

CHELMSFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

July and August 2026 Volume 43

PROMISES FROM GOD

I will...

**FIGHT
FOR YOU**

EXODUS 14:14

Always love you

1 JOHN 4:9-10

Provide for you

MATTHEW 6:31-33

Keep my word

NUM. 23:19

**BE
WITH
YOU**

DEUT. 31:6

**BE YOUR
STRENGTH**

Answer you

JOHN 15:7

ISAIAH 40:31

Guide you

PSALM 32:8

Give you peace

JOHN 14:27

Superintendent's Letter

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you. As I return to ministry following surgery and a longer-than-expected recovery, I do so with profound gratitude to God and to all who have journeyed alongside me through prayer, encouragement, and practical support. We live in a remarkable age of digital technology. Our devices perform extraordinary tasks, connect us across continents, and often appear reliable and resilient. Yet occasionally a system fails without warning, requiring repair, restoration, or a complete reset. During recent months, I have reflected on how much more intricate and precious the human body is. The Psalmist reminds us that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). We often assume that our bodies will continue to function as they always have, yet illness can arrive unexpectedly and remind us of our fragility.

My recovery has taught me many lessons, but perhaps the most important is a renewed trust in the faithfulness of God. Scripture consistently reveals a God who brings possibility out of impossibility, hope out of despair, and life out of situations that appear beyond human remedy. God remains faithful to God's promises even when we struggle, falter, or find ourselves unable to understand the path before us. Our confidence ultimately rests not in our own strength, but in the steadfast love and faithfulness of God.

Before I was taken into theatre for surgery, I offered a simple prayer lying on stretcher. I entrusted myself completely into God's hands. My prayer was that if God still had work for me to do in Christ's Church, I would be preserved and restored. Equally, if my earthly pilgrimage had reached its conclusion, I was ready to entrust myself to the mercy of Christ and to his divine will to join the great communion of saints who now worship in God's nearer presence. That prayer brought an unexpected peace. It reminded me that our lives are secure in God, both in life and in death.

Another lesson has been the reminder that no individual is indispensable to the Church. While each of us has a unique calling and contribution, the mission of Christ does not depend upon any one person. The Church has endured, witnessed, served, and proclaimed the gospel since the first century through seasons of challenge, change, persecution, renewal, and growth. It continues because it is not ultimately our Church but Christ's Church. The Church is the living Body of Christ, animated by the Holy Spirit and sustained by the grace of God.



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During my absence, I witnessed this truth in action. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the Circuit Leadership Team, Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, Stewards, circuit staff, and all who willingly stepped forward to lead worship, provide pastoral care, cover appointments, and support one another. Thank you for your cards, flowers, fruit baskets, messages, and for keeping me in your prayers throughout this time. Your kindness, thoughtfulness, and support have been a great source of encouragement during my recovery. I am deeply grateful for the love and care shown by our church family, and I thank God for each one of you. Your commitment ensured that the work of God's kingdom continued faithfully and effectively.

This experience has deepened my appreciation for Christian fellowship and shared ministry. It has reminded me that we are strongest when we serve together, care for one another, and trust God with the future.

As I gradually resume my responsibilities, I do so with renewed gratitude, greater humility, and a deeper confidence in God of health, healing, and wholeness. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit continue to sustain and guide us all.

**Every blessing,
Rev. Asif Karam
Superintendent Chelmsford Circuit**

Congratulations Rev Femi Cole-Njie

We are delighted to share the joyful news that **Revd Femi has been unanimously elected as President of Methodists in World Mission at its Annual General Meeting last weekend.**

This is a significant honour and a wonderful recognition of her faithful ministry, leadership, and commitment to God's mission. Revd Femi has expressed her gratitude and humility in accepting this role and has asked for our prayers as she begins this new responsibility.

As a Circuit, we offer our warmest congratulations and assure her of our prayers. May God grant her wisdom, discernment, strength, and grace as she serves in this important ministry, and may her leadership help further God's mission across the world.

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act." (Psalm 37:5)

Please keep Revd Femi in your prayers.

Rev Asif Karam



Rev Femi giving her acceptance speech as the new President of Methodists in World Mission

Methodists in World Mission

is a movement whose aim is to celebrate diversity and promote mutual partnership between people of differing cultures and ages from all parts of the world who are rooted in the Christian Faith, through Conferences, Webinars, Prayer and Care Newsletters and Grant making.

This year's Conference focused on Mission in South Asia and we had representatives from the Orisa Bible College in India participate in the Conference.

The Keynote Speakers were Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal - Former President of the Methodist Conference, and Revd Dr Raj Patta, a Dalit decolonial Theologian, serving as a minister in the United Stockport Circuit.



Communion Service at the end of the Conference.



The Name Above Every Name: Philippians 2:9–11

I hope that this year's Bible Month has encouraged all of us to learn more about Christ through our journey in Philippians.

One phrase that particularly caught my attention was Paul's description of Jesus as having **"the name above every name."**

During Bible Month, I found myself reflecting on why Paul chose these words. It led me to explore the many names and titles given to Jesus throughout the Bible.

We all have names. Most of us were given our names by our parents, perhaps because they liked the name or because it belonged to a family member. My own name, Asif, is often associated with wisdom, good judgement, faithful service, and wise counsel. It is a name with a positive meaning, and I am grateful for it. Yet, however meaningful our names may be, none can compare with the name of Jesus. The Bible gives Jesus many names and titles. Every name and title given to Jesus reveals something of His character, mission, and relationship with God's people.

[Click Here for a full description in the alphabet.](#)

Among all these beautiful names and titles, one name stands above them all: **Jesus**. The angel told Joseph, "You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The name Jesus means "The Lord saves." It reveals God's heart, God's mission, and God's love for the world. That is why Paul declares: "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name" (Philippians 2:9).

Every title tells us something about Jesus. His name tells us why He came. Each title reveals something of who He is and what He has done for us. But among all these titles, the name Jesus stands above every other name. Why is this name so special?

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First, it is a name picked up not by Mary or Joseph but by God. Before Jesus was born, the angel told Joseph, "You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). This was not a random choice. It was God's choice.

Second, it is a name that points us to God's heart. The name Jesus means "The Lord saves." It reminds us that God has not forgotten humanity. He loves us and reaches out to us through His Son. When we look at Jesus, we see the love, compassion, mercy, and grace of God made visible.

Third, it is a name that paints God's mission. Jesus came "to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). God's desire is not to condemn people but to bring them into a relationship with Him. Through Jesus, God has opened the way of salvation for all. As we conclude Bible Month, perhaps the most important question is this: Have we experienced the power, comfort, and hope found in the name of Jesus? His name still brings peace to troubled hearts, strength to the weary, hope to the discouraged, forgiveness to sinners, and joy to those who trust in Him. The prophet Isaiah invites us: "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6). In a world full of distractions, screens, uncertainty, and constant demands on our attention, these words remain as relevant as ever. God invites us not to delay but to draw near to Him today. Let us therefore continue to seek Christ, follow Christ, and trust Christ, whose name is above every name.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of your saving name. Help us to seek you while you may be found and to call upon you while you are near. Fill our hearts with your peace, hope, and grace. Turn our lives towards you each day, and help us to share your love with others. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus, the name above every name. Amen.*

Rev Asif Karam

Children are a blessing to our church communities.

Recently I have spent a fair amount of my time arranging, planning and thinking about activities for children, and how we can provide for them within our church communities. Children are not always easy: they find it hard to be quiet and sit still and just listen! However, I still argue that we have an awful lot to learn from them.

Interestingly, there is evidence coming from research which shows that children are capable of deep and meaningful spiritual experiences from a very young age. Studies from Finland suggest that around 80% of seven-year-olds report having experienced God in some way. So, spirituality is not something adults “install” in children through teaching or information. Instead, it is something already present within them — an innate awareness of mystery, connection, and wonder. Children often experience God not through complicated ideas, but through what we might call a “felt sense”: a way of knowing that is emotional, imaginative, and often beyond words. This makes children naturally open to God in ways adults sometimes forget.

Children are a blessing to our church communities, not only because we care for them, but because they have much to teach us. Their curiosity, imagination, and sense of wonder are gifts that enrich the whole body of Christ. Children are naturally inquisitive, eager to explore, and unafraid of new experiences. They often think about God far more than adults realise, even in homes where faith is not spoken about. Many children can recall moments of awe and wonder that stay with them for life.

And Jesus himself showed us how precious children are. In the Gospels, he welcomed children freely, even when the disciples tried to send them away. Mark tells us that Jesus was “indignant” when the disciples blocked the children’s approach for a blessing — a rare glimpse of Jesus’ anger, used to defend the smallest and least powerful. Jesus blessed children simply because they were children, not because they had achieved anything or proved themselves worthy. He healed children, listened to them, and held them up as examples of how adults should approach God. “Unless you become like little children,” he said, “you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Jesus was not asking adults to become childish, but child-like — open, trusting, curious, and willing to depend on God.

Children feel things deeply. They love easily and they trust instinctively. They experience the world with fresh eyes and open hearts. Adults, with our layers of knowledge, experience, and self-protection, can sometimes lose touch with this simplicity. We may try to think our way into faith, while children simply feel their way into it. Jesus invites us to learn from them — to rediscover wonder, to let go of status and self-importance, and to remember that faith begins with openness, not achievement.



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Children are not “mini adults under construction.” They are full human beings with their own spiritual gifts, insights, and ways of knowing God. Their presence in church is not a distraction from worship — it is part of worship. Their questions, their laughter, their honesty, and even their restlessness remind us that the kingdom of God is wide enough for every age and every stage.

The spiritual lives of children often form the foundations of the adults they will become. Jesus treated children as precious, and so must we. When we nurture their spirituality, we honour Christ’s example and strengthen the whole church. Children are not the church of tomorrow — they are the church of today, and we are blessed by their presence.

Rev Jennifer



What a fabulous day out for our children to Bradwell on Saturday 27th June, arranged by Rev Jennifer.



A WONDERFUL DAY AT BRADWELL ON SEA

On Saturday 27th June the older children from our Sunday at Halstead Church went to the Activity Day organised by Jennifer. They had a wonderful time; it was absolutely lovely to see them integrating and becoming friendly with the children from other churches. What struck me the most was the way they encouraged each other to complete the tasks especially on the High Rope Wall, the cooperation and encouragement for each other was amazing to watch.

Thank you to Rev Jennifer and everyone else involved in the day.

Heather Williams

The Bradwell Centre was extremely fun. We arrived at around 9.00 in the morning and our first activity was sailing. We first went on the sail boats. It was peaceful and soothing. I loved being near the water and we learnt a lot about the nature and the various living things that inhabit it. Then we went on the speed boats which was a thrilling adventurous ride. We would ride the waves as if like a ramp, we would get landed into the air and have a big splash. The high rise was an interesting activity. It was an obstacle course towering really high. Even though I had a harness I was still scared as I am scared of heights. I conquered my fear though climbing to the very top. We also had archery which was a great learning experience as we were shooting arrows and aiming at a target. I also want to say thank you to all the people who helped us get there, participate and come back.

Sonto Awa

After long drive, we got to Bradwell. First, we all had a chance to go the toilet. Then have a drink, after that, we went on a boat, the first boat was a speed boat, we were going over huge waves. After we switched boats, but the next boat was a sailing boat. When we all finished our sandwich lunch we all done fun activity. I really had a fun day and wish to repeat it again.

Precious Ngene



TRINITY SUPPORTING HOME START IN CHELMSFORD



Home Start meeting at Trinity every Tuesday morning. They offer a six-week support programme and advice to mums with young children. During March and April, Trinity folk donated toiletries and £300 for mums and small children.

The Homestart team are pictured in the photo with some of the many gifts that we donate. Many thanks to all at Trinity for their kind donations.

Email 19th May 2026

I just wanted to thank you again for your incredible generous donations to our families in the Tuesday Family Group.

Today I have purchased food vouchers for all our families to with their food costs during the upcoming school holidays. It really does make a massive difference to our families.

Warmest regards

Sarah Mullin

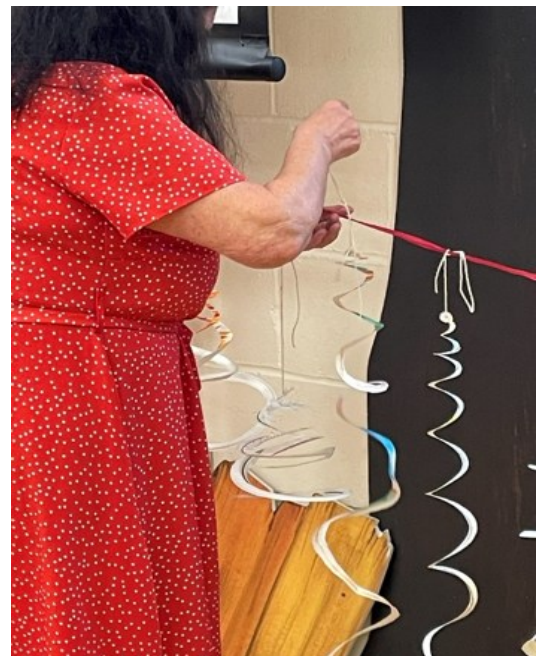
CAFÉ W AT SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

Café W is a new café-style worship service happening at South Woodham Ferrers every second Sunday on the month starting at 4pm. This is a bit of a step into the unknown for SWF but we have decided to give it a try in response to some feedback from our monthly Art & Crafts drop-in sessions. These Art & Crafts sessions have built up quite a following, and a number of parents have asked about services which would be accessible for families with young children. Hence Café W...

So far we have had two Café W services, and we have enjoying a relaxed and informal time of worship and creativity together. In June the theme was the power Holy Spirit – the spirit that breathes life into being. We enjoyed Eddie’s balloon modelling, made wind spinners and wrote prayers on doves which the wind of the spirit carried to God.

As with any new venture, it will take time to embed, but the team are lapping up the opportunity to bring out their creative sides in planning this worship together.

Our new Café W is on Sunday 12th July at South Woodham Ferrers at 4pm in St Mary’s School Hall – enter through the church. In July we will be exploring “Playing on God’s Team” and all are welcome.





Methodist Women in Britain

for women, for justice, for Christ

Easter Offering Service

My thanks to all who took part in the Easter Offering Dedication Service on Sunday 17th May at Maldon. Rev'd 'Femi Cole Njie and I enjoyed putting the service together and Karen Murrell kindly printed the copies for us. Items from the service will be used in a Local Arrangement Service and a Fellowship meeting so the extra copies will not be wasted.

The total amount raised for the Methodist World Mission Fund from your donations was **£1148.54**. Thanks to those churches who kindly supported this event, it is much appreciated.

The MWiB Exec.

The Rev'd Leonora Wassell MWiB CO -chair is standing down this summer so the MWiB Exec is planning to revert to having a Chair and Vice Chair and are seeking applicants for these posts.

Swanwick Conference

You can watch sessions from this conference on YouTube. For a totally different perspective on Samson, watch the Bible Study led by Rev'd Jenny Pathmarajah.

All news can be found on the **MWiB Facebook** page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/197349686975452/>

Maureen Crilley



**Broomfield
Methodist
Church recently
took part in the
Village Flower
Festival at St
Mary's Church.**

The theme of the Festival was "A Celebration of Music."

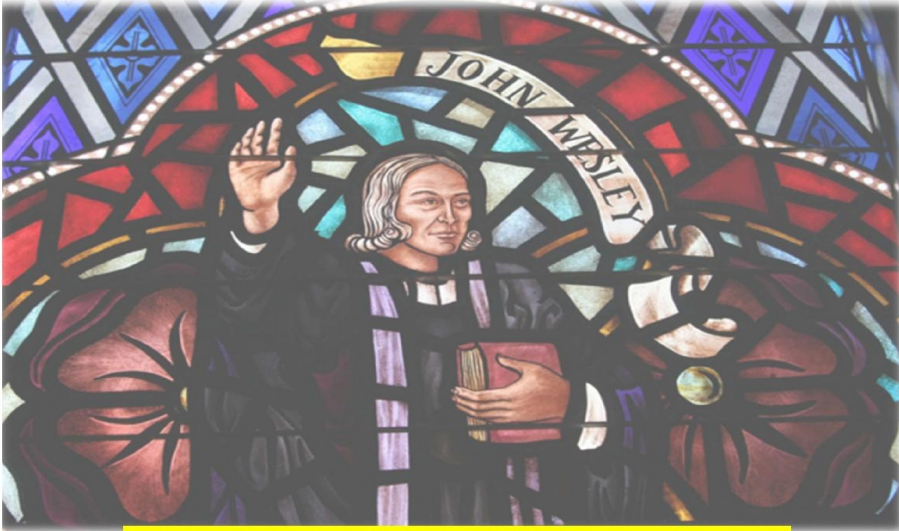
We chose as our title, "O for a thousand tongues to sing".
By Charles Wesley.

This was our exhibit accompanied by the following piece of explanation.

'O for a Thousand Tongues to sing'

It is said that Methodism was born in Song. This great hymn was written in 1739 by Charles Wesley to mark the first anniversary of his conversion. It is still sung today and is just one of the over 6000 hymns and songs which were foundational in spreading the gospel.

Hilary Jackson



JOHN WESLEY THE MUSICAL

*The extraordinary life and times of
John Wesley*

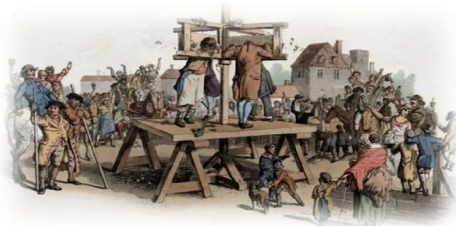
Can you help us tell his inspiring story?

For more info. please contact

Neil 07535 815420 neilfisher@outlook.com

Reverend Femi 07952 862497 kenfem.njie@gmail.com

Show date 24th October 26 at Maldon United Reform Church



Would you like
to join the cast
of this musical?

Contact details
below.

JOHN WESLEY THE MUSICAL

The extraordinary life & times of John Wesley

We are looking for people to join our cast

Roles to suit all ages and abilities

SHOW DATE: Saturday 24th October 2026 (matinée and evening)

VENUE: United Reform Church, Market Hill, Maldon, CM9 4PZ

For more info. please contact:

Neil 07535 815420 neilfisher@outlook.com

Reverend Femi 07952 862497 kenfem.njie@gmail.com

Help us tell the inspiring story of John Wesley including his part in the campaign to abolish slavery. Music includes:

Love Divine all Loves Excelling; Blow the Man Down; Michael Row the Boat Ashore; God Moves in a Mysterious Way; Wade in the Water; Go Down Moses



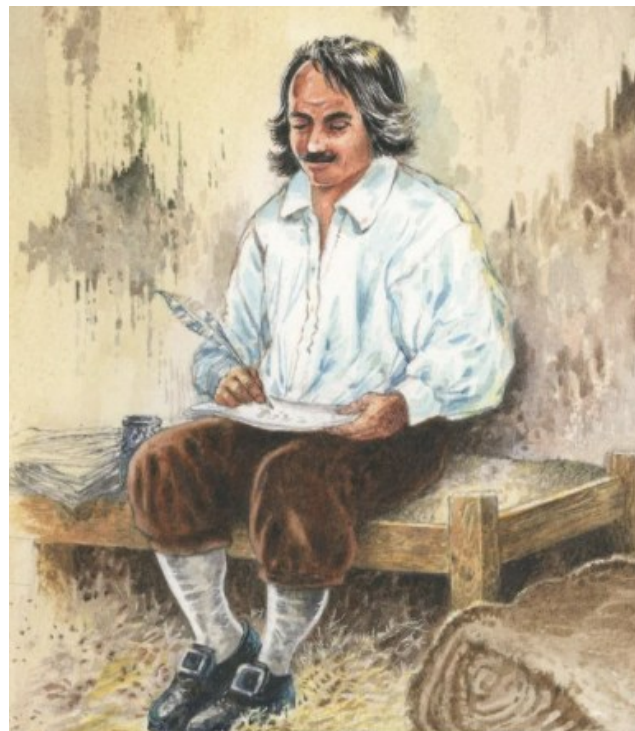
The Church in chains?

It's never quite so easy doing things that don't suit your personality. The other half has gone off this morning, very concerned as she has to play the part of an antagonistic person in a local council meeting – (this is for local council training, not for more dramatic reasons). My advice was: raise your voice, be rude, bang the table, question the authority of the findings/officials/previous rulings, pointlessly interrupt, and don't forget to play the final card of walking out of the meeting, declaring "I've had enough of this nonsense!" Which I have done, in a Hatfield Peverel Methodist Church council when the topic of closing the church was introduced with no fair warning.....

I am not really one who will easily go with the flow, if heels need to be dug in, and therefore, I was quite surprised to find I am enjoying the 2 occasions appointed to the Bible month: Philippians material. I have to admit I spiced up the first session by bringing the mooring chains dislodged in the 1987 storms (where the boat got smashed up on Mill beach, with nearly every other small boat in the local sailing club). All this because Paul is sharing with the Ephesians that he is in prison chained to a Roman Soldier. Of course, it was necessary to make further use of the chains to do the "Prison Break" scenes described in Acts, and yes I did remember the first one with the Angel was Peter and not Paul; but it is interesting Paul's letter makes no mention of this, despite it occurring in the Ephesus region. When you remember the distance and places Paul travelled to, I suppose that is a justification.

Continued/...

Considering Pauls analysis of a journey together, and a destination, we had to look at another Christian prisoner who lived in our District: John Bunyan who kept himself in prison (but not in chains- things had moved on in 1600 years) because he wasn't allowed to preach. Still, he kept himself busy writing Christians "Pilgrims Progress" unburdening his way to the Celestial City; a bit like the "in phrase": becoming Christ-like. Paul puts this formally: 1:27 *conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ*. For those of you who don't want to go with the flow see STF 251 v.2!



Finally, it's always good to have goals and to share the fruit of righteousness (1:11) (*The World Cup + Wimbledon*) Let's all press on to the victory.



John Clemo

Contact Val Carter
Click the link
val_carter08@hotmail.com

CRAFTIVIST GROUP ✦

Crafter - artists - knitter, quilter
and stitcher

Do you have a heart for justice?

Nothing is too small to make a difference.
Would you like to join in some gentle
activism whilst
meeting like minded people?

✦

Contact Val Carter.
EDI Champion for The Chelmsford
Methodist Circuit
val_carter08@hotmail.com

✦

‘Working Out Worship’ at Witham



9th May 2026 – Working out Worship.

A good selection of reps from Circuit Churches to look at what makes worship and how to find resources. We worked together to produce a service outline using the prompts provided. Another enjoyable opportunity to meet with others from around the Circuit. Rev Jennifer produced a handout with links to many resources – now available on the Circuit Website. Consider future meetings on specific issues e.g. prayer.

Val Carter

Circuit Tutor and Steward

Resources Link:

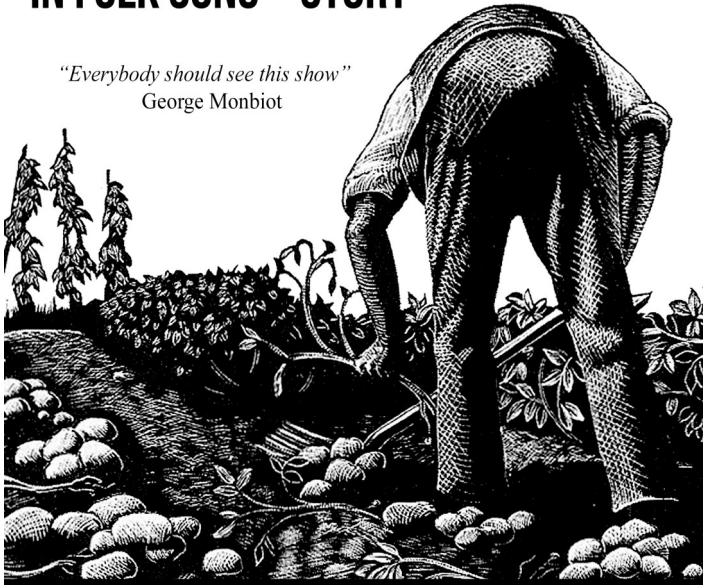
<https://www.chelmsfordcircuit.co.uk/circuitplan/local-arrangements.php>

Many thanks to friends at Witham for hosting this event and to Rev Jennifer Walters and Val Carter for leading the training.

3 ACRES + A COW

A HISTORY OF LAND RIGHTS + PROTEST IN FOLK SONG + STORY

"Everybody should see this show"
George Monbiot



'Man digging potatoes' by Clare Leighton
licensed from her estate via dacs.org.uk

SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, CHELMSFORD

TICKETS FROM [THREEACRESANDACOW.CO.UK](https://threeacresandacow.co.uk)

Three Acres + A Cow connects the Norman Conquest and Peasants' Revolt to contemporary issues via the Enclosures and Industrial Revolution, drawing a compelling narrative through the people's history of England in folk song, story and poem.

Come and share in these tales as they have been shared for generations.

Book on the link....

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

HOLIDAY CLUB

Do you have children or grandchildren 2 to 6yrs?

Book with Eventbrite for August 3rd, 10th and 17th August.

10am till 12 noon.

If you would like to know more or have difficulty in booking, contact Rev Jennifer Walters on

0782 444 0820

Jennifer.Walters@methodist.org.uk

FOR CHILDREN IN YR 2-YR 6 **£2**

HOLIDAY CLUB

Address
Maldon Methodist Church

Contact Us
Rev Jennifer
07824440820

BOOK ON EVENTBRITE

 **Aug 3 - 10:00 AM**
Maldon Methodist Church
Maldon



 **Aug 10 - 10:00 AM**
Maldon Methodist Church
Maldon



 **Aug 17 - 10:00 AM**
Maldon Methodist Church
Maldon

10-12 noon
A safe space for us to entertain your child for a couple of hours with arts & crafts activities and games while you get a break

ONLY 20 AVAILABLE PLACES PER SESSION

More info: Jennifer.Walters@methodist.co.uk



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



Our next newsletter will be September to November.

Copy deadline 26th August 2026

Circuit Administrator: Karen Murrell.

Email: karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/chelmsfordcircuit>

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