

CON ACT

**WOODFORD METHODIST CHURCH
DERBY ROAD
SOUTH WOODFORD E18 2PU**



SEPTEMBER 2019

To all who are weary and need rest
To all who are friendless and desire friendship
To all who believe in God and wish to worship Him
To all who are grateful and would give thanks
To all who hunger for prayer and wish to pray
To all who know sin and need the Saviour
This Church opens wide its doors
And in the Name of the Lord Jesus bids
WELCOME

WOODFORD METHODIST CHURCH

New ways to get in touch with us

Website:

www.woodfordmethodistchurch.org.uk

Email:

office.woodford@forestcircuit.org.uk

OUR DOOR

O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power. God, make the door of this house the gateway to thine eternal kingdom. Amen.

(Inscription over the door of a church)

SEPTEMBER 2019

The Methodist Church
Woodford Congregation in Forest Circuit
(35/33)

DerbyRd,
 South Woodford,
 E18 2PU

Our Vision:

“United in God’s Love & in

www.woodfordmethodist.org.uk

Service for the Glory of God!”

Please visit our website:

In Him I trust

Trust is a very strong word that requires from people a willingness to accept or to follow what is said or asked. One of the definitions found in the dictionary is:

“Firm belief in the reliability, truth, or ability of someone or something”

We are beginning a new school and ecclesiastic year with few uncertainties as the government is desperate to leave the European Union with or without deal. People are lost seeing so many uncertainties and stopping to plan for the future, feeling anxious and so on. Definitely, any political and economic out coming after 31st October will affect both British and European people.

How can the church respond to this challenge? Is there anything that we as Christian should be doing to support those who are threaten by this huge shift in our society?

Jesus addressed the issue about worrying on his Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6. 28s, asking why do we worry about things. We should trust in the Father who knows our needs and He will provide to all of us. However we are human beings and we worry about many things.

Some of the reasons for worrying about many things are either people attach themselves to material possessions or consumerism; or they would like to control any little movements. Instability is a monster for their lives making them feeling anxious, stressed and distressed. But we have also to recognise that it is ok to feel unstable. Could you imagine a European Citizen or a British person living in this country or in Europe hearing about Brexit?

The apostle Paul gives us a powerful and meaningful advice, he says:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”. (Philippians 4:6)

It is sharing our anxieties and uncertainties, that maybe, we can see ways forward to supporting those who are affected by instabilities in life. Prayer is a great tool to be close to those who are suffering; alleviates the pain; gives to people a sense of hope; open doors for finding strategies to respond to the uncertainties; and provide a space for God to care for us.

The apostle Paul was aware about the great challenges of his time. Therefore he tried to contain the anxiety by being more proactive practicing one of most incredible way to respond crises — praying. Prayer and action guide us to prevent further damages in our crises as they could be political instability, financial, health, relational, professional and so on.

I hope we can pray more this year trusting in the one who really cares about us and answers our prayers, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Moreover, let us pray for each other providing a lovely shoulder for people who are suffering.

May you have a blessed new season.

Rev. Oseias Da Silva

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

Congratulations to:

David Lloyd who got a degree in Education Studies & Music. From September, he will be at the Institute of Education at UCL for PGCE Secondary Music.

Dylan Burnell who got a degree in Music.

Helen & Ben Hollinsworth, who had a daughter, Margot Gwendoline on 5th August Daughters were also born to a BB mum and one of the leaders of Dizzi Tots – girl power!

Please pray for:

Doris Jackson, Jane da Silva and George Rodgers who all have health issues.

Yuri Burnell who has had back surgery and Maureen - both recovering well.

Revd Roy Jackson (also recovering well) and for all the families who are caring for them.

A friend who is undergoing treatment before surgery.

Presbyters and Deacons as they settle into their new churches and circuits. For Mmasape as she prepares to serve as Presbyter in the Barking, Dagenham & Ilford (BDI) Circuit; Jongi, who changes area to now serve the North of the District as Chair; the family who at present are living in south London with most of their belongings in storage. Delays in the Barking manse being made ready means another upheaval in 2 to 3 weeks. A plus is that after two years 'apart' they will be together in one manse.

Children and young people who are starting school, college or university for the first time or returning for further studies.

Those affected by severe flooding across the country and the world especially at this time for the people of the Bahamas and parts of mainland America who are experiencing the effects of Hurricane Dorian; all emergency services who risk their own lives in rescue efforts at various disasters; People of the Democratic Republic of the Congo who have been affected by the Ebola outbreak.

All who are affected by acts of violence, whether it be from warfare, gang, knife or gun crime in all parts of the world.

Sensitivity and wisdom for politicians as they debate and act to sort out the present debacle of the Brexit situation.

Revd. Elizabeth Rundle and Revd. Tony Barnes both send their love and best wishes as does Mary Bolton who, believe it or not, went to live in Wales five years ago! Mary has continued to do the prayer diary for us so thank you, Mary. She prepared the prayer diary for August and September. This Contact only covers September so please add the August prayers to your prayer list.

PLEASE CHECK THE LETTINGS SCHEDULE EACH WEEK AS NEW GROUPS ARE STARTING AND ACCESS TO THE CHURCH AND HALL WILL BE RESTRICTED. THE SCHEDULE IS ON THE SMALL NOTICEBOARD TO THE RIGHT OF THE CHURCH DOOR.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 2nd September 7.30pm – Welcome Service to the Barking, Dagenham & Ilford (BDI) Circuit for Revd. Mmasape Zihle at Barkingside Methodist Church. Preacher – Revd. Nigel Cowgill, Chair of London District. All welcome.

Saturday 7th September from 9.30am-12.30pm. There is a course around Mental Health issues at **Shern Hall**. Rachael Newham who is the Founder and Trainer at Think Twice coming to run this course. Rachael founded Think Twice in 2010 after visiting mental health inpatient units throughout Hertfordshire as part of her degree

course. She holds a research master's entitled 'Towards a Contemporary Pastoral Theology of Clinical Depression' from the London School of Theology and now spends much of her time travelling the country preaching, speaking and writing about issues related to faith and mental health.

This course covers the following: Introduction to Theology of Mental Health, Depression, Anxiety, Other types of Mental Health issues. (You will receive a handbook to keep as well) Please let Cherilee know if you would like to attend.

Unfortunately, I am travelling so unable to attend but think that this course would be valuable (especially for pastoral visitors, worship leaders) to help in recognising and understanding issues in other people and for our own personal well-being.
Sheila

Saturday, 14th September 10 – 4pm Representative Synod of London District. All welcome

Sunday, 15th September 3.30pm - 5.30pm Messy Church

Thursday, 19th September Circuit Meeting – 7.30 – Shern Hall Meth. Church

Thursday, 26th September – Macmillan Event in the Haven (see notices)

Advanced Notices

Thursday 10th October 7.30pm Church Council

Distict Conversation Days - Marriage and Relationships (see page 8)

Saturday, 19th October 10.00-1.30pm at Fulham Broadway Methodist Church;

Wednesday, 14th November 6–8.30pm at Methodist Central Hall Westminster;

Saturday, 30th November 10.00–1.30pm at Barking Methodist Church.

Please visit the 'Marriage and Relationships Consultation' section of the London District website www.methodistlondon.otg.uk to register your attendance at a convenient Conversation Day to you or check poster on church noticeboard for info on Eventbrite registering as there is a different page for each of the venues. If you have difficulty, ask Sheila to register for you.

SAFEGUARDING COURSES

There is a **Foundation Course on the 3rd October** at Winchester Road and a **Refresher Course at Woodford on the 17th October 2019**. 7pm for registrations & refreshments. To commence at 7:30pm. Please register using the EventBrite link
Foundation: <https://ForestCircuitFoundationOct19.eventbrite.co.uk>
Wed Refresher <https://ForestCircuitRefresherOct19.eventbrite.co.uk>
or with Sheila.

**London District: Creating Safer Space Advanced Level (Wembley Circuit)
Saturday, 12 October 2019 at 10:00 @ 809a Harrow Road - Wembley HA0 2LP -
Advanced Module 2019 Edition (Formerly Leadership Module)**

Applications are warmly invited to the Creating Safer Space Advanced Level Safeguarding Module which is being delivered by the London District of the Methodist Church. As the course is being delivered within individual circuits or circuit clusters, attendees from the host circuit(s) will be given priority. On this occasion priority will be given to the Wembley Circuit. Our turn will come again. This training is mandatory for all **Presbyters and Deacons (including Supernumeraries with church pastoral responsibilities), paid/voluntary lay employees who work with children and young people or vulnerable adults, local preachers, worship leaders, church and circuit safeguarding officers and those church leaders with responsibilities for pastoral matters.** As the courses are expensive and so many need to go through the training, only those for whom the course is mandatory are invited. There is a full list on the notice board.

Saturday, 2nd November Circuit Safeguarding Conference on FURTHERING SPIRITUAL WELLBEING THROUGH SAFEGUARDING Keynote Speaker: Dr Lisa Oakley.

Please note that this has now been rescheduled for 2nd November 2019 at Loughton MC to give plenty of time for local planning/rescheduling. Please ensure that this date is in your Church diaries as a priority. The Superintendent, Revd. Tony Malcolm expects all staff, LP, WL and leadership to attend with all volunteers actively encouraged to do so. This is a very important part of the Presidential Inquiry Recommendations and is something that we as a circuit need to take very seriously.

Malcolm Bell

Please let Sheila know if you can attend and she will register you or you can do it yourself by logging on to <https://forestcircuitlisaoakley2ndnov.eventbrite.co.uk>

Annual Retreat 2019 (Organised by Shern Hall) 8th - 10th November 2019 at The House of Retreat – Pleshey, Chelmsford

A retreat is a time when we have the chance to rest, close our eyes, draw near to God, retreat with friends, prayer, reflect and have fun.
The theme is 'Rejoice in the Lord'

Everything included for £195.00 (Accommodation/all food/weekend activities)
Transport can be provided for people that do not drive.
If you are interested please contact Sarah Jones at Shernhall on 07956531812

THE METHODIST CONFERENCE - BIRMINGHAM IN JULY

After a joyous weekend of worship, celebrations and ordinations, including Mmasape's, the serious business of debates and decisions of all aspects of Methodist life began. There are copies of the Conference Business Digest in the Haven.

New President & Vice-President of the Methodist Conference elected for 2020/21.

The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Richard Teal to serve as President and Carolyn Lawrence to serve as Vice-President, starting their year of office when the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference opens in Telford in June 2020. The role of President of the Methodist Conference is reserved for presbyters and that of Vice-President for lay people or deacons.

The Marriage and Relationships report (can be accessed via the Methodist Church website – 67 pages with a number of ancillary and related papers) Included in the document: the principles or qualities of good relating; an understanding of cohabitation; to allow same-sex couples to marry in Methodist churches; providing resources and liturgies to celebrate civil partnerships; prayers for when marriages end in divorce

The report had been published beforehand and was presented on Monday 1 July and debated. It was debated again on the Wednesday. Conference commended the report and passed a series of provisional resolutions on the proposals set out in the Report. After District Synods have had the opportunity to consider the proposals, final resolutions will be voted on at the Conference in 2020.

The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Conference who presided over the debate, said: "The debate was full of grace and prayerful thought. There were many personal, often painful, stories shared and representatives listened with great care and attention. My prayer is that this spirit of generosity and love shown today will be reflected as the proposals are discussed across the Church."

We will have opportunities to enter into discussions around the report. At London District synod, on Saturday, 14th September, there will be a presentation and discussion – all invited. The circuits have the opportunity to attend Conversation Days and the dates planned are: Saturday, 19th October 10.00-1.30pm at Fulham Broadway Methodist Church; Wednesday, 14th November 6–8.30pm at Methodist Central Hall Westminster; Saturday, 30th November 10.00–1.30pm at Barking Methodist Church. After which all Church Councils will have some decisions to make. It will be good to be informed so that we all have a chance to air our views before making momentous decisions which will be taken to next year's London Spring Synod and further decisions made at Methodist Conference at Telford in June 25th – 2nd July, 2020.

SUSANNAH WESLEY, THE MOTHER OF METHODISM

As you may know, this year we are celebrating the 350th Anniversary of the birth of Susanna, the mother of John and Charles Wesley. It has long been thought that not enough credit has been given to her, as she was almost certainly the greatest influence on John's ministry and mission.

So the Connexional Heritage Committee decided that it would be fitting to hold a conference to celebrate her life and achievements. The conference was held in Lincoln from 12th to 14th of July and I decided that I would really like to go. Months ago, Jen Smith, the Minister at Wesley's Chapel had told us (the Heritage Stewards –guides at Wesley's), that there was a fund that would pay for any appropriate educational event that any of us would wish to attend. Did this count? I asked her. She replied that it certainly did, and would I like to take a friend, too, as the fund was rarely used and she was worried that we might lose it. Well, of course my 'friend' morphed into my sister, so Maureen and I had a very pleasant weekend all pain for – that doesn't happen very often!

The conference was held at Lincoln University, but we were boarded and lodged at the nearby Holiday Inn, very pleasantly situated on Brayford Waterside, only a few minute's walk from the university. Our rooms overlooked the marine, and we had a good view of all the local wildfowl.

As I had bought our return train tickets before I knew what time the conference started and finished, we had some time to see a little of Lincoln before registering at 3pm. Then we were taken by coach to Lincoln Cathedral for Choral Evensong (for those who have never been to Lincoln, you have to be quite young and fit to stagger up the very long, steep hill to the Cathedral – we were very grateful for the coach). Unfortunately the Cathedral Choir had broken up for the summer holidays, so Evensong was sung by a visiting American choir, men, women and children, some of them quite tiny – it must have been a very strange experience for them. The choir wasn't bad, but wasn't particularly good, either, but Evensong was lovely, conducted by the Sub Dean, with the new President of Conference, Revd. Dr. Barbara Glasson reading one of the lessons. Then of course, idiot Poole had to make an exhibition of herself. There was to be a retiring collection, so I got out my purse to find some money, and stupidly left it on my seat! Fortunately I discovered my loss when I reached the coach, and even more fortunately the Sub-Dean was coming back with us to dinner, and nobly raced back to fetch the purse, and it was quite a long walk there and back. He was an extremely nice man, and made no fuss about it at all, but I felt such a nerd. Incidentally, we found out later that partly the reason for the Evensong excursion was that, in the university building, we were forbidden any act of worship whatsoever – we couldn't even have grace before meals or a benediction at the end of the day/ It seemed odd – presumably the university has a Chapel and a Chaplain, so why such fierce demarcation?

The conference proper started the next morning. I won't bore you with descriptions of all the sessions, but we started with a talk by Charles Wallace ('Charlie' to us, a charming American, and the editor/author of a splendid new book, *From a Mother's Pen, Selections from the Spiritual Writings of Susanna Wesley*. If anyone is interested, I have a copy, and can obtain you one at a discount). His talk was entitled *Susanna Wesley, Her Story and our Heritage*. Later in the afternoon we boarded the coach again for a trip to Epworth. Unlike Maureen, I had been before, and I wondered what her impression of the Old Rectory would be. I was glad to find that we could agree that the exterior and the garden are lovely, but the interior is a bit of a mess, with no atmosphere to suggest that anyone had ever lived there. We smugly agreed that Mr Wesley's house in the City Road, although much smaller, beats it hollow. We then visited St. Andrew's Parish Church, where John's father, Samuel had been the Rector, and were given a splendid tea at the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, before returning to the Old Rectory for an open-air Communion Service. It was a glorious summer evening, with a cloudless sky, and we were joined by a good many of the locals, including the members of the Parish Church and the Methodist Church. Maureen and I agreed that Rev. Samuel was probably turning in his grave, as the Communion elements were distributed from his wife's kitchen! However, he might have been a little pacified when he heard that the words of the service were exactly the 18th century ones he would have used. And we sang splendidly. John himself might have raised an eyebrow if he could have seen our new President of Conference having her photograph taken with her head through one of those seaside cutouts. As she said, she knew we would be glad that she was setting such a good example of dignity and decorum.

On day 3, Sunday, the party was due to break up after lunch, but in the morning we had two sessions, one interesting, about female education in the 18th century, and one hilarious. Rev. Jenny Pathmarajah's seminar was very starchily entitled *Susannah Prefigured: Women of the Bible*, but apparently this was after considering other titles – *Be More Pirate* or *Bad Girls of the Bible*. The Pirate bit is too complicated to explain, but, as Jenny pointed out, the Bible was written by men, and many women who are or were written off as 'bad', were, in fact, simply not willing to buckle down and do as their menfolk demanded. The two 'bad' girls she concentrated on were Tamar (Genesis) and Queen Vashti (Esther), both of whom refused to be bossed about. We were also asked to look at other women through the centuries who had changed their world by sheer persistence or obstinacy. There was Katherine of Aragon, who refused to be bullied when Henry VIII demanded a divorce on the grounds that they were not legally married, and Susan B. Anthony, who argued Congress into giving American women the vote, and, in our own time, Malala, the little Afghanistan girl who was shot for insisting on girls' right to be educated. This all sounds a bit heavy, but was, as I said hilarious.

After what were described as 'Closing Remarks' by the President, we had lunch, and a final inspection of the brilliant Susanna-based cartoons by Siggy, our resident cartoonist, the conference ended. Maureen and I had time for a boat-trip along the Foss

Dyke Canal, which is Roman. We had hoped to see kingfishers, but had to be content with a next of newly-hatched moorhens, which was nearly as good. Just time for one of Zizzi's salted caramel ice creams (try one, you won't regret it), and off to catch our train. *Not* the loveliest of experiences. We had to change trains at Newark – o problem in theory, except that there are two stations at Newark, and we had a long (nearly half an hour) and hot walk from Newark Castle Street station to Newark Northgate station. In happier circumstances, though, we thought we would quite like Newark. We *definitely* liked Lincoln, however. Everyone we spoke to was extraordinarily friendly and helpful (especially, in my case of course, the Sub-Dean), and it's an interesting city. Altogether a worthwhile weekend. And all for free!

Kate

P.S. I've left some stuff that we collected at Epworth in the Haven, if anyone is interested. Have a look at the prayer written by one of the Trustees of the \old Rectory. The lovely Sub-Dean used during the Evensong service which we though gratifying.

PARKINSON'S UK,

Marilyn Hawes is very grateful for all those who collect stamps which are given to a member at Winchester Road for Parkinson's UK. (an organisation close to Marilyn and Geoff's heart) It helps if the stamps can be cut from the envelopes leaving a small border around them.

'Progress' is a free, twice-yearly magazine on the latest research into Parkinson's. They report that "every hour, two people in the UK are told that they have Parkinson's – a brain condition that turns lives upside down, leaving a future full of uncertainty. Parkinson's UK is here to make sure people have whatever they need to take back control – from information to inspiration. Ultimately, we want to end Parkinson's. That's why we inspire and support the international research community to develop life-changing treatments, fast. And we won't stop until we find a cure".

Beginning of WW2

Eighty years ago Britain declared war on Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany. At 11:15 on 3 September 1939, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain admitted to the nation in a sombre radio broadcast that his "long struggle to win peace" had failed.

Hours later, France issued its own ultimatum to Germany, setting in train the Second World War. It was a conflict which lasted nearly six years and cost around 50 million lives.

Mr Chamberlain's announcement came two days after Hitler's forces invaded Poland. The radio address was made from the Cabinet room in 10 Downing Street. He said: "This morning the British ambassador in Berlin handed the German Government a final note stating that, unless we heard from them by 11 o'clock that

they were prepared at once to withdraw their troops from Poland, a state of war would exist between us.

"I have to tell you now that no such undertaking has been received, and that consequently, this country is at war with Germany." *Very chilling words.*

Mr Chamberlain continued his broadcast by saying it was "a bitter blow" that his "long struggle to win peace" had "failed".

"Yet I cannot believe that there is anything more or anything different that I could have done, and that would have been more successful," he added.

He concluded his broadcast: "Now may God bless you all and may he defend the right. "For it is evil things that we shall be fighting against - brute force, bad faith, injustice, oppression, and persecution. And against them, I am certain that the right will prevail."

There are no official major UK events planned to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Britain's declaration of war, after which the country went on to suffer an estimated 400,000 military and civilian casualties.

However, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab joined more than 40 world leaders in Warsaw on Sunday for a ceremony marking the outbreak of the conflict. Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said eight decades ago, Britain went to war to "defend our values and our allies from the Nazis".

He added: "Even though nearly every family in the UK still possessed the memories and hurt of the First World War, they were prepared again to make the ultimate sacrifice". "The incredible courage of that generation who fought for our freedom must never be forgotten."



MESSY CHURCH

We have had a good year at Messy Church. There is a 'fluid' membership with comings and goings, a small nucleus of regulars and new ones joining in. We had a break in August. The next session will be on Sunday 15th September from 3.30 – 5.30 p.m. The theme is the bible story of Ruth and her loyalty. Please spread the word to any families you think might like to come along. There will be craft activities to do during the afternoon and a shared tea at the end of the session. ALL WELCOME.

Campaigners renew calls for UK to accept 10,000 child refugees

Open letter to prime minister says UK should accept at least 10,000 refugees each year

More than 100 faith leaders have written to Boris Johnson, asking him to commit his government to offering refugees a sanctuary in the UK.

The signatories to the open letter include more than 20 Church of England bishops, the secretary general of the Muslim Council of Britain, 33 rabbis, the director of the Hindu Council, the founder of City Sikhs, the archbishop of Wales, the primus of the Scottish Episcopal church, and leaders from the Quakers, Methodists, United Reformed church, the Salvation Army, Buddhists and Zoroastrians. The letter is also supported by the British Red Cross, the Refugee Council and Safe Passage.

It seeks assurances from Johnson that last month's announcement that the UK will admit up to 5,000 refugees in 2020-2021 "is not a one-off, but rather the start of a lasting commitment by the UK to welcome its share of people seeking sanctuary globally".



The signatories suggest that the UK can and should accept at least 10,000 refugees each year, including at least 1,000 vulnerable and unaccompanied children from conflict zones and Europe. "As one of the world's richest countries, seeking to build and demonstrate global cooperation and goodwill, this is a small ask of the UK," they write.

The letter goes on: "Today, there are families living in refugee camps who may be there for generations. There are people in conflict zones whose lives are in constant danger. There are children surviving in car parks and on the side of motorways in Europe; preyed on by traffickers and others who seek to do them harm. These are people who deserve a chance to rebuild their lives and to become part of British society, like so many refugees have before them."

"As our new prime minister, we ask you to show the compassionate leadership this issue deserves," the letter concludes.

The Bishop of Croydon, Jonathan Clark, said: "The offering of sanctuary to those in need is a fundamental principle that echoes across and between faiths ... This letter shows the strength of interfaith support for helping more children and I urge the prime minister to act now and give child refugees the hope they so desperately need."

The chief executive of Safe Passage, Eleanor Harrison, said: "Like all the signatories to this letter, we urge the government to take this chance to ensure that child refugees from conflict zones and Europe have a lasting route to safety here."

“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”

Leviticus 19:33-34

Pause For Thought

Tony Miles, Reverend at Methodist Central Hall Westminster:

If I were to ask how many days are in a year, you’d no doubt reply, 365! Oh, and one more if it’s a leap year. That’s true, of course, apart from in 1752! That year in the UK there wasn’t a 3rd of September. It was cancelled. Today did not exist!

In those days, the ‘Julian Calendar’ had been in use, introduced by Julius Caesar. The trouble was, it didn’t accurately reflect how long it takes the Earth to circle once around the Sun.

It was a Pope, Gregory 8th, who then decreed there needed to be an adjustment to get time back in sync with things like the vernal equinox or the winter solstice. Gradually many countries switched to the new ‘Gregorian Calendar’. That’s why, back in 1752, the UK’s diary was advanced by 11 days; it jumped from 2nd to the 14 September.

Imagine the confusion – especially if your birthday fell in the period! I can’t really get my head around what happened to those missing days! It’s like when I return from visiting my family in the USA and lose hours crossing time zones – where did they go?

My little American granddaughter finds it amusing that when grandad is back home, he’s getting ready for bed when she’s in the middle of her afternoon. Poor old grandad clearly needs his sleep! One thing age is teaching me, though, is that losing time isn’t as bad as killing time or frittering it away. ‘Most time is wasted, not in hours, but in minutes.’ said the businessman, Paul J. Meyer, and ‘A bucket with a small hole in the bottom gets just as empty as a bucket that is deliberately kicked over.’ I believe the time I’ve been given is a precious gift from God and the Bible urges me to make the best use of it.

The trouble is, though time is often what I want the most, it’s frequently what I use worst, or take for granted. John Wesley, the founder of the ‘Methodist’ movement, urged Christians to ‘improve the present moment.’ I like that! Thankfully, today hasn’t been cancelled, so perhaps counting time isn’t nearly as important as making small amounts of time really count – like spending precious moments with family and friends, and those who need me most.

LOST AND FOUND.....AFTER 64 YEARS!

Onlooker is a magazine primarily for former BB folk who are members of the London Stedfast Association. Mick H has been a member for some years and when Frank retired, a subscription was started on his behalf.

Onlooker No. 101, Bob Hicks wrote a piece entitled 'Tales of a National Serviceman', ending as follows:- 'If any Onlooker reader serving in the Royal Army Pay Corps in Devizes, some-time in the early 1950's, lost a commemorative badge, and would like to have it back, just let me know and I'll send it to him – no charge!'

Onlooker reader Frank Patient read this and realised that he could be the man who had lost his Coronation Badge when serving in the RAPC from early January 1954 to 1956 for two years. Frank, a Corporal in the 25th South Essex BB Company, was one of thousands of young men called to serve in the Army or Royal Air Force by a Government recovering from the Second World War, 1939-45, and still feeling threatened by the Communist powers of Russia and the whole of Eastern Europe. Frank now became what was called a 'National Serviceman'. A Corporal in a BB Company, he knew this was coming. He was told to report to the RAPC in Devizes on the first Thursday in January, 1954, rising through the ranks to become a military Corporal, before completing his National Service.

At sometime within the 104 weeks of his service, Frank realised his loss of a BB badge issued to all Boys and Staff to mark the Coronation of HM The Queen in 1953. This badge was cherished by him and he hunted high and low through all his military equipment, his civilian clothes at home, not forgetting that he may have lost it on one of Cards Coaches one weekend, travelling backwards and forwards to London on leave!

In the meantime, Bob Hicks, a Sergeant in 72nd London Company, was expecting his call to the military which originally was to be in mid-July, 1954. His BB Company Captain managed to get him a deferment until mid-August so that he could attend Summer Camp.

Out of the blue, Bob, now well into his two years' service with just one stripe on his arm, was called to the Adjutant's Office, about mid-Autumn, 1955, where he was handed a BB Coronation badge which had been lost in the Barracks and not claimed. The years sped by with both Frank and Bob carving out their careers. Wives, children and grand-children appeared, with God's work continuing through the Boys' Brigade. Bob, with Pat, moved from London, first to Colchester and then to Ipswich in 1965, while Frank remained in Greater London until, with wife Enid, they moved to Chelmsford in 2017.

It was in 2018 when the well-read Onlooker Magazine fell on to Frank's door mat. He read the challenge concerning the long-lost Commemorative Badge and was sure that the dates were alright, and so was the location. He contacted the Onlooker Editor who

quickly contacted Bob. So it was, that on Tuesday 5th February 2019, two old men, with their wives, gathered on a damp and cold Town Hall steps in Colchester. Hands were shaken in BB style, a Badge was delivered, photos taken and the party moved to a nearby “posh” restaurant where stories were told in true BB fashion.

Sixty-four years after being lost, a 1953 Commemorative Badge was returned to its owner and two more BB Old Boys, plus wives, became new friends!



A Rainy Day!

This happy group worked hard in the rain and brought all the Circuit archives from the stables (in a bit of a state to put it mildly) at Shern Hall - five car loads! They are now in our gallery and are diligently being sorted by Kate. Well done, everyone!



Sunday Morning Coffee Rota

If you feel that you could be part of the team that serves coffee after our morning service, please speak to Kate.

WHY DOGS LIVE LESS THAN HUMANS?

Here's the surprising answer of a 6 year old child.

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that dogs' lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. It has changed the way I try and live.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life — like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay for as long as we do!"

Remember, if a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:

- When your loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- Take naps.
- Stretch before rising.
- Run, romp, and play daily.
- On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
- On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
- When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

- Be faithful.
- Never pretend to be something you're not.
- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.
- Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

(You might need to modify the last three but you get the drift!)

That's the secret of happiness that we can learn from a good dog.
Live simply; Love generously; Care deeply; Speak kindly.



PRAYERS FOR SEPTEMBER

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God for the rich diversity of creation.

Divine Sculptor,
You have fashioned the universe and all that is in it.
You have created the earth with all its abundance.
You have made your people in all our variety
and placed us here to act justly and to seek peace.
Around us the sights and sounds of nature
echo the song of praise your people offer to you.
For the variety and splendour of the universe
God of time and eternity, receive our songs of praise. Amen

Anon

A hymn/prayer about global warming.

The footprints where your people tread have marked and marred the earth,
the global warming that we dread has shadowed us from birth.
As climates change and nature shifts, we play a god-less game.
We reap rewards from what we sow, yet try to shift the blame.
O gracious God we pray for help, that we might learn to live
in harmony within this world with all you gave and give.

Revd. Andrew Pratt

Andrew Pratt gained a B.Sc. Hons in Zoology and then a M.Sc. in Marine Biology. He became a teacher, teaching a range of subjects; biology, chemistry, religious studies, swimming, personal and social education, and health education. Andrew responded to a call to ministry in 1979 and while training at Queen's College, began to write hymns as a means of exploring theology. He had already written poems (mainly for private consumption!). He has written and contributed to many books relating to hymns and worship including *Charles Wesley: Life, Literature and Legacy*. Andrew has written numerous hymns (9 hymns in *Singing the Faith*) and some in response to world events: e.g. the Iraq war; Middle East violence; World Trade Centre tragedy; Hurricane Katrina.

DIARY – SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday 1 st	10.30 am	Morning Worship – Mrs. C. Bonds
Monday 2 nd	7.30pm	Welcome Service @ Barkingside Methodist Church for Revd. Mmasape Zihle.
Sunday 8 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship – Revd. O. da Silva (S)
Monday 9 th	12 – 1.15 pm	Lunch Club in the Hall
Saturday 14 th	10-4pm	Representative Synod at Westminster Central Hall
Sunday 15 th	10.30am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Morning Worship – Worship Leaders Messy Church Circuit Service @ Shern Hall
Thursday 19 th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting venue tbc
Saturday 21 st	7.00 – 10pm	Windrush Celebration at Leytonstone
Sunday 22 nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship – Revd. O da Silva
Thursday 26 th	(see notices)	Macmillan Event in the Haven
Sunday 29 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship – Worship Leaders

The Editor for this edition was Sheila Platt. Contributions for the next edition to be sent to Mrs Sheila Platt, 34 Mapleleaf Gardens, Barkingside, Ilford IG6 1LG (tel (020) 8551 6774 email: sheilaplatt598@btinternet.com) by midday on Tuesday, 17th Sept, 2019

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The views expressed in the Contact are not necessarily those of the Methodist Church or the Editor.

Activities day by day

Sunday	10.30 - 11.30am	Worship Service
	3.30 - 5.30pm	Messy Church (3 rd Sunday in month)
	For other services, see noticeboard	
Monday	9.30 -11.30am	Dizzie Tots (except 2 nd in month)
	12.00 - 1.30pm	Lunch Club (2 nd in month)
	2.00 - 4.00pm	Singing for Fun U3A (3 rd in month)
	6.00 - 7.30pm	Brownie Pack (term time)
	8.00 - 9.00pm	Karate Class
Tuesday	9.30 -11.30am	Dizzie Tots
	10.30 -12.30pm	Boggle Beat
	1.30 - 3.30pm	Flower-arranging U3A (2 nd in month)
	4.15 - 5.45pm	Tudor Rose Dancing School
	6.30 - 8.05pm	Boys' Brigade (Anchor Boys & Juniors)
	7.45 - 9.45pm	Boys' Brigade (Company Section)
Wednesday	7.30 - 9.00pm	Ultrasound Ladies Choir
	9.30 -12.00noon	Monkey Music (term-time)
	10.00 -11.00am	Music & Movement U3A (1st & 3rd in month)
	4.00 - 6.00pm	Magicats Tutoring
	4.15 - 7.30pm	Tudor Rose Dancing School
Thursday	7.30 - 9.30pm	Woodford Singers
	10.30 -11.15am	Hey Diddle Diddle
	12.30 - 3.30pm	Community Social Group (4 th in month)
Friday	4.15 - 5.45pm	Tudor Rose Dancing School
	10.00 -12.00noon	Sounds Right
Saturday	3.45 - 7.45pm	Tudor Rose Dancing School
	9.15 - 7.00pm	Tudor Rose Dancing School
	9.30 - 11.30am	Magicats Tutoring

When preparing for a show The Thistles Musical Theatre Company meet
Monday and Friday 8.00pm – 10.00pm plus occasional Sundays.

**If you have any changes in your usual activities, please let the
Lettings Steward (*Cherilee Ford*) know as soon as possible.**