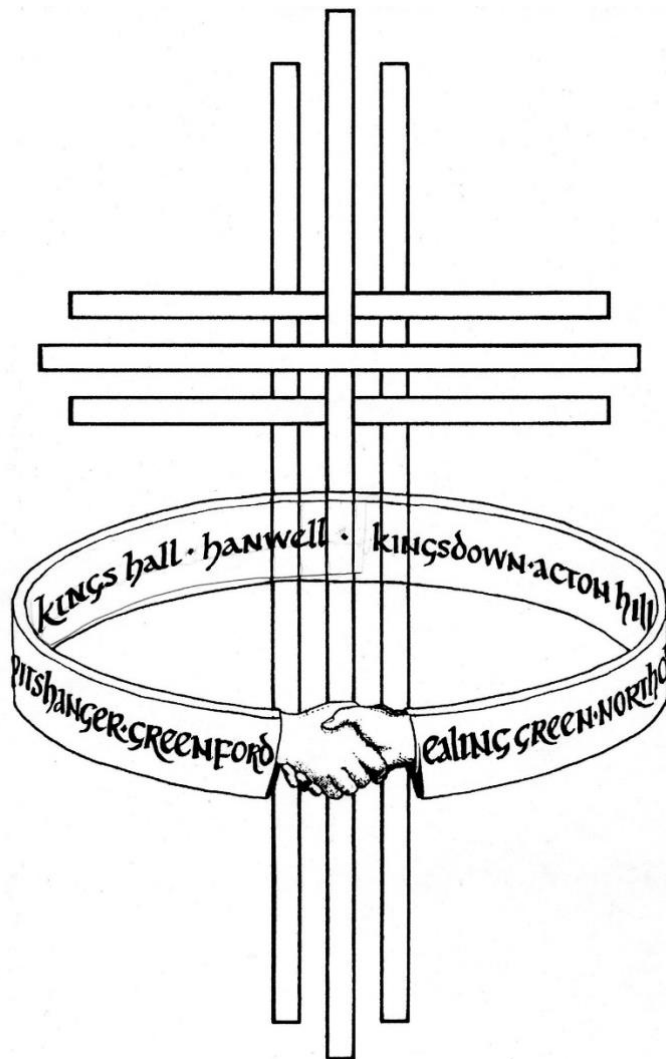


In-touch

No 98

June - August 2023



The magazine for *all* the Ealing Trinity Circuit.

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Circuit website: www.ealingtrinity.org.uk

Front Cover designed by Marion Narain

Welcome to this Special Edition of ‘In-touch’.

As a Circuit Leadership Team and a Circuit Meeting we have been thinking about the needs of the circuit as we move into the next 5+ years. In doing so we are thinking about our mission as churches and circuit and what will best resource it.

In order to do this there are many questions to be asked. We may need to let go of some of the old ways of doing things or organising ourselves and find ones that better suit who we are now and who we are seeking to be in the future.

As we’ve begun these conversations it has become clear that many people would welcome some information about how the structure of Methodism works, who we are and why we’re here so here’s a starter - some articles, descriptions and a few questions to get us going.

As you read these articles you might want to think about:

- What resources, gifts etc we have as churches, individual and circuit?
- What’s already happening that furthers our mission?
- What are the issues we’re facing or will face in the future?
- How can we work more closely as a circuit to face those issues together?

With appreciation for all you are and for all you do to live God’s love and life.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel".

Rev Rachel Bending
Superintendent Minister

From the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

In between the rain I've been spending time in the manse garden. Tiny shoots that were barely visible a few weeks ago are now three tall elegant stems that are about to burst into flower. Elsewhere, I'm only just planting vegetables for late summer crops and in other places I'm looking at plants that are at the end of their lives and others that are in desperate need of pruning. Gardening is often like this: the need to be able to look ahead and see a need at the same time as enjoying the present and recognising when things need to change.

Circuit life is also like that.

In some of our churches projects and activities that were tentative experiments a year or so ago are now blossoming and overflowing with life. Those of us involved with them now need to begin reflecting on what's going well, what could be improved and what new life could grow from them.

In other places our life and activities need pruning or rethinking to allow new life to be discovered. Some areas of our circuit life may be coming to an end, or we may have lost sight of the reasons and vision behind it.

Like gardening, in circuit and church life we need to look around us and notice what is happening, what it feels like, to wonder about what could be and what God is calling us to be and do. As we do this we need to remember that we do it not for ourselves but for God and for those in the communities around us. All of this works better if we don't stay isolated in our own churches but talk and work together to support each other as a circuit.

So what do you notice? What do you wonder about? How could we be different? What are the resources and gifts you notice in your church and the circuit and what are the needs of our churches and the communities and world around us? Where is God calling us to act, speak or be silent?

On 7th June at 8.00pm at Ealing Green there will be a Circuit Meeting where we'll be thinking about the future. It would be great to see as many people from the circuit there as possible so why not come along and join the conversation (whether you're a circuit meeting representative or not we'd love to see you!)

Also, Thomas and I would love to invite you all to the manse for an open house/garden party on 15th July 2.30 - 7.00pm. Come for as long or short a

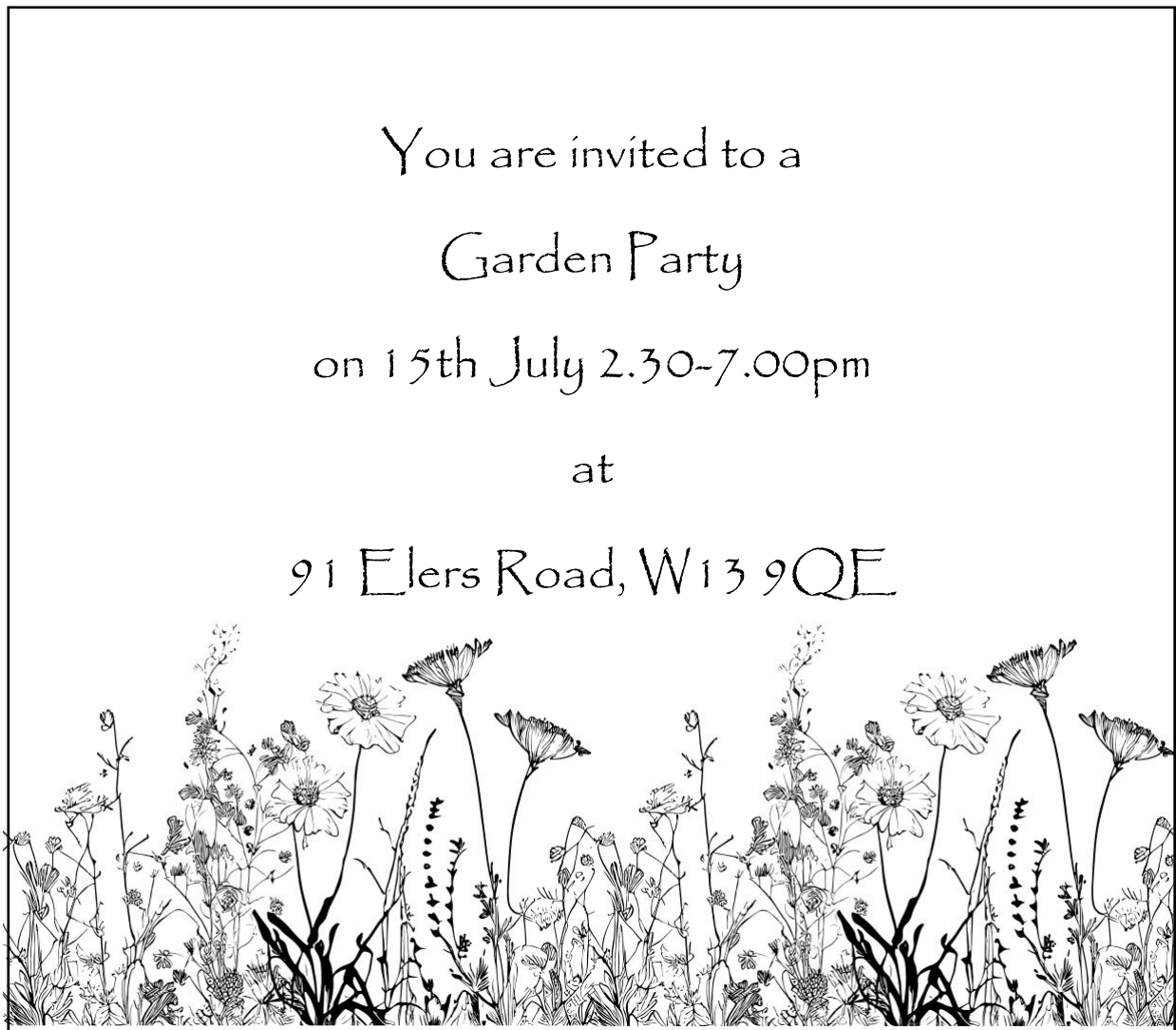
time as you can and spend time with old friends from around the circuit and hopefully meet some new ones. We'll provide refreshments.

With love and prayers

Rachel

Important note:

If you are coming to the Circuit Meeting at Ealing Green on 7th June and arrive before 8.00pm please access the building via the side entrance. There will be no access via the front doors before 8.00pm.



Quarterly Plan June – August

A note from Rev Rachel Bending

At the Quarterly Plan Meeting in April we talked about the situation in August when many of our preachers are on holiday.

As a group we decided to try a pilot scheme where there will be 3 'Circuit' services each Sunday and people will be able to choose which to go to. This means each church will have at least 1 service in the first three weeks of August. Our aim is that this will assist us to build relationships across our Circuit and will help us to be better stewards of the time and energy of those leading worship and all those involved in enabling worship in our churches such as stewards, organists, door stewards etc.

While writing this I thank all of you who do so much in the lives of our churches both noticed and un-noticed.



Church Anniversaries Coming Up

Northolt Methodist Church will celebrate its 90th anniversary during the weekend of 3rd/4th June.

On Saturday 3rd June from 1.00 – 4.00pm there will be Quiet Zones, fellowship, tea and coffee and on Sunday 4th June at 11.00am the Anniversary Service will be led by Rev Peter Catford and followed by a 'bring-and-share' lunch. Peter will also be joining the celebrations on the Saturday.

Greenford Methodist Church will celebrate its 98th anniversary during the weekend of 17th/18th June.

On Saturday 17th June there will be an Anniversary Mini-market from 10.30am and on Sunday 18th June at 11.00am the Anniversary Service will be led by Rev Yemi Jaiyesimi.

Friends from around the Circuit are invited to come along and join in the celebrations at both churches.

Why are We Here? Our Calling

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

It does this through:

Worship

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

Our Circuit's Mission

The Circuit's mission is to be a powerful spiritual influence in the community and a visible expression of God's inclusive love. We aim to achieve this by encouraging, through the churches in our Circuit, the worship, social, and outreach activities that currently exist; seeking new ways to extend to others the fellowship of the Church family; and through these to develop the life of the Circuit and its churches.

Our Circuit exists to:

Increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love;

Help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care;

Be good to people in need and challenge injustice.

From the Methodist Church website:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/our-calling/>

One Body with Many Parts

Rev Rachel Bending, Superintendent Minister

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”

1 Corinthians 12:12

The church is made of individuals each called to live in a particular place at a particular time but we do not live alone; we are called by God to gather together to share our gifts to work together so that all may live in God’s abundant life and love.

In Methodism, just as **individuals** are gathered into **churches** (with structures and rules to help us to ensure all are safe) so churches are gathered into **circuits**.

Ministers are appointed to **circuits** (not churches) so it is the circuit’s job to write the profile when a new minister is appointed, to provide a house and make sure it is good condition, to review the minister’s appointment and to ensure that ministers have the conditions in which they can thrive and carry out their calling well.

While it is easy to think of mission being carried out at church level, being grouped into a circuit means we can share skills and ideas, and work together to be more effective. As a circuit we can challenge and support churches to discern and carry out their distinctive mission in their particular contexts.

This means that it’s important that we think about our mission and priorities as a circuit rather than just as individual churches.

The circuit is also responsible for ensuring that churches and their officers and volunteers receive the training they need either by offering the training in the circuit or by signposting to training offered by the district or elsewhere. This includes training in safeguarding, preaching and worship leading, equality, diversity and inclusion, and much more.

The circuit also organises the **quarterly preaching plan**, through the superintendent minister. This plan organises who will lead worship in each of our services each week. In doing this the superintendent minister talks with others to determine the priorities and needs.

In Methodism as well as **ministers (Deacons and Presbyters)** we have **Local Preachers** who have been trained and authorised to lead worship and to preach. We also have **Worship Leaders** who are trained to lead worship under the authority of a Local Preacher or minister but who are not trained to preach.

Sometimes services are termed '**local arrangements**' where the local congregation is given the opportunity to lead the service, to do something different, and to challenge others to have a go and explore whether they might be called to be a worship leader or local preacher.

The circuit is responsible for this and much more.

It is tempting at times to think about the circuit as a separate body but in fact the circuit and churches are inseparable.

To use St Paul's metaphor of the body with many parts, it would make no sense for my head or my foot to decide it was separate from my body as a whole, neither does it make any sense for us as churches or individuals to think of the circuit as separate from us.

We are one whole.

So rather than thinking of the circuit as something "out there", why not:

- Come along to the Circuit Meeting at Ealing Green on 7th June at 8.00pm and join the conversation about our future
- Join in a conversation about our mission and ministry
- Pray for our life together
- Come to a Circuit Service or event and get to know other people
- Offer to join a committee
- Support the care of our properties
- Become a circuit steward?
- Find out how else you could be active in our circuit

Our body needs every part to be active and joined as one.

Building for the Cathedral

*From Tom Wright's book, Surprised by Hope, pp. 220-1
(London, SPCK, 2007)*

“Think of the positive: of the calling, in the present, to share in the surprising hope of God’s whole new creation. The image I have often used, in trying to explain this strange but important idea, is that of the stonemason working on part of a great cathedral. The architect has already got the whole plan in mind, and has passed on instructions to the team of masons as to which stones need carving in what way. The foreman distributes these tasks among the team. One will shape stones for a particular tower or turret; another will carve the delicate pattern that breaks up the otherwise forbidding straight lines; another will work on gargoyles or coats of arms; another will be making statues of saints, martyrs, kings or queens. They will be vaguely aware that the others are getting on with their tasks; and they



*The Building of the Temple
Jean Fouquet (c1465)*

will know, of course, that many other entire departments are busy about different tasks as well. When they’ve finished with their stones and their statues they will hand them over, without necessarily knowing very much about where, in the eventual building, their work will find its home. They may not have seen the complete architect’s drawing of the whole building with ‘their bit’ identified in its proper place. Nor may they live to see the completed building, with their work at last where it belongs. But they will trust the architect that the work they have done in following instructions will not be wasted. They are not, themselves, building the cathedral; but they are building for the cathedral, and when the cathedral is complete their work will be enhanced, ennobled, will mean much more than it could have meant as they were chiselling it and shaping it down on the stonemasons’ yard.”

What are the gifts you’ve been given and what could you add to the work of our circuit or your local church?

Giving Thanks

Please give thanks for the lives of those who have died in recent months and pray for those who mourn.

Rachel Kamara

Rachel was a member at Pitshanger and well-known across the Circuit as one of our Local Preachers with 20 years of service.



Akin Phillips

Akin was a member at Kingsdown and well-known across the Circuit as one of our Local Preachers with over 30 years of service.



Ivy Hanson, Kingsdown

Ruby Warne, Kingsdown

Ruby is also remembered for organising Kingsdown's Christian Aid Week collections for many years including extensive house-to-house collections

Mary Osbourne, Kingsdown

Blossom McCarthy, Kingsdown

Livingston Thomas, Kingsdown

Jennifer Woolford, Kingsdown

Nerissa Watson, Kingsdown

Ron Honor, Ealing Green

Arnold Wilson, Pitshanger

Keith Edwards, husband of Juliet Edwards, Kingsdown

"The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth." Ecclesiastes 7:4

Forthcoming Events around the Circuit

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

June

- 3rd/4th Sat/Sun **Northolt 90th Anniversary Celebrations**
See page 6 for details
- 4th Sun 4.00pm **Iris Axon Concert Series at Acton Hill**
Lance Mok - piano
*Programmes at the door \$5.00 concessions
£6.00 adults, £2.00 children*
- 7th Wed 8.00pm **Circuit Meeting** at Ealing Green
All are invited to attend
- 17th/18th Sat/Sun **Greenford 98th Anniversary Celebrations**
See page 6 for details
- 19th Mon 8.00pm **Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting**
at Ealing Green

July

- 2nd Sun 4.00pm **Iris Axon Concert Series at Acton Hill**
Ida Pellicoli - piano
- 15th Sat 2.30pm **Circuit Garden Party**
7.00pm *See page 5 for details*
- 23rd Sun 11.00am **Circuit Service at Greenford**
- 24th Mon 7.30pm **Examen with Deacon Theresa**

August

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Articles for 'In-touch' Issue No 99 (September - November) should be sent by e-mail headed 'In-touch' to the Editor, **Gerald Barton**, or as hard copy to the Circuit Office.

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