

# Chelmsford Circuit

Issue 27

Newsletter Date: September & October 2023

How many of us can remember the questions from our children when they were young or even older.

Why is the sky blue daddy? Or watching a movie and at a tense moment in the movie, dad what's going to happen?

One of our daughters, when she was a toddler, saw our friend change your baby boy's nappy. Our daughter asked; mommy why has Kyle got a tail?

Sadly, we seem to lose the art of asking questions the older we get, don't we?

Any guesses on what was Jesus' favourite question?

While you are thinking about Jesus' favourite question. Here is one for you. *You are at friend's house for Christmas dinner, and there are a lot of Guest's, some you know some you do not. And the salad is being passed down the line and everyone is taking and you take a big helping and then you find a dead worm in the salad on your plate, what would you do?*

Back to Jesus' favourite question. It was "Why"

*"Why do you worry?" "Why do you look at the speck in your bothers eye and not at the log in your own eye?" "Why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not do what I say?" "Why do you not believe in me" one of His last statements on the cross was "Why have you forsaken me"*

When last did you ask "why?" Why do we all sit in rows in church? Why does the preacher stand at the front and not in middle among us? Why do we always sit in the same seat? Or in the same row? Why do we not have refreshments as part of our service?

September is the beginning of a new Methodist calendar year. You could call it new beginnings. Maybe instead of just do what we have always done, we need to ask why or a better question is "why not".

Jesus after His resurrection sees his friends fishing and asks them, have you caught any fish? They answer "no" Jesus says "throw your net on the other side and you will find some." When they did, they caught so many that they were unable to haul the net in.

Why not change things?

May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord life up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Amen

**Barry Allen**





## Bible Study September 2023

As a circuit we are starting the Bible Month Bible Study this September. This year the Book of Revelation is the chosen book! Each session will involve us listening to a video recording of our speaker talking about their allotted chapters of Revelation, followed by a discussion on the topics they have highlighted.

**Jim Lowe is leading session one focusing on chapters one to three, "The Church Then and Now".**

**On week two John Clemo will tell us all about, "The triumph of the lamb", in chapters three and four.**

**Rev Mark Pengelly is third up, telling us about chapters 10 to 13, "Witness, Worship and Waiting".**

**The final session sees Rev Femi Cole-Cole-Njie focusing chapters 17 – 22, "Heading Home".**

*Now with a line up like that how can you not join us!!*

**Face to face sessions in Trinity Link on Wednesday afternoons starting 6th September 2023 at 2pm for four weeks.**

**Zoom sessions to start on Thursday 7th September at 7:30pm for four weeks.**

I am quite happy for people to switch between zoom and face to face sessions. We have purchased a number of study guides which go with the programme and if you would like one of these please contact myself or Karen Murrell.

[karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk](mailto:karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk).

If you could make a £3 contribution to cover the cost of the study guide that would be appreciated.

If you wish to sign up for this programme, simply email me and I will put your name on the list. [mikefogg@btinternet.com](mailto:mikefogg@btinternet.com) Alternatively, give me a call on **01245-328337**.

**Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB**

**<https://www.trinitymethodistchelmsford.org/>**

Dear Church family,

As you are reading this I will now be a Probationer Minister in the Southend and Leigh Circuit for The Fishermen's Chapel and Highlands Methodist. I will also begin my pioneering work of Chaplain to professional musicians.



This is all very exciting and of course, what I have been training for over the last 3 years on top of my local preacher training. However it is tinged with a sadness that I won't be with you on a regular basis. I do hope to visit though.

Rev Mark, Deacon Ramona, Rev Barry and everyone on committees and in the churches have made me so welcome. I have really enjoyed my time with you and been challenged to learn and grow in my faith journey. I can't thank you enough. I will continue to pray for you and your churches as you embrace the challenges ahead of you in your circuit.

With love..

## **MORE FACE TO FACE—BOOK OF REVELATIONS**

**We will be following the Bible Study - 30 Days with the book of Revelation at Witham on the following dates.**



**Week 1. Tuesday 26th September**

**Week 2. Tuesday 10th October**

**Week 3. Tuesday 24th October**

**Week 4. Tuesday 31st October**

**These will all take place in the Rear Hall of Witham Methodist Church at 2.30 pm.**

**If anyone else from the Circuit would like to join us they would be most welcome.**

**Best wishes,**

**Jenny Jarvis**

**chrisjarvis2@aol.com**

# The Red Marbles - A Must Read

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes. I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily apprising a basket of freshly picked green peas.

I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes.

Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me.

'Hello Barry, how are you today?'

'H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good.'

'They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?'

'Fine.. Gittin' stronger alla' time.'

'Good. Anything I can help you with?'

'No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas.'

'Would you like to take some home?' asked Mr. Miller.

'No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with.'

'Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?'

'All I got's my prize marble here.' 'Is that right?'

Let me see it' said Miller.

'Here 'tis.. She's a dandy.'

'I can see that. Hmmmmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?' the store owner asked.

'Not zackley but almost.'

'Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble'. Mr. Miller told the boy.

'Sure will. Thanks Mr. Miller:

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me.

With a smile she said, 'There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever.

When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store.'

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

**Continued/....**

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts...all very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket.

Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket.

'Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim 'traded' them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size....they came to pay their debt.'

'We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world,' she confided, 'but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho.'

With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

**It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.**

*Taken from the UK Methodist site on FB—August 2023*

# Grooming cases at a record high



photo by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash

As we await the UK online safety laws the NSPCC has announced that grooming of children online is at an all time high. The NSPCC reports that there were 34,000 online grooming crimes recorded by UK police forces since it first called for tougher laws in 2017. That by any standard is a huge number. The report goes on to say that over 73% of these crimes involved either Snapchat, Instagram, Threads, WhatsApp or Facebook.

Under 18s will tend to use Snapchat, WhatsApp and Instagram more than any other social media apps; this is common knowledge and so groomers will deviate to these sites too. Although I am obviously not under 18, I have received a ridiculous amount of friend requests from people I don't know on Instagram over the last 6 months. I post very little on my account, yet I am being bombarded. I just hit delete and never engage, however, children are more than likely to respond and if the person on the other end doesn't have good intentions, the young person could very soon be in a cycle of despair.

**Continued/....**



Parents, schools, children's charities, youth leaders etc do advise children against accepting online friend requests from people they do not know, but by our very nature we like to make new friends. Meta (they own Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and Threads) have technology that restricts people over 19 from messaging teens who don't 'follow' them. This unfortunately relies on people giving their correct dates of birth when they create an account. Snapchat have improved their platform technology which can help identify sexual exploitation of young people. They also have extra protections for under 18s to make it harder for them to be contacted by people they don't know. They also have tools for parents, so they know who their teens are talking to.

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command, or CEOP Command, is a command of the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) and is tasked to work both nationally and internationally to bring online child sex offenders, including those involved in the production, distribution and viewing of child abuse material, to the UK courts. The centre was formed in April 2006 as the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre and was absorbed into the NCA on 7 October 2013 by the Crime and Courts Act 2013. Their website: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/> is interactive and can be used by children as young as 4. They can play games and answer questions to move along in the game, questions such as "I have received a friend request from someone I don't know, what should I do?", or for older children it gives them advice, and any age can talk to a child protection advisor. It isn't always easy for a young person to talk to parents or teachers, especially if they find themselves in a situation and are afraid they may be in trouble. Groomers use this to their advantage, often telling the child that they cannot tell anyone, or they'll get into trouble. The CEOP website reinforces to the child accessing their site that they are doing the right thing, that CEOP are there to help and that they can help and support the child/young person with what they have been experiencing and can make it stop.

Together with the tools parents can access to keep an eye on who their child is interacting with online, and ensuring that they only access age-appropriate sites, we can do our bit to keep our children and young people out of the path of sexual predators.

While we wait for UK legislation to catch up with technology, we need to re-educate our children and young people on the dangers of online friends. This may be an uncomfortable conversation for some parents, but it does need to happen at the earliest opportunity.

Pauline Jackson  
District Safeguarding Officer  
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District

# Trinity Link Care Group

The group has been in existence for many years, originally run by Crossroads Carers and then taken over solely by Trinity Methodist Church. We have volunteers for coffee making, cooking, washing up and helping with activities during the morning including games quizzes and chair-music and movement. We meet in Trinity Link, which is accessible to wheelchair users, on alternate Wednesdays

from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. After various light activities along with lots of coffee, chatting and laughter we end the morning with a meal to finish off the session. Those attending pay £5 per session which covers tea, coffee, biscuits, and a two-course meal. Every year we contribute to a charity of our choice.

## *Volunteers!*

*We would love to hear from you if you could entertain the group for 30 mins or so.*

*Singing, story telling, exercise, crafts and music.....*

*Contact Karen .*

*Circuit Administrator.*

At present most of our members are attached to Trinity but we also welcome anyone who would like to join us from elsewhere. If there is someone out there who would be happy to talk to us or to entertain us it would be greatly appreciated. Over the course of the year, we celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter and it's especially a joy when all those who have birthdays listen to the group singing "Happy Birthday" to them.

After many years we can look back over lots of lovely times and we look to the future to be able to continue to spread a little happiness around.

**Stella Kelly and Doreen Holliday**







Received into full  
Connexion at the  
Methodist Church  
conference 25th June  
2023.

Congratulations to  
Rev'd Gill Songer and  
Rev'd Brain Magadzire.  
Seen below with Deacon  
Ramona Dinard.



**Brain and Yvonne Magadzire**



## Ordinand stories - Gill Songer

I became a member at Upminster Methodist Church at the age of 18, became a Guider and helped at Sunday School before I moved with mum and dad to Maldon, on the east coast of Essex where I met my husband David at the Methodist Church there.

One Sunday, with our young family of five, a call went out for people to discern if God was calling them to preach. I encouraged David into it because I didn't want to do it! But in 2003 I did answer that call and was given a note to preach.

I was now employed by the Chelmsford Circuit as a Lay Worker in the Maldon Section and as the Circuit Safeguarding Officer. I also took on more preaching dates and found myself in the unusual position of having to preach three weeks in a row, two of those weeks being at my home church



After the second service there a lady came to the front of the church whilst I was clearing up and said "Gill, can I have a word?" Oh how those words fill me with dread! "Of course," I said. As she spoke she began to cry and I wondered what was coming "Gill, have you ever considered becoming a minister?" I laughed out loud and replied "No, don't be so ridiculous!"

It had taken me 30 years to realise that this was the Holy Spirit reaching out to me, my spirit recognising the holiness of hers as my physical being did not. So I asked God, if God was really serious about this, to send someone else to ask me and promptly forgot about the conversation.

A retired head teacher and fellow Local Preacher who said after my service, "Gill can I have a word with you please?" This was even more terrifying than before – had I made a terrible theological blunder in my sermon? "Of course," I said. "Gill, have you ever considered candidating for ministry?" I literally stood there with my mouth wide open! "Well, think about it," he said.

I spoke to my sister Alison and asked "If two different people from two different churches ask you to do the same thing without knowing what the other had said, would you do it or run away like Jonah?" She answered "Well, the thing is, it's awfully smelly in that fish!" I rang my Superintendent and told him I wanted to candidate for ministry.

As I progressed through Circuit to District to Connexional interviews, then to Queens, to working with my link church at Loughton, to stationing, to Folkestone, to the Worship Development Group, to Circuit, to District Probationers Committee, to reports and more reports, I have had my eyes opened to the true meaning of connexion.

This, then, is how my journey to ordained ministry began, but not the beginning, the beginning began when I was born a day late and I realised I was special, and that God had a purpose for me, as God does for us all. I still feel the presence of God calling me on to things that are way out of my comfort zone, but I no longer laugh when I'm asked to do things. Instead I consider them carefully and prayerfully knowing that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

**Gill Songer**



## Sunday 20th August 2023

### Confirmation and Membership Service



A beautiful Confirmation and Membership Service, led by Rev'd Mark Pengelly, was held at Trinity on Sunday 20th August 2023. A warm welcome to the Trinity family whether by confirmation or transfer.

The church's  
ministry of healing



A study day for all  
who lead worship

**"Proclaim the Kingdom of God  
and heal the sick" *Luke 9:2***  
***...How are we doing?***

- Led by Alison Bryan, Coordinator of Healing Ministry, Methodist Central Hall Westminster
- With contributions from Rev Gill Newton, 2023-24 President of the Methodist Conference

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 10am - 4.15pm**

**Christchurch, Bedford Road, Hitchin SG5 1HF**

Hot/cold drinks & biscuits provided, please bring a packed lunch.

**RSVP to: [info@christchurchhitchin.org.uk](mailto:info@christchurchhitchin.org.uk)**

**Sponsored by the Beds, Essex & Herts District**



Webinar details. Thursday 7th September 2023 7.30pm till 8.30pm

Book online:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/have-an-out-of-the-ordinary-christmas-tickets-658317414107>

## A BIT OF HUMOUR

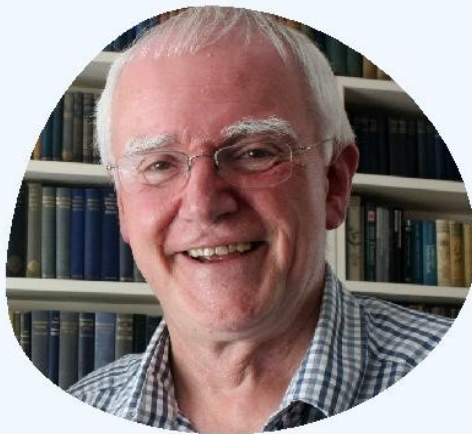
The son from a man who follow Judaism converted to Christianity. This worried the man and he went to see his Rabbi.

The Rabbi shared with the man that the same thing had happened to his son. So they decided to pray to God.

During the prayer time they explained their concerns to God who said, "Don't worry the same thing happened to my son too"

Mike Fogg





Led by **Roger Jones** and his team at Christian Music Ministries

# Two Sisters and a Funeral:

## Retreat with Roger Jones

Monday 23rd to  
Friday 27th October

The Pleasaunce  
Overstrand

Set time aside with God and come on a retreat with great Bible teaching, worship, music making, praise evenings and more!

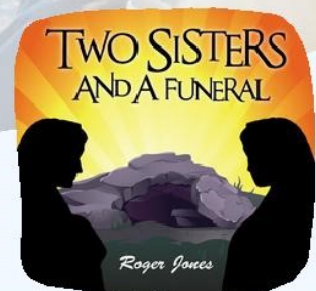
Afternoons are free to relax and explore the beautiful Norfolk coastline and local area

We'll be following Roger Jones' musical 'Two Sisters and a Funeral' to guide us through the story of Lazarus, Mary and Martha.

**10:00 Bible teaching and worship**

**19:30 Praise evenings**

**and more in-between!**



To join us as a day visitor  
or to stay at  
The Pleasaunce, please  
contact **01263 579212**



**cmjmm** Christian  
Music  
Ministries



# Certificate and Diploma courses in Reflective Pastoral Supervision



Professional and practical courses  
in reflective pastoral supervision.

Leading practitioners support your skill  
development in supervising colleagues  
across a range of ministries.



Wesley House  
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For further information and to apply visit  
[www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/supervision](http://www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/supervision)  
or email [office@wesley.cam.ac.uk](mailto:office@wesley.cam.ac.uk)



## Wesley House Certificate in Reflective Pastoral Supervision

Initial training for those wanting to offer reflective pastoral supervision to colleagues in ministry or for those beginning a professional pathway.

This course fulfils part of the training requirement towards accreditation with the Association for Pastoral Supervision and Education as an Accredited Pastoral Supervisor.

## Wesley House Diploma in Reflective Pastoral Supervision

A creative and professional learning experience for those who have completed the Certificate in Supervision (or equivalent) and want to deepen and extend their work as supervisors.

This course fulfils part of the training requirement towards accreditation with the Association for Pastoral Supervision and Education.

## Wesley House Diploma in Reflective Group Supervision

Creative and professional training for experienced supervisors who want to or already offer group supervision.

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### 2024 courses

**Certificate:** 1-5 July 2024

**Diploma** 15-18 July 2024

**Group Diploma:** 8-12 July 2024

## Meet the Team



**The Revd  
Dr Jane Leach**  
*Principal,  
Wesley House*



**The Revd  
Bill Mullally**  
*Director of  
Supervision,  
Wesley House*



**The Revd  
Brenda Mosedale**



**The Revd  
Gwyneth Owen**



**Dr Sue Price**



**The Revd  
Bob Whorton**

For further information and to apply visit  
**[www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/supervision](http://www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/supervision)**  
or email [office@wesley.cam.ac.uk](mailto:office@wesley.cam.ac.uk)



# ***WELCOME FROM WONDERFUL WITHAM***

***Sharing our visuals of the Farmer going to spread his seeds in July\****

Text from Matthew C.13



A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell among the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow.

But when the sun came up the plants scorched because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns which choked the plants.



Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop. 100, 60, or 39 x what was sown. If you have ears please listen.

**Continued/....**





### *V.19 The evil one comes and snatches away*

Interestingly, we know of a landowner nearby who was a bit fed up by losing at least 70 trees in the drought last year: he now (with the extra rainfall) reports that where he has tried replanting and rewilding, the plants he has put in himself have been matched by tiny oak trees appearing out of the grass.

Amazingly, the spacing between the sprouted acorns in one area look as if they have been sown in a pattern. Critics argue that the machinery moving over the land will leave an indent which provides lines for the plants to germinate.

The landowner is still scratching his head and thinking about the how and why of it all.....

*Footnote: \*he would have done better in March or April?*

**JRC 7.8.23**

## **NEWS FROM RAMONA**

I am settling into being in Antigua. The heat is on a level that even locals are complaining but I am happy to be here.

Things have moved quicker than expected and I start a temporary job as a primary school teacher in a couple of weeks.

I'm also planned to preach at some local Methodist churches, so I'll be kept busy and out of trouble.

At the moment I'm staying with my adopted parents and it's a full house as my sister and family are also here, so I am very much looking forward to having my own space.

All that's left is for my stuff to arrive from the UK as I'm discovering that I don't have some things with me. I even had to buy a Bible! But maybe God is trying to teach me how to live with less.

Finally, but no less important, thank you for your prayers and support to me during my time with you, and for your generous leaving gift.

If anyone would like to keep in touch with me, my [modrama.samuel@gmail.com](mailto:modrama.samuel@gmail.com) email is still being used and I can also be reached on WhatsApp.

Love and blessings

**Ramona**



**Hi Everyone**

**I am exhibiting photographs in Rayleigh Windmill again this year on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays as follows:**



Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - 1pm till 4pm

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September - 1pm till 4pm

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September - 1pm till 4pm

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 10am till 1pm

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 10am till 1pm

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 10am till 1pm

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1pm till 4pm

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 1pm till 4pm

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 1pm till 4pm

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1pm till 4pm



My photographs are a small part of what there is to see at Rayleigh Windmill. The volunteers who run the heritage site over four floors have an excellent presentation covering the history of the windmill and how it used to operate. Children also like to scramble up the stairs too.

**Mike Fogg**



## Bradwell Pilgrimage & Gathering 2023

What a joy it was to gather together as Christians for the annual Bradwell Pilgrimage & Gathering on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023. We gathered from across varying Christian denominations and traditions united in our Christian faith and witness.



There is something very powerful in participating in a walk or pilgrimage. It gives us an opportunity to talk with others whether we knew them before or not. It also gives us the opportunity to be still in God's presence and perhaps notice his creation around us.

We started the day at St Thomas Church where we gathered for an act of worship, and then walked for around two miles to St Peter on the Wall. To think that this chapel has been a place of worship and prayer for so many centuries is a very humbling thought.



Once we had all arrived we shared together in a united service of prayer, worship and reflection. Throughout the rest of the afternoon we had the opportunity to enjoy the company of friends and fellow pilgrims.

Some people used the opportunity to walk down to the beach and further afield. Others made use of the craft tent. There were also



refreshments on offer for people to enjoy. If you wanted to, you could participate in the healing service or relax to some music. The day finished with a closing act of worship.

If you have not been to the Bradwell Pilgrimage & Gathering before please do consider coming next year. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a day filled with fellowship, laughter, peacefulness and fun.

Whatever you want to do there is something for everyone. We are given the opportunity to draw close to God and one another, and to come away from our busy lives.



Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this day a success. There is a lot of planning that goes into making an event like this happen and we can be grateful for those who gave their time to do so.

Look forward to seeing you in 2024

**Jenny Clayton**

Ecumenical Lead (Essex)

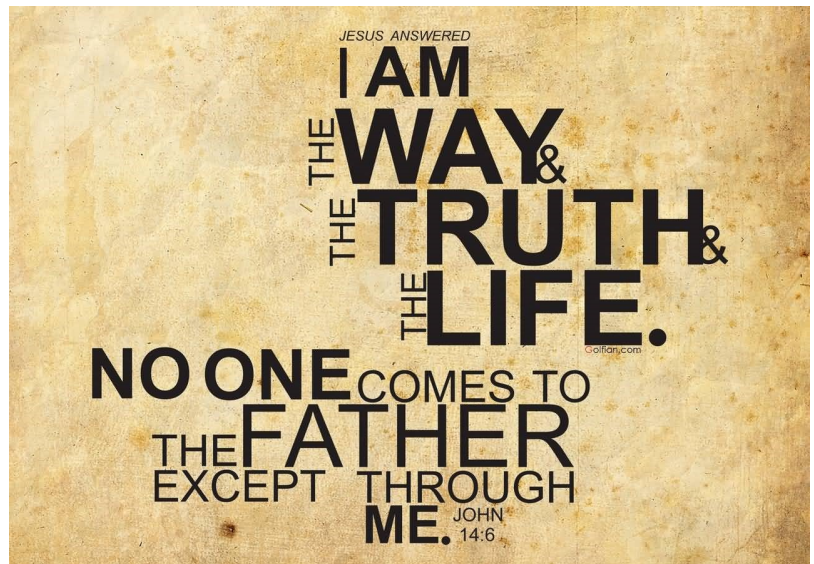
Churches Together in Essex & East London (CTEEL)

07796 393131

[www.cteel.org.uk](http://www.cteel.org.uk)



**'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go & prepare a place for you, I will come back & take you to be with Me that you may be also where I am. You know the place where I am going?' Thomas said to Him, 'Lord, we don't know where You are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way & the truth & the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'** John 14:1-6.



## **Dear Friends**

Where exactly is the Father's house, that Jesus speaks about? It's in a place called heaven. A place of incalculable beauty, which this earth is, @ best, a pale reflection of. I.e. An echo of the greater glory, that is yet to come. Nb. When what is unseen will, @ last, be seen; by all whose deepest longing is, to one day live there. As David so tellingly puts it Psalm 27:4: **'The one thing I ask of the Lord - the one thing I seek most - is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections & meditating in His temple.'** NLT.

The Father's house. Is that where you, one day, long to be? I.e. To live in the place, where Jesus also lives. The One who guarantees to get us there. Once, in our brokenness, we recognise our need of Him & allow Him in to enter in & fix us. As only He can. As only He will. Nb. It was @ a meal table, amongst a bunch of no hopers, wasn't it, as the scoffers & the mockers looked critically on that He was heard to say:

**'Healthy people don't need a doctor - sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous but those who know they are sinners & need to repent.'** Luke 5:31-32. As Pastor Max Lucado duly notes - **'The sinless One took on the face of a sinner so that we could take on the face of a saint.'**

Have you ever watched the TV programme, 'the Repair Shop?' I think it's absolutely brilliant! The whole premise of the series is to breathe new life into much loved family heirlooms. To take what seems to be beyond all hope of repair & in the most expert of ways, to lovingly & painstakingly restore them & some! Get the picture? God is not a throw away God. A God who thrives on trampling underfoot those society has wilfully abandoned. Rather, He's a God who takes what others have rejected & in a way no other being could ever possibly hope to replicate, tenderly & patiently puts them back together again. Better, in fact, than they were @ the beginning. To use the language of the apostle Paul - **'Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun.'** 2 Corinthians 5:17. NLT.

Broken & in need of repair? Needing to know God's loving acceptance, in all it's glorious fullness?! Then take yourself to the greatest repair shop of all. Nb. Where you'll not only get fixed for the whole of eternity but also come to discover where and to whom you've always truly belonged. I.e. The Father's house!

**With love from us all here @ Christ Church,  
John.**

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 support.

Karen



Future Dates for our Circuit Meeting

**Tuesday 19th September 2023**

**Thursday 22nd February 2024**

**Wednesday 15th May 2024**

7.15pm for 7.30pm

Circuit Administrator: Karen Murrell.

Email: [karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk](mailto:karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk)

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**Deadline for**

**November & December  
to Karen by**

**Mid October at latest.**