The perfect start to Christmas.
Everyone is welcomed.
<https://www.chelmsfordcircuit.co.uk/>

Christchurch Priory (The Miraculous Beam)

Clive and I spent a week's holiday in Bournemouth and the New Forest in July and while there we decided to visit Christchurch Priory.

As we entered through the doors we read the following notice:-

Welcome!

"O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife.

Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power.

Of God, make the door of this house the gateway to thine eternal kingdom."

We thought what a lovely welcome into God's house!

In Anglo-Saxon times Christchurch was known as Toinham/Twynham which meant town/hamlet between two rivers.

A Saxon Minster, formerly on this site was demolished on the orders of Ranulf Flambard, chief minister to King William II. Today, the great parish Church, part of the Augustian monastery was begun in 1094. The nave and transepts are mostly of Norman style of heavy columns and rounded arches. The Lady Chapel and Great Quire are in 'Perpendicular' style.

While walking round we stopped to read the story of **The 'Miraculous Beam'** .

"Foundation stones for the priory were to be laid two miles to the north of the present church. However, local people disagreed, wanting the stones laid on the existing Saxon site. Local populace was overruled, and the stones were taken to St Catherine's Hill, the new site. The next morning when the workmen returned, they discovered that the stones had been removed and placed on the site of the original Saxon church. The stones were moved back to St Catherine's Hill, but again, the same thing happened the following day. This went on for some time until eventually, the Project Manager, decided enough was enough and that God had given them a clear message. The building work should be done on the Saxon site.

One day a mysterious stranger appeared who was a carpenter by trade, He never ate with the other men or was present when they were paid. A beam was necessary for the roof and the lumber was measured, carefully cut and hoisted up to the roof, only to find it was too short. Lowered back to the ground, work ceased for the rest of the day. The next morning when the workmen returned, the beam was missing. They eventually discovered it, stretched out in its proper position in the roof and measuring the correct length.

The mysterious carpenter was never seen again. This carpenter had been Jesus of Nazareth, and it was He who had helped them to build HIS church!

From that day it became known as 'Christ's Church' of Twynham. Later, the 'Twynham' was dropped, and the name simply became "CHRISTCHURCH."

If you are ever in the area, it is well worth a visit!

Gillian Pickett
Moulsham Lodge



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training

Saturday 11th October 2025 at
Trinity Methodist Church CM1 2XB
9.15am for 9.30am-1pm
Led by Revd Andrew Brazier

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training is an essential tool for fostering understanding and empathy in every aspect of our lives.



While it may not be mandatory for all volunteers, its significance cannot be overstated, especially for individuals who hold a role within a church.

Churches are not only places of worship but also centres of community interaction, where people from diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and experiences come

together. As such, EDI training equips church members with the tools to navigate these interactions with sensitivity, respect, and an open heart.

CLICK TO BOOK:

Queries: karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk

Circuit Administrator. The Chelmsford Methodist Circuit.

District Safeguarding Day Programme



Opening prayers and welcome – David Chapman

Why Hidden Vulnerabilities? – Pauline Jackson

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome – Stephanie Field

Elderly Vulnerable Adults – Rachel Van Staveren

Presbyters can be vulnerable too - David Chapman

Hoarding Video – Pauline Jackson

Sickle Cell Anaemia – Theresa Simons -Sam

Financial Abuse –Esther Burton

Equality Diversity and Inclusion – Andrew Brazier

Closing summary – Pauline Jackson

Closing Prayers – David Chapman

Book your ticket now!!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1559642886859?aff=oddtcreator>

Continued/

Biography of our Presenters and Speakers



Andrew Brazier is a creative writer who says he 'can't spell or punctuate', and he is an actor who 'eschews being on stage'. Andrew is a Methodist minister in the West Hertfordshire and Borders circuit and is the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer for the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District.

David Chapman is District Chair of the Bedfordshire Essex and Hertfordshire District. He previously served as Superintendent in the Central Sussex United Area. Prior to that he was a circuit minister in the Wimbledon Circuit then the Horsham Circuit.

Esther Burton is Director of Dragonfly Education Consultancy Ltd and a safeguarding specialist with over 20 years in education. She delivers training and mentoring across schools, churches, and community settings, supporting professionals working with vulnerable children, families, and adults. Her work emphasises therapeutic approaches, nurture, and holistic safeguarding.

Pauline Jackson is the Regional Officer for Safeguarding aligned to Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District and has been a Safeguarding Officer for the Methodist Church for 8 years. Pauline lives in the West Hertfordshire and Borders Circuit and worships at Trinity Methodist Church where she leads the junior church.

Rachel van Staveren chairs the District Safeguarding Oversight Group and has a passion for ensuring that our Churches see safeguarding as integral to our mission. She owns and manages Cloud 9 Care, a homecare company based in Colchester, specialising in the provision of care and support to older people in the community. Throughout a 30-year career in social care, Rachel has always advocated for a better understanding of the social care system and the services that are available to people. Social care is often described by those working in it as a Cinderella Service.

Continued/

Biography of our Presenters and Speakers

Stephanie Field has worked for the North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit for 3 years. Stephanie has 2 roles in the District and is currently both the Circuit Safeguarding Officer and Circuit Manager. She is also a member of the District Safeguarding Oversight Group. In her personal life Stephanie is the Safeguarding Governor at what was her children's secondary school. Stephanie worships at Putnoe Heights Church in Bedford.

Theresa Simons-Sam has been involved in the life of the Methodist Church all her life apart from a brief moment when she was a member of the Church of England. Theresa has a keen interest in youthwork and safeguarding.

Book your ticket now!!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1559642886859?aff=oddttdtcreator>


DISTRICT SAFEGUARDING DAY BOOK YOUR TICKET NOW!!

Equipping for Equality

A development session for those in the Methodist Church
passionate about Justice, Dignity and Solidarity

Does Artificial Intelligence help or harm?

Tuesday 16th September
7pm - 9pm
on Zoom



[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

This Advent and Christmas season, the Methodist Church invites you to join ‘Gifted’ with resources to support your worship, welcome, and witness – including service outlines, small group materials, outreach ideas, posters, postcards, digital assets and more.

Gifted is a message of good news to a weary world...

Together, all districts, circuits, local churches and fellowships of the Methodist Church are invited to remind people of their inherent worth and beauty – not because of what they’ve done, or what they can give – but because of who they are.

You are a gift. Made with love.

Gifted:

- Is for everyone in our churches and beyond: both believers rejoicing at God’s gift of Jesus, and those who might find the season more wearying than wonderful.
- reaches out to people longing for transformation but feeling stuck. For those searching for something more, something real – but unsure where to look.
-

Gifted is the Methodist Church's open invitation, speaking the good news to people that they matter. That they are Beloved. Created with infinite care. A gift to the world, just as they are.

Resources

- **Church leaders’ Worship Services package, from Advent to Epiphany** (pdf, online only)
- Blue Christmas liturgy
- Children’s activities
- Advent candle liturgies
-
- **Small group guide** for weekly engagement with Gifted’s themes (pdf, online only)
- **How to be a ‘newcomer friendly’ church this Christmas** (Zoom session, date TBC)
- **Poster** for announcing your Christmas services
- **Thank you ‘gift’ cards** to let people in our communities know they are the gift, with space for Methodists to write their personal message thanking the recipient for being the gift they are
- **Postcards** for you to advertise your own services
- **Digital assets package including social media templates and graphics** for you to use on your own website and social media

Available from early September from Methodist Publishing.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/christmasresources/>

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



**CHELMSFORD
METHODIST CIRCUIT**



**The Work
of God in Our
Circuit 2024/2025**

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

This publication is now available on our Circuit Website.

<https://www.chelmsfordcircuit.co.uk/newsletter/our-work-of-god/>

We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who dedicated their time and effort to preparing the articles for each church's contributors in this year's edition.

This publication serves as a testament to the activities, mission, and dedication that each of you brings to the Chelmsford Circuit.

Full Brochure for 2025

[https://media.methodist.org.uk/media/documents/
Learning Network Brochure September 2024.pdf](https://media.methodist.org.uk/media/documents/Learning_Network_Brochure_September_2024.pdf)

Also on the Circuit Website

[https://www.chelmsfordcircuit.co.uk/admin6/training/learning-network-
guide-/](https://www.chelmsfordcircuit.co.uk/admin6/training/learning-network-guide-/)

Many thanks for all those who have supported the Circuit Newsletter by sending in articles and sharing the newsletter with colleagues, friends and family. I really appreciate your

NEXT CIRCUIT MEETING

Saturday 20th September

Trinity 9.45am till midday

Circuit Administrator: Karen Murrell.

Email: karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk

[https://www.facebook.com/
chelmsfordcircuit](https://www.facebook.com/chelmsfordcircuit)

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

**‘Share your
news’**

**Deadline for
November/
December 2025
by Mid October**