

## From the Superintendent

Dear friends,

I can't believe that it's 10 years since I arrived in the circuit from just down the road in Hammersmith and Fulham. The time seems to have flown by and yet so much has happened. I've served you as minister in Kingsdown, Pitshanger, Kings Hall, Greenford and Northolt churches as well as being your superintendent.

Together we have sought God's vision for the future of our churches, wondered about how to work more closely together and how to make ends meet. We've battled to attempt to redevelop the Kings Hall site (I continue to pray for that to come to fruition as I leave). We've welcomed people and also wished them well as they've left. I've had the privilege of celebrating weddings and baptisms, as well as mourning with you as we've shared in the funerals of those who we've loved.

We've also faced unprecedented times together. When COVID brought challenges, risk and lockdown I was grateful for the wisdom of you all as we sought ways to continue our life together in faith. I have vivid memories of the early online Bible Studies and the amazing depth of faith and life experience that was gathered on screens. Those Thursday afternoons were an amazing blessing to me, full of life, of laughter and of deep thought and penetrating questions. Worship on video and online gave the chance to explore what was important and fundamental, and to find new ways of expressing it, and I was and am grateful for all your support and care as we did so.

In the years since we have continued to reflect on how we work together as a circuit. Churches have experimented with new mission projects, some of which are thriving and causing fresh thought and developments. Circuit Services and events are beginning to gain momentum once again. Our circuit stewards are doing an amazing job in developing strategy and practices that support and enable our life together. In the last few months we've added a new circuit steward as Karen Whitehouse has joined their ranks. The Circuit Meeting had a vision of a circuit steward from each church. The Methodist website has information on the role of circuit

stewards. Might you be called to this or can you think of someone from your church who would be good in this role?

As I leave, I take with me more memories than I can name, and a greater sense of gratitude to you all and to God than I can put into words. On the 21<sup>st</sup> July we will have a chance to say goodbye to each other as we meet at Greenford for a service, meal and barn dance. I will be sad to leave you all, but I do so knowing that God is calling me to ministry in the Southampton District, a calling that is both exciting and daunting. My welcome service is at Salisbury Central Methodist Church on the afternoon of 1<sup>st</sup> September. I would love to see some familiar faces there and will be grateful of your prayers in the months to come.

As I leave, I do so praying for your future mission and ministry and for all that will change and develop as you move forward with Rev Steve Day.

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,  
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
once again into your door.

With love, overflowing thanks and deep prayers,

Rachel