

THE CHELMSFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT Newsletter

Issue 37: July & August 2025

Dear friends,

As we find ourselves in the warmth and brightness of summer, I write to you with a thankful heart. The sunshine, the lengthening days, and the flourishing of creation around us are blessings that lift the spirit and remind us of God's goodness. The psalmist declares, *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands"* Psalm 19:1 How true that feels during these beautiful weeks of summer.

This season brings with it opportunities for rest, travel, and family time. Many in our Church/ Circuit will be taking a well-earned break over the coming weeks. If that includes you, I encourage you to rest well, travel safely, and find renewal in both body and spirit. May your time away be a means of God's grace to you, refreshing your soul and drawing you closer to His peace.

For others who remain local, I pray that these quieter summer weeks may still offer you moments of stillness and joy. Let us also remember those for whom this season is difficult due to isolation, illness, or grief. May we continue to be mindful and supportive of one another, embodying the love of Christ in every season.

The rhythm of rest is a gift from God. Even Jesus, in the midst of His busy ministry, called the disciples to come away and rest: ***"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest"*** Mark 6:3. **I pray that we may each find time this summer to heed that invitation.**

Let us give thanks for all that has been in the life of our church / circuit during the

"Come away with me by yourself to a quiet place, and get some rest"

Mark chapter 6, verse 31



past months full of organisational and outreach challenges and let us look ahead with hope to what God will continue to do among us as we journey into the next season together.

With every blessing for a safe and peaceful summer,

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Asif Karam



Introducing Rev Dr Jennifer Walters to Chelmsford Circuit

Hello, I'm Jennifer, and I'm delighted to be joining you in the Chelmsford Circuit this September. I've spent most of the last 25 years as a secondary school science teacher, specialising in Physics, and I hold a PhD in the subject. In 2022, I was ordained in Canterbury Cathedral and have recently transferred my ordination to the Methodist Church.

Originally from Skegness, I've lived in Kent for many years, with time also spent in London and two enriching years in rural Tanzania with VSO as a volunteer teacher. I completed my initial theology training at Queen's in Birmingham and am looking forward to reconnecting with theological study.



I'm passionate about taking the gospel beyond the church walls, meeting people where they are, and ministry with children and young people is especially close to my heart—particularly exploring their spirituality and sense of wonder. I'm moving to Maldon with my cat, Cookie, and am excited to get to know this part of the country and the community here.

Rev Dr Jennifer Walters

AUTHORISATION TO PRESIDE AT SERVICES OF HOLY COMMUNION.

We are delighted to announce that Val Carter and Jim Lowe have both been given authorisation to preside at Holy Communion Services in the current Connexional year to September 2025.

Celebrating 150 Years of the first service at Halstead Methodist Church

This year, we joyously marked the 150th anniversary of the first service at Halstead Methodist Church. The celebration was a testament to the enduring faith and commitment of the congregation, with a heartfelt service and exceptional hospitality extended to all who joined us. It was uplifting to witness how the church is defying trends, flourishing with a growing and diverse membership that includes vibrant participation from children—the very heartbeat of a thriving church.

As we honour our past, we also look to the future with anticipation. We are delighted to welcome our new Minister, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Walters, who will join us on 1st September 2025. Her leadership will undoubtedly inspire us as we navigate the challenges ahead and continue our shared mission.

Helen Catley, Senior Steward.



Would you like to read
Halstead's history. ?

[Click here](#)





EASTER OFFERING 2025 THANK YOU NOTE

Maureen Crilley and Revd 'Femi would like to thank you most sincerely for your contribution to the success of the Easter Offering Service, held on Sunday 18 May 2025 at Witham Methodist Church, which was much appreciated.

Every Blessing in Christ Jesus!

Easter Offering 2025

In the afternoon of Sunday 18th May **our Circuit** held its **Easter Offering Service** at Witham Methodist Church. It was a lovely service primarily written by Ruth Parrott, Methodist Women in Britain, Co-Chair (Northern Section), assisted by the Easter Offering Task Group. This year's theme was "Education for All, Hope for All", and the service explored how education transforms lives and communities.

The Easter Offering 2025 service focused on every person's right to education and the order of service contained stories telling of people who are committed to changing lives through education.

Education for All, Hope for All offered Churches, Circuits and Districts a moment to consider how education transforms lives and communities and opening God's promise of hope and fullness of life for all people. The order of service also included the dedication of the Easter Offering donated by Local Churches to the World Mission Fund, which works with over a hundred of the Methodist Church in Britain's Partner Churches and organisations around the world.

Our Circuit Easter Offering service was led by Val Carter. In place of the usual reflection, Val was invited to lead a Bible Study based on the Gospel reading. She led us in an interesting new look at the Mary and Martha story. Representatives from Moulsham Lodge, Maldon, South Woodham Ferrers, Witham and Halstead shared in the reading of the Bible passages and the Stories set out in the order of service. An intergenerational Group, from Witham, which included children, led the Dramatized Reading. Maureen and 'Femi led the prayers. The Easter Offering donations from the some of our Circuit Churches were thankfully received and dedicated. **The total amount raised was £1011.66.**

Sadly, the Service was not as well attended as we had hoped but those who came enjoyed the service and there was a time for further fellowship around tables in the Foyer with delicious cakes and tea.

Maureen Crilley and Revd 'Femi Cole-Njie

CTIW Easter Holiday Children's Activity Club

The Holiday Club took place on three mornings in Holy Week at Witham Methodist Church.

The programme each day included ice breaker games, songs, Bible lessons, drama, a craft activity and the all -important snack time. Each day the children learnt and recited the memory verse - Revelation 1: 5 and 6, which brought all three days together.



The theme for the first day was Palm Sunday. The children learnt the King of Kings/ Glory/Halleluia song and made palm leaves. We then re-enacted Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, singing, laying down our 'cloaks' and waving our palm leaves.

Day 2 was more solemn as we focused on Good Friday; the garden of Gethsemane, the trial of Jesus and the Crucifixion. The children made crosses from modelling clay, decorated with beads.



On Day 3 the theme was Easter Sunday and the empty tomb. The children made Resurrection Rolls from croissant dough surrounding a marshmallow. When these were cooked, the marshmallow had melted leaving a hole in the middle- a memorable way to represent the empty tomb.

We finished with a quiz from Revd Howard to remind the children of what they had learnt over the 3 days.

There was a total of 23 children registered with an average of 16 children present at each session as a few children could not attend on certain days.

Grateful thanks go out to Revd 'Femi, Revd Howard and the team of helpers from Witham Methodist and St Nicolas churches.

We look forward to another Holiday Club in August.

Janis Croom

The Holy Saturday Church Together Witness 2025 at 11am at the Grove shopping precinct was in many ways was similar to the previous year's service, but with clear differences, which I will explain.



The service was led by Rev Dr. Jonathan Pritchard (Witham & Villages Anglican Team), where Jonathan offered a clear lead, especially in the singing (thank you Jonathan)! Many thanks also to David Brett (Bethel Church) who played the hymns on his keyboard.

We had more Bible readings than previously, which I was little concerned about, but I should not have been.

As this led to two benefits, firstly, it offered a wider inclusion and representation of churches involved in this act of witness.

Secondly, I did not expect this, but some people seemed to become curious about the readings and came closer to listen. Thank you to all those that read Bible readings.



Rev ' Femi Cole-Njie shared an excellent talk on Jesus' cry from the Cross, "It is finished." 'Femi explained this was a word of victory. The word used was 'Tetelestai' Rev. 'Femi's talk reminded us of all the Jesus accomplished and how he paid the price in full.



Before Rev 'Femi's talk we had a short, but very powerful drama, which reminded us of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Many thanks to the actors!

After the act of witness we were warmly invited to the Roman Catholic church for tea/coffee and hot cross buns. This was also a lovely time of sharing Christian fellowship. Many thanks to all who served refreshments.

Thanks also need to be said to the Witham Hub for kindly offering to let us use their Radio Mic/P.A System which certainly helped.



St. Nicolas church printed 60 Order of Service/hymns sheets and they were all used. We had about 65 people at my count, which was slightly up on the previous year. The weather was reasonably good and we had a lot to be thankful for. The Grove did not seem to be too busy then, but picked up as we were packing away.

Is this act of witness at the right time? Is the service a witness to churches as part of our partnership, or is it an outreach to non Christian? It works better to the former.

Do we have a similar pattern for 2026 (why reinvent the wheel) or should this act of witness be reshaped?

Thank you to all who supported this act of witness, which was very worthwhile.

Written by: Howard Schnaar (Vice Moderator)



Come along to join Stuart Watkin and Kristie Eve of the Learning Network to learn more about the Inclusive Language Guide and how you can use it in your context. If you came to this session at the Equipping for Equality Day much of this material will be familiar - you could invite a friend along to learn more.

[Click here for more details](#)

Tuesday 24th June 2-3.30pm

An introduction to unconscious bias

The Methodist Church



What is unconscious bias?

'Unconscious bias refers to a bias of which we are unaware and which happens outside of our control. It is a bias that happens automatically and is triggered by our brain making quick judgments and assessments of people and situations, influenced by our background, cultural environment and personal experiences.'

Hidden biases have the power to undermine and derail our desire to act justly, and fairly towards other people and lots of areas in our decision making. eg, when it comes to recruitment, promotion, and openness to new sources of ideas. It is possible to be unconsciously biased regarding disability, religion, race, gender, age, social class, and more.

We will be using the video resources for introducing unconscious bias which is now available on the Methodist Church Website.

The online session will include watching the videos and joining in small group conversation/reflection following each of the 3 video clips.

The reading/study material which is required before and after the session will be sent to participants once they have booked a place and the booking period has closed.

When booking your place, please select which session you will be attending.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/unconscious-bias-training-tickets-387493412227>

NEWS FROM HATFIELD PEVEREL

Myriad Commissioning

I wonder if anyone can remember an item I wrote for the Circuit newsletter in June 2023? I wrote about our Spring Harvest experiences, and especially about some workshops we attended called 'Can anyone start a new church?' In my item I said 'watch this space' – and now feel guilty for any breath-holding I may be responsible for!! Sorry for no regular posts – but here is an update.

Following our Spring Harvest experience in 2023 Eddie and I signed up to lead a team within the Myriad church planting and growth programme and we have been participating for the past 2 years. <https://ccx.org.uk/myriad-pathway/>

We have attended 6-monthly, two-day gatherings and at the first one we were encouraged to recruit additional team members. We were delighted when Jeff, John and Jenny joined our team. We have been supported by the Myriad team and other participants, we have attended other events, have had sessions with a Myriad mentor and our own team meetings during which we have encouraged one another and come up with ideas to fulfil our Myriad vision 'to shine the light of Jesus in Hatfield Peverel and to make disciples'.

Shining the light of Jesus in the village creates some challenges with no physical building and therefore no focus for folk to even know we are there, never mind

Folk are beginning to recognise who we are and why we are there on a

knowing how to contact us if they need support or prayer or would like to join us for worship. You may have also wondered if there are still Methodists active in Hatfield Peverel? Well, there are, and we are making progress! We worship every Sunday morning in a room off the Village Hall and share friendship and refreshments in the Community Café afterwards. Folk are beginning to recognise who we are and why we are there on a Sunday.

As encouraged at Spring Harvest, we have read 'the Church of Tomorrow' by John McGinley and found its contents very inspirational. It reminded us to be church where people are, and to find our own opportunities locally. Myriad taught us about being more open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, as well as introducing us to 'Discovery Bible Study' which has provided a great alternative worship solution. Our worship, fellowship and community life have also been enriched.

We will continue the Schools Ministry in St Andrews Junior School, started in 2019 by Barry and Sandie Hulbert and so ably continued by Ria. We will be prayerfully considering the best way to progress this and, in the meantime, I have agreed to be a School Governor to ensure the closest possible connection with the school. We are also building relationships with St Andrews Church in the village, looking forward to opportunities to work together in projects locally.

Continued/...

My Stitch to Enrich group continues to meet in the Community Café twice a month – 4 years on we have a regular group who meet to chat, with stitching always optional! We have had significant success in the handicraft classes of the **Horticultural Society Spring and Autumn Shows** and also arrange craft activity sessions on a Sunday at Christmas and Easter. In September we will again celebrate **Harvest** with a workshop of ideas for recycled creations, a ‘harvest’ of things we would otherwise throw away, with the opportunity to enter our results into that class at the Autumn Show.

As a bereavement volunteer for Farleigh Hospice, I have recently started to lead a Bereavement Help Point in the Community Café – another connection with the village and its people. *In December our church members were invited to sing carols in the pub and in the café* and had a Christmas tree in the café entrance, for folk to include tags with their messages and prayer requests, with their prayers included in our worship.

Of course, we would love to welcome additional worshippers on a Sunday. We believe that we will, in God’s time. This photo shows our commissioning service at our final Myriad Gathering in May. After the presentation, the Myriad team members and members of other participating teams prayed over us. During their prayers of encouragement, they recognised our commitment, observing that we were ‘salty’ people and full of light, commenting that we are a force to be reckoned with! They said our actions were conspicuous and commended us for our commitment and willingness to step out to make a difference.

I thank God that he prompted me to explore this great opportunity, that he ensured that I didn’t let it go, and that the inspiration continues, even if the Myriad programme has reached its conclusion. **I would be happy to share any aspect of the programme and how we have benefited with anyone interested.**

Please include us in your prayers as we continue to find opportunities to share Jesus.

Jane Cook



Family Fun Mornings at Christ Church, Braintree.

Our Family Fun Mornings run each school holiday and continue to be enjoyed by children from the town aged 0 -11 years. At Easter we talked about Palm Sunday and enjoyed a video, song, Egg Hunt and lots of crafts based on donkeys and palm branches. In May we talked about Jesus choosing his disciples which involved lots of fish and boat crafts and activities..

Our display board gets lots of comments from the people who use that room for other activities including Craft club and Lunch Club, and the children enjoy looking at the crafts displayed each time we meet for a Family Fun Morning.



Continued/....

Women's Breakfast at Christ Church, Braintree



On Saturday May 10th we had our 3rd annual Women's Breakfast with about 60 women of all ages enjoying a delicious continental breakfast prepared for us by the men of the church.

Our speaker this year was Claire Musters, Journalist and Christian author, and her theme was 'Taking off the mask'. She shared some of her life experiences with us and kept her audience captivated.

Thank you, Claire, and all the team who organised the event, for such a memorable morning!.

Zelma Holt

Monday, June 16 · 7 - 8:30pm



Following on from the neurodiversity awareness session on 6th Aug 2024, Revd Jonny Bell is running another session, this time aimed at neurodivergent people who work for the church (lay workers, ministers, etc.) to enable greater flourishing in their roles. The session will provide space for participants to share skills and knowledge with one another so that we can add to our 'toolboxes' of strategies and techniques to manage some of the gifts and challenges of neurodiversity. The session will be between 1 to 1.5 hours long at 7 pm on Monday 16th June.

[CLICK TO BOOK](#)



THE CHURCH IN GREAT NOTLEY

VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

The Church in Great Notley joined with Great Notley Parish Council in remembering this anniversary.

Although the Parish Council did all the planning and arranging the congregation were able to contribute manpower, tables and chairs. We are blessed to have a large open green space opposite our church building and, with the permission of Braintree District Council, we were able to set up a street party atmosphere to which the local community were invited to join in.

In addition choirs from Notley Green Primary School and White Court Primary School entertained visitors with some beautiful singing. They also contributed to the short service led by Rev'd Rachel Prior during which there was a minutes silence.

Whilst the weather was on the chilly side it did not prevent people from enjoying the various side shows and local refreshments available. The ice cream van did a roaring trade when the school children finished school for the day.

We hope and pray that this will be the first of many joint ventures with the Parish Council. As we are all aware things changed as a result of Covid and we are slowly restoring and growing our relationship with the community we serve.

June Frisbee



A call to all Pastoral Carers



Who Cares?

In response to Our Calling, Methodist people are to help others to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

Face to Face Training at Trinity Methodist, Chelmsford.

- Session 1: Introduction to Pastoral Care
- Session 2: Discipleship and Hospitality
- Session 3: Listening and Prayer
- Session 4: Pastoral Care in Difficult Times

The **Methodist Church** 

A call to all Pastoral Carers to attend these meetings. Welcome attendees from others who feel called to become a pastoral carer or those who may wish to explore pastoral care in the course of their roles within our churches. Delegates should attend both dates

SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2025

10am Start and Finish approx. 2.30pm
Bring your own lunch—Tea/coffee will be provided

Session 1: Introducing Pastoral Care

Session 2: Welcome and Hospitality in Pastoral Care

SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2025

10am Start and Finish approx. 2.30pm
Bring your own lunch—Tea/coffee will be provided

Session 3: Listening and Prayer in Pastoral Practice

Session 4: Care in Difficult Times and Self-care in Pastoral Practice

The sessions will set churches and Methodist communities on a sound footing to envision and enable a culture of care in their context.

Sessions 1 and 2 particularly consider welcome, hospitality and discipleship in the context of pastoral care and reflect on the pastoral nature of these in our church communities, recognising our shared responsibility and gifts for pastoral care.

Session 3 will help participants to develop listening and communication skills, particularly using language and prayer appropriately and sensitively in pastoral situations.

Session 4 introduces participants to the impact of trauma, transition and loss on individuals, families and groups and helps them understand appropriate boundaries and balance, including self-care, in pastoral ministry, and highlights the importance of reflective practice.

Trainer: Stuart Watkin

Make a Booking

Book on the Chelmsford Methodist Circuit website.

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

BOOK ONLINE

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

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.

EMPOWER

District gathering of lay folk

Wednesday 9th July 7.30pm - online

Speaker: Corin Pilling

Vocational Flourishing Officer (Connexional Team)

Open to all lay folk in any role either paid or voluntary, and at whatever level Church, Circuit or District.

For more details and to register: email DDE@BEHDistrict.org.uk

CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT LEAVING SERVICE

For

Rev. Barry Allen and Mrs Ria Allen

Service led by:

Rev. Dr David Chapman

Superintendent Chelmsford Circuit and District Chair,
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District

And Rev Asif Karam

Minister and Superintendent Chelmsford Circuit
from 1st September 2025

Maldon Methodist Church

High Street, Maldon CM9 5PB

Sunday 27th July 2025

4pm followed by refreshments

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Large public car park behind the church
Information: karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk

 The **Methodist Church**

CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT WELCOME SERVICE

Rev. Asif Karam

Chelmsford Circuit Superintendent
and Rev. Dr Jennifer Walters

Service led by:

Rev. Dr David Chapman

District Chair,
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District

Witham Methodist Church

Guithavon Street, Witham CM8 1BJ


Wednesday 3rd September 2025

7pm followed by refreshments

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Large public car park on Guithavon Street.
karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk

 The **Methodist Church**



Rev. Asif Karam cordially invites
you to join him for a
Reaffirmation Service
for all Local Preachers and
Worship Leaders
in the
Chelmsford Circuit

Trinity Methodist Church
Sunday 14th September 2025
6pm followed by refreshments

RSVP.

Guests, members of your family
and church members are welcome.

Karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN
ESSEX & EAST LONDON
BRADWELL
PILGRIMAGE
AND GATHERING

people of hope

5th July 2025



Join us for a day of inspiring talks & reflections, workshops, live music & worship, time for prayer & contemplation, refreshments & fellowship. Starting from St Thomas's Church. 10:30am - 3:15pm

With special guest,
theologian, writer and
broadcaster
Elaine Storkey

For more information bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk

For more information click the link to their website.

<https://bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk/>

All are welcome on our Prayer Walk.

Bring friends and family along to learn more about Broomfield Village and to pray for our communities. It's a very gentle walk.



SATURDAY 26TH JULY 2025

(REPLACING 21ST JUNE HEATWAVE WEEKEND)

PRAYER WALK 10.00AM

Join us on another one of our popular walks.
We want to bring communities together and build a place where all feel loved and can grow.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Come along with family and friends.
Starting from 'Cheerful Chai' café.
Angel Meadow, Main Road, Broomfield CM1 7AH
(behind the Angel Pub)

We will start with a warm drink and then walk (max 1 hour)

Organised by the Methodist Churches in Chelmsford
More details: Malcolm 07731 831541
If you would like to receive historical information sheets before the walk, please email Malcolm on: gwenandmalcolm@gmail.com

This will be the fifth in a series of walks in various parts around Chelmsford.

Could you suggest places where we could meet?

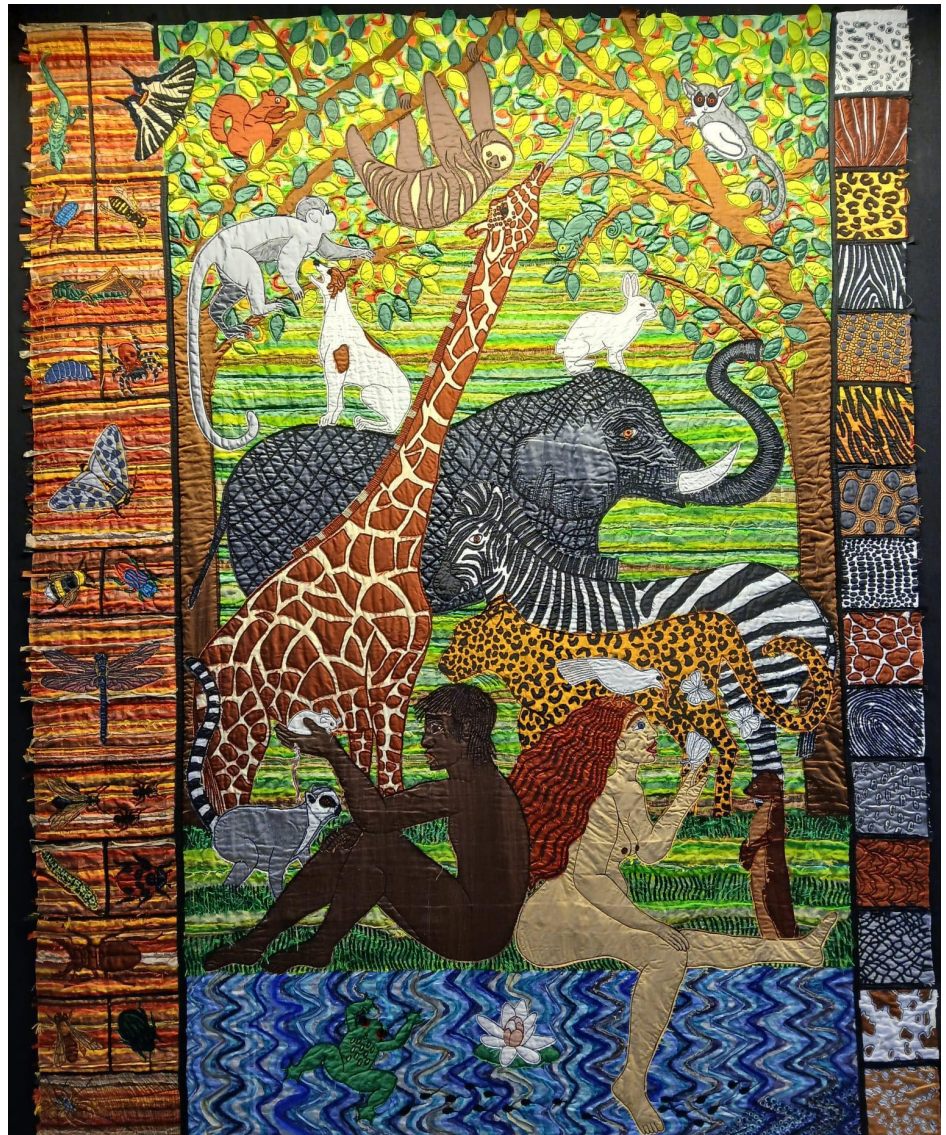
The **Methodist Church** 

Methodist Women in Britain

Revd Charity Tozivepi-Nzegwu

Friends, this afternoon, I stood before this panel in Ely Cathedral with my two friends, Jennie and Gill, and I was utterly gobsmacked. Here, stitched in vivid colour, was the creation story, but not as we so often see it, through the narrowing lens of European art and imagination. No. Here was a scene that stopped me in my tracks, invited me to linger, and whispered truths my spirit has long known.

At the centre of the garden, not hidden behind leaves of shame, sit Adam and Eve. But look again, Adam is a Black man, richly dark, adorned with beautiful dreadlocks. Eve is a white



woman, her hair flowing red like fire. Together they are not only at ease with each other but at home among the creatures of the earth, giraffe, elephant, leopard, zebra, birds, insects, creatures of the water. A lemur leans towards them. The river beneath their feet pulses with life. Creation sings its song of interdependence.

I had never imagined Adam and Eve in this way. Yet how right this is. How faithful. How urgent.

For too long, Christian imagination, shaped by colonial power, by racial supremacy, by an impoverished theology, has rendered the first humans as white, and whiteness as somehow closest to divinity. We must tell the truth, this is a lie. A lie that has wounded, marginalised, and distorted the gospel.

This panel speaks a different word. It bears prophetic witness, the image of God is not confined to one skin, one hair texture, one body. The image of God is Black. The image of God is white. The image of God is brown, Asian, Indigenous. The image of

Continued.....

God is dreadlocked, beaded, braided, shaved, curly, straight, or coiled. The image of God is expansive. It always has been.

This matters, not only in art, but in how we live, worship, and structure our communities. I speak as a woman of African heritage who has carried too many stories of erasure and exclusion. I speak also as one shaped by the gospel's relentless call to justice.

This panel reminded me again, we must decolonise our sacred imagination. We must refuse to perpetuate images of creation, or of the body of Christ, that silence the many faces and voices of humanity. The work of justice begins with truth telling. It begins with vision, with seeing rightly.

I saw rightly here. In this embroidered garden, I saw an Adam who looks like my brothers, my uncles, my cousins. I saw an Eve who might be my neighbour, my friend. I saw not dominance or hierarchy, but shared life, a foretaste of the reconciliation we are called to pursue.

I wept, for the beauty of it, and for society's long failure to show such beauty. Yet I left that panel not in despair but in hope. Every stitch proclaimed, it is still possible to reimagine. It is still possible to live into the wideness of God's grace.

This is the kind of art that fuels the work of justice. It is art that says to every Black child, every child of colour, you were there from the beginning. You are not an afterthought. You bear the image of the Creator.

It is art that says to the church, stop clinging to narrow visions. The garden is vast. The body of Christ is richly woven. The river still flows.

I will carry this vision with me, into my leadership, into my writing, into my preaching, into the corridors where I advocate for justice within my church tradition.

May we have the courage to live as though this creation story is true. Because it is.

May we keep stitching together a world where every person can know they belong, fully, freely, gloriously, in the garden of God.

Revd Charity Tozivepi-Nzegwu,
Methodist Presbyterian,
East Anglia District

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





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%20Network%20Brochure%20September%202024.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
Sept/ October 2025
by Mid August**