

CON ACT

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



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2018

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)

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2018South
E18

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

DerbyRd,
Woodford,
2PU

Our Vision:

Please visit our website:

“United in God’s Love & inwww.woodfordmethodist.org.uk*Service for the Glory of God!”***Broadcast on Pause for Thought – Radio 2****Dave Tomlinson, writer and Vicar of St Luke’s Holloway in London:**

Wherever possible I believe we should avoid feeling the victim of unwanted circumstances and look instead for the next adventure to begin. This is where I find myself at present. I have (of necessity rather than choice) just given up the job I loved. But I am already excited by the prospect of what comes next.

Before being the vicar of St Luke’s Church, my wife and I led a kind of church in a pub (facetiously called Holy Joes) designed to offer the religiously disinclined an opportunity to chew over, argue and debate about stuff *they* felt really mattered. For ten years, every Tuesday, over a glass or three we discussed religion, politics, philosophy – and goodness knows what else. Hundreds of people joined the conversation over the years.

And in many ways, this is where I’m most at home: with the hordes of people who will likely never enter a church but who pursue their own spiritual instincts: who try to live meaningfully, to make the world a better place.

For eighteen years, I have been the vicar of a fabulous, fun-loving, attractive spiritual community. Yet the reality is, for the most part, institutional religion has lost its appeal. People with spiritual aspirations don’t tend to think ‘Oh let’s go to church on Sunday!’ Yet this isn’t any indication of the nation’s spiritual wellbeing.

In my view, faith isn’t about what we do on Sunday. It isn’t to do with the doctrines we believe or don’t believe....or whether we believe at all. In essence, faith is what the poet Rilke called ‘a direction of the heart.’

In the gospels, Jesus points us not to a religious system but to just this: a direction of the heart that determines how we behave, how we treat people, what we do with our money, how we conduct our business. He called it the kingdom of God – a vision of how the world could be when we follow the right direction. In today’s world, the direction is not as straightforward as it sounds. Which is why I think we need more

rich conversations and debates – in pubs, cafes, on the radio or wherever. Which is where I hope my new adventure will lead, now I am a ‘vicar at large’!

Revd.Dave Tomlinson

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Please pray for:

Those who have been in hospital or bereaved recently.

Those of our congregation who are unwell or in any kind of difficulty and for family who may be supporting them.

All those who have been affected by:

Violence, fires, earthquakes, hurricanes, landslides and floods throughout the world. For the loss of life, injuries, loss of family & homes plus possessions. Those who were affected by the motorway bridge collapse in Genoa; those who were injured in the Houses of Parliament incident; those involved in recent violent attacks, stabbings, shootings; the victims, families and friends who are all left shocked and bewildered. Migrants stranded at sea and not allowed to land. May they feel God’s presence and healing hand on them all.

Those who are going to university for the first time or starting back at school & university. Those who have done well in their GCSE’s (Well done, Frances Burnell, now going into 6th form) or A levels.

Unless you return the Consent Forms, the news and request for prayers will remain sparse and impersonal.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 1st September – The launch of the new Forest Circuit website.

Tuesday, 4th Sept 6.30pm at Loughton Methodist Church. You are warmly invited to attend the Forest Circuit Service of Welcome for the Revd. Sue Creighton to Loughton. Revd. Hilary Cheng will lead the service and Revd. Nigel Cowgill will preach the sermon.

Thursday, 13th Sept. Circuit Meeting 8.00pm at Cann Hall Methodist Church

Saturday, 15th Synod of London District 10 – 4pm. All welcome

Sunday, 16th Sept. Messy Church 3.30pm
BB gathering at 6.30pm

Tuesday, 18th Sept. Property & Finance Committee 8.15pm



The Haven

We are open every Tuesday between
10:00 and 12:00
for coffee/tea and a cake



THE HAVEN
Woodford Methodist Church
Derby Road
South Woodford
[http://](http://www.woodfordmethodistchurch.org.uk)
www.woodfordmethodistchurch.org.uk

MESSY CHURCH

The next session will be on Sunday 16th September from 3.30 – 5.30 p.m. and will be about the Creation. Please spread the word to any families you think might like to come along. There will be a shared meal at the end of the session as well as craft activities to do during the afternoon. ALL WELCOME.

TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE

We are working on improving our Haven Coffee Mornings – in the next few weeks we will be using more space and hoping to attract people from the wider community. MACMILLAN BIG COFFEE MORNING – our first Charity coffee morning using the improved space will be on Tuesday 25th September 2018 as part of the MacMillan Big Coffee Morning challenge. Do come along between 9.30 and 12.30 for coffee and cake; all donations for the charity will be gratefully received, as will donations of cakes for eating and selling on the day.

Ann Hunter, Haven Coffee Co-ordinator.

ADVANCE NOTICE of SAFEGUARDING DATES**Foundation Course**

Saturday 6th October – 2pm to 4:30pm at Loughton Methodist Church IG10 1RB

Refresher Course for those who attended the Foundation Training from 2012-2014
Wednesday 10th October 7:30pm to 10pm at Leytonstone High Rd Church E11 3DA.
 Courses **MUST** be booked in advance either through your Safeguarding Officer, or directly by email to safeguarding@forestcircuit.org.uk quoting your name (as you want it on your certificate) and your church. **Please arrive at least 15 minutes early for registration and refreshments.**

District Advanced Module Safeguarding Course for Forest Circuit

An Advanced Level Module Safeguarding course has been devised and has already started in the London District. This training is mandatory for a long list of people but the only ones affected at Woodford are Young Church leader, Worship Leaders & Safeguarding officer. Pastoral visitors may be included but I will confirm this.

Saturday, 20th October - The course will be presented to the Forest Circuit at Woodford but as it has only just been arranged, there are no further details but **please book the date.**

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY 1 JULY 2018

On Sunday the 1 July 2018 we held our Church Anniversary. Due to staffing difficulties within the Circuit this was planned as a Local Arrangement, but after a number of telephone calls Rev Elizabeth Rundle kindly agreed to lead the service for us. It was agreed that the Worship Leaders would plan the service, as this had already been started, incorporating Elizabeth. Unfortunately, for health reasons Elizabeth, at

fairly short notice advised us that she would not after all be able to attend. It was therefore back to the Worship Leaders.

The theme for the service from the outset was going to be a Celebration, Past, Present and Future. It became evident that quite a large number of our regular members would not be present, don't think the fact that it was the Worship Leaders had anything to do with it! So Ann and I thought it may be of interest to include in Contact / News sheet an outline of the service. Didn't think it was quite up to a six weeks series with all-star cast.

I gave the first of two short talks and centred on the 'Past'. As it was an All Age Worship and we had the Boys Brigade present I started by creating a mind picture of how the Church used to look and asked if they knew where I was describing. An example of a dress of the period was displayed, kindly loaned by Maureen Poole and I went on to say how services were held morning and evening with Sunday School every Sunday afternoon at which it was expected that all children attend. I explained that we then had two anniversaries each year, one for the Church and one for the Sunday School. It was at one of these that a small boy went up into the pulpit to read was so short he could neither see or be seen, so had to stand on a box. That of course was me. To my horror I realised it was probably around the time some of the younger boys' grandparents were being born. It only seems like yesterday!

I further explained that although the building and how it is used may have changed our history is important and referenced the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel which lists the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham through twenty eight generations.

Drawing to a close I said that although the building, fashion and style of worship may have changed the reason for us being here has not. We are still here to praise God and to give thanks for all that he has given us through his son Jesus Christ. Finally I referred to Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, which speaks of there being a time and a season for everything. This passage was transcribed into a song and recorded by the Byrds in the 1960s. Mick Higgins then sang the song for us, accompanied on the guitar by David Lloyd, and the congregation joined in the chorus.

Ann then gave a short talk on our Church for the future, part of which is reproduced here –

“Here at Woodford Methodist Church we are lucky in having a congregation of very mixed age and experience. In many organisations now, the trend is for people to move on quickly rather than stay for many years in the same place. This can result in a vast depth of knowledge and experience being lost, and an organisation being run by people with lots of enthusiasm and energy but perhaps less understanding of where particular ideas might take them.

This is not usually the case in the church, where knowledge and experience, loyalty and commitment remain for many years. Younger people come along with more energy, new ideas, new enthusiasm, which can only be good, but can also for them become frustrating if they sometimes meet with resistance.

We older members of the congregation need to be brave enough to support and encourage those with new ideas, even if we are a little unsure about where they're leading. Similarly, the younger members need to have a little patience while they wait for us to catch up! We all have a responsibility to the community around us, to be examples of Christ's love, and to introduce the love of God to everyone whenever and wherever we can.

Here at Woodford, we have many activities that reach out regularly to our Community. Two of these are the monthly Lunch Club and the weekly Coffee Bar. Both provide a friendly, social environment for people to meet. Both are open to everyone but do tend to be supported by older people who no longer work during the daytime.

Looking to the future, we are planning to relaunch the Coffee Bar to appeal to a wider age range - changing the way we use the space by extending into the Worship Area and providing relevant equipment to help the process.

We also have a brand new and somewhat daunting project in the Messy Church – many of you will remember that we had a successful pilot session in April. We are planning to start in earnest in September with a regular monthly Messy Church session

– aimed at everyone in the community. This will be held on a Sunday afternoon and will involve craft activities, a worship celebration and a shared meal. Anyone who wishes to come along will be welcomed.

Lucy Moore, in Messy Church Book 1, gives some of the principles behind the idea:

- To provide an opportunity for people of all ages to worship together
- To help people of all ages to feel they belong in church and to each other
- To help people have fun together
- To introduce people to Jesus through hospitality, friendship, stories and worship

It aims to be all-age and Christ-centred and for us here at Woodford is an entirely new way of 'being church'.

Archbishop Rowan Williams once said that 'church is what happens when people encounter the risen Jesus and commit themselves to sustaining and deepening that encounter in their encounter with each other'; in other words, church is not the building, it is the people, and the church building is the place where we can allow people to grow and develop in faith.

So, using the stepping stones from the past, let us at Woodford Methodist Church move forward into the future with prayer, commitment and enthusiasm as we deal with changes which may initially feel uncomfortable, but will help us to build on our strengths and grow into a relevant Church within our community."

After this we encouraged the congregation to pray the Lord's Prayer using actions designed for the Messy Church Programme, and shall be using this format again in some future services when appropriate.

We then enjoyed a musical offering from Betty Salter and Shirley Thompson, followed by presentations to the Boys' Brigade members of various certificates, including the Queens Badge to Jonathan Miller. The presentations were made by Jane da Silva.

Michael Brennan, Worship Leader

NEWS FROM THE WORLD CURCH

England 1, Colombia 0 (or 'Growing Methodism everywhere') By Andrew Brazier

It might not have been the final score, but it raised a number of smiles as Stephen Skuce, Director of Global Relationships, announced that if there had been prayers for the football, he was grateful they had gone our way. The tone of the gathering was more akin to the situation at the end of extra time than it was to that moment. The

delegates brought waves of energy and colour from a variety of traditions. The glorious food, the extemporaneous prayer, the spontaneous singing, the sudden plunges into moments of sadness, the joy of renewal and growing numbers; all just ebbed and flowed with the slightest hint of potential anarchy. It is quite something to attend a meeting where the emotions of Pakistan's slums were held in the same breath as the wit of the Bishop from Gambia. She told a tale of a minister who followed some errant fishermen into Senegal and started the Methodist Church there. Then the World Church sang. They sang a children's song. Like baby footsteps teetering into a wider understanding of God. An acknowledgement of faith stretched across continents. It is too easy sometimes to pay lip service to connexionalism, but here you could feel the realities stretching out into places many of us can only dream of. Grateful representatives stood again and again to thank the Church for the great foundation it had built, for its grounding in Wesley's teachings and for the gospel in action. Groups who encountered a vast array of opposition to their faith stood shoulder to shoulder. In each other they recognised that the refugees in Germany and poverty in Haiti are embraced by the bedrock, and "go not only to those who need you, but those that need you most". As often as not now, that is the Church here in Britain. Best of all though is that such camaraderie in the face of difficulty came with humour, music and a vegetarian option! This truly was a foretaste of a diverse heavenly banquet.

Living hope by Syntiche Dedji

At 8.15am on 6 August 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Hiroshima. Along with the great loss of human life and limb sustained on that day, there were other casualties we do not often hear about: trees. When I arrived in Hiroshima on 11 June for the Global Article 9 Conference, I did not expect to visit a number of trees, all badly affected by the atomic bomb – nor for them to become a source of inspiration to me. One in particular, a Chinese Parasol, had half of its trunk burnt to a hollow by the heat rays. The tree is still growing today as if it were protecting the burn on its trunk. Suzuko was 22 when the bomb took both her left leg and her fiancée. She tried to commit suicide many times, but then one day she came to this tree and saw it

sprouting. She felt the tree was telling her, “Keep going. I myself was hurt by the bomb and I’m doing the best I can”. This tree inspired Suzuko to keep fighting for survival, and she eventually went on to help the victims of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster. The Hiroshima Methodist Central Church (as it was known at the time) was just 800 metres from the epicentre of the blast and sustained catastrophic damage. Parts of the building survived thanks to its strong metal and concrete structure, which was rare for buildings in Hiroshima at the time. However, the surrounding buildings (which were mostly wooden) were completely obliterated. “Though it hurts our hearts to see what has become of the once beautiful chapel, we feel like we can hear God’s voice more clearly when we pray here,” the Revd Kiyoshi Tanimoto, who pastored the church, wrote in his diary on 12 May 1946. “The atomic bomb should never be forgotten, even when generations change. We have a mission to pass on our knowledge of it.” This is the aim of the cross that hangs in Hiroshima Nagarekawa Church, as it is now called. Built from remains of the original destroyed church, the cross was installed in remembrance of those killed by the bomb, as a symbol of repentance and atonement for our sins, and as a symbol of the quest for reconciliation and peace through prayer. Just like the affected trees that can be seen all over the city, the rough, blackened wooden cross that hangs in Nagarekawa Church stands as a symbol of hope; of a church that suffered through, but which continues to bear testimony to, the wrongness of war.

Contributed by Phyllis Lloyd

THE METHODIST CONFERENCE - NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY IN JULY

The Methodist Church website explains that ‘Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church under God. It has responsibility for the government, discipline, management and administration of the life of the Church. Members of the Conference hold a trustee responsibility. The Conference is also a place for worship, thanksgiving, Ordination and celebration.

The business of the Conference is done by seeking the will of God through conferring together. Members of the Conference are representatives, not delegates.’

The Conference meets yearly for eight days from Thursday to the following Thursday around the last week of June or first week of July. Chairs, Presbyters and Deacons meet on the Thursday with the representatives joining them on the Saturday.

I planned to go to Conference for the Saturday and Sunday sessions only. Tickets were received for the induction of Micky and Bala as President and Vice-President of Conference; also for the Sunday worship service and one of the ordination services. Three weeks to go and I was asked if I would attend as a representative of the London District and stay until the Thursday, as one of the representatives was unable to go. I agreed and when I received the Memorials (all items for discussion and decisions, submitted from circuits and synods) and the two thick volumes of Agendas, I did wonder what I had let myself in for! After a joyous weekend of worship, celebrations and ordinations, on the Monday morning after early morning communion and a short act of worship, the business began in earnest! I quickly realised that the Agenda does

Celebration and Induction Service of 3Generate's Youth President 2018-2019

Congratulations to Jasmine Yeboah's who is from the London District. Her Induction Service is on Saturday 1st September, 6.30pm at St Mark's Church, N17 6QB



The District Conference weekend about Migration and the challenges that it presents was held in July at the High Leigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon. Although it was a fun and happy weekend, there was a heartrending and serious content which informed us and challenged our attitudes and prejudices. There was lively and meaningful worship and space for reflection. The small chapel at High Leigh was set up with prayer stations showing different 'moving stories' of refugees fleeing their countries in the hope of survival and a better life and some who unfortunately, didn't make it.

Although, the Jungle at Calais has been dismantled, refugees continue to gather there and their makeshift shelters are destroyed as soon as they are built. With autumn and winter on the horizon, they will be without adequate shelter. On Saturday evening, a free-will offering was collected to buy tents for them - over £550, much appreciated, was raised!

The three keynote speakers were:

Rev. Dr. Inderjit Singh Bhogal . He is founder and President of City of Sanctuary, a former President of the Methodist Conference and former Leader/CEO of the Corrymeela Community. The **Corrymeela Community** is a Christian community who aid the promotion of reconciliation and peace-building through the healing of the various divisions within Northern Ireland. Born into a Sikh family in Nairobi, Inderjit came with his parents in 1964 to live in Dudley, West Midlands. He found a welcome in the local Methodist Church and became a Christian and subsequently a much loved and respected Methodist Minister. His work in interfaith relations was recognised with an OBE in the 2005 New Year's Honours list.

Pádraig O'Touma. A poet, theologian and group worker, Pádraig has worked with groups in Ireland, Britain, the US and Australia. With interests in storytelling, group work, theology and conflict, Pádraig lectures, leads retreats and writes both poetry and prose. Following in the footsteps of Inderjit, Pádraig is the present Leader of the Corrymeela Community. He went through the book of Ruth, giving the background of the religious & political situation at the time of her move (as a migrant) with her mother-in-law Naomi. Also, the risks vulnerable people often have to take to survive.

Dr Daleep Mukarji: Daleep was born and raised in India, where he trained as a medical doctor. Moving to Geneva in 1994, he became Executive Secretary for Health, Community and Justice at the World Council of Churches. Daleep retired as Director of Christian Aid after leading the organisation's campaigns on Jubilee 2000 Debt Relief, Make Poverty History, climate change, and tax and development. Daleep has many roles and was appointed as a Trustee of Action for Children in October 2014. He

was the Vice President of the Methodist Church 2013-14. In 2008 he was awarded an OBE in recognition of a career dedicated to the alleviation of poverty.

Bible Studies were led by Ermal Kirby & Jongi, who in the process told their own moving story. One of the Workshops was led by a survivor of the Rwandan Genocide. (Read her story on next page).

While we were in our various groups the Youth and Children's programme -"Journeying in the shoes of a refugee", was taking place. They could be seen at various times trekking through the grounds having a whale of a time. They produced an animated film for Sunday worship and had made a plaited bracelet for everyone with embroidery silks.

Becky is the Project Manager for Moving Stories and did a great job in organising the weekend. She says, "All good things must come to an end. While Becky's doctor is happy that her stress levels will now operate at a normal level once again, everyone in the District Office were thrilled with the success of the weekend. Over 170 people attended across the weekend, including children, lay people, presbyters and church members from all over London."

ar scáth a chéile a mhaireas na daoine (Gaelic)
it is in the shelter of each other that the people live (Corrymeela)

Marie-Christine's moving story. She is a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan massacre, lost family, home, job, marriage and escaped, without belongings or documents. She travelled through three countries with her 2year old daughter. They suffered starvation, all kinds of injustices and were refused asylum by three African countries. Many times, her daughter nearly died from hunger or malaria. Marie-Christine's dream during this time was 'to live in a peaceful country, where she would not be abused for being a refugee and where she could find food for her daughter and send her to school.' Four years on, in 1998, Marie-Christine decided to take risks and come to the West. She was hoping to reach Canada where her niece had arrived so that she would have at least one member of her family around her. She was stopped at Heathrow because her papers were not 'clean'. Eventually, she was granted asylum here and despite English being her fifth language, she managed to get a job with Eurostar using her French and accountancy skills. Two years after their arrival, her daughter was found to be very gifted and eventually she got a scholarship to Roedean. She is now doing her Masters at Oxford University. Through her job with Eurostar, Marie-Christine was able to travel widely and came into contact with other refugees from Rwanda who had arrived in Belgium, France, Switzerland and other European countries, She was able to empathise with the women who were traumatised, had become widows or childless because of the tragedy. Marie-Christine felt that she was lucky to have overcome the trauma and to be integrated quickly in Western society. She had trained in mentoring and counselling, had experience in working in humanitarian organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross so felt she was the best person to be able to help refugees. Using all her skills and her experience, she set up Saferefugerwanda, fundraising and educating all people in the hope that genocides and wars may become a thing of the past. Marie-Christine is also a

Licensed Lay Minister of Holy Trinity Brompton Church and is doing a research on “The role of Faith Groups in helping refugees”. She is someone who has survived horrendous trauma and is involved in all sorts of schemes to bring relief to other survivors. She is an inspiration. If you would like more information her website is www.saferefugerwanda.org

METHODISTS AT LONDON STOP-TRUMP MARCH.

A group of Methodists bearing a large red ‘We are Methodists’ banner made their presence felt a few weeks ago as they joined thousands of others in London on the "Stop Trump" march. They marched to speak out against the increasing hostility around the world caused by policies instigated by the American President.

“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

KOFI ANNAN - 8th April, 1938-18th August, 2018. Kofi Annan died in Switzerland after a short illness. He was a Ghanaian diplomat who joined the UN in 1962, working for the World Health Organization's Geneva office. He worked in several roles at the UN Headquarters including serving as the Under-Secretary-General for peacekeeping between March 1992 and December 1996. He was appointed as the Secretary-General on 13 December 1996 by the Security Council, and later confirmed by the General Assembly, making him the first office holder to be elected from the UN staff itself. He was re-elected for a second term in 2001, and was succeeded as Secretary-General by Ban Ki-moon on 1 January 2007.

Kofi, continued to work in some capacity for the UN and in 2016, he was appointed to lead a UN commission to investigate the Rohingya crisis.

António Guterres, the present UN Secretary-General said Kofi Annan was champion for peace and a guiding force for good.

President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo said Kofi Annan was “A great Ghanaian who served his country, Africa and humanity with dignity and humility, has left us to join his maker. Ghana has suffered a great loss from his passing. “He brought great renown to our nation, and it is my wish that our nation honours him fully on his passing. God bless him and grant him a peaceful place of abode in his bosom.” Rest in peace, Kofi.

COFFEE IN THE CLOUDS

Mount Bental, in the Golan Heights, northern Israel, is a dormant volcano which rises above the kibbutz of Marom Golan to the height of 1,165 meters above sea level. On the top of Mount Bental is a dis-used Israeli army outpost, complete with bunkers, also used by the Syrians in the past. There is also a café called Coffee Anan which is a play on words for Kofi Annan. Anan in Hebrew is clouds hence ‘Coffee in the Clouds’.

Mount Bental has a metal sculpture garden by Dutch/Israeli artist Joop de Jong. He and an assistant have made the sculptures from weapons of warfare found on the Golan Heights after the Yom Kippur war of 1973, probably previous skirmishes, too.



The Golan Heights is a region disputed between Israel and Syria and was seized by Israel from Syria during the Six-Day War in 1967 and was never internationally recognised. As the highest mountains in this region are located in the area, the Golan Heights are very important. In 1974, the UN deployed peacekeepers between the two sides after the Yom Kippur war of 1973 when Syria tried to seize back the Golan Heights and failed. Today, to remember the battle and the large number of casualties, the valley below the mountain, reaching to Mount Hermon, is called the Valley of Tears.

The UN peacekeepers were pulled out of this area in 2014 when the war in Syria escalated. They have just returned to patrol the area again, with the help of Russian military police.

The views from the top are spectacular with Mount Hermon to the north, Syria to the east, Lebanon to the west and the rest of Israel to the south. So beautiful, especially seeing Mount Hermon on the horizon covered in snow. Sadly, all around are signs of the many disputes; barbed wire among the poppies and anemones; wire fences with signs emblazoned with 'Danger' as there are landmines still scattered around the area. Surrounded by beauty, these are all reminders of a volatile past and a fragile present and future.

REMONA ALY, FREELANCE JOURNALIST AND EDITOR:

If there's one TV ritual that I annoyed my family with, it was watching Mary Poppins day in and day out on VHS. I desperately wanted the perfect nanny's carpet bag filled with bottomless magic and lofty lamps. I wanted to 'Step in Time' with chimney sweeps on the rooftops of London.

But the most magical scene for me, was when Mary Poppins, the children and Dick van Dyke's bizarre cockney accent jumped into a painting on the pavement, transporting themselves to another world in milliseconds.

I feel like doing the same when looking through old family photographs. If only I could jump into different points in my life in a puff of cloudy memories, knowing what I know now.

I'd leap into the photo of me aged 5 when I was bubbling with excitement about going to a fair, and say, 'Today is the first day you'll encounter prejudice because you're different, but don't be sad, you'll turn it into a strength later.'

I'd jump into the picture of me when I'm 14 and say, I know you hate looking in the mirror, but focus on beautifying the inside, the rest will follow. (I'm still waiting on that one.)

And I wish I could step into the photograph of me aged 30 with my father, and whisper in my ear, 'This is the last photograph you'll have with dad. Cherish this moment.' But everything has its time and place - my past can't be lived in hindsight. What I knew in the evening of my life, isn't what I was meant to know in the morning.

The great Muslim Persian poet Shams Tabrizi advised: 'Try not to resist the changes which come your way. Instead, let life live through you. And do not worry that your life is turning upside down. How do you know that the side you are used to is better than the one to come?'

Belief in the great unknown isn't just part of my faith, it's the vehicle of my life. That which lays before us is as exciting and unpredictable as a picture yet to be painted or a photograph yet to be taken. So I won't yearn to step back in time to be practically perfect in every way like Mary Poppins, but I will leap forward into the great mystery of the open road.

(Remona is a regular on Pause for Thought on Radio 2 and led one of the workshops at the Moving Stories Conference)

REMEMBRANCE 100 - 100 DAYS OF PEACE AND HOPE. This is a collaboration between Christian denominations, ministries and chaplaincies to help churches mark the centenary of the First World War at the heart of their communities.

On 4 August 1918 King George V called a National Day of Prayer. One hundred days later the war ended.

Remembrance 100 was launched on 4 August 2018 with 100 Days of Peace and Hope – prayers, Bible readings, reflections and peace-making activities – which are available to download at remembrance100.co.uk free. (see first prayers below)

The free downloads of 100 Days of Peace and Hope include the ‘6 Rs of Reconciliation’ written by the Archbishop of Canterbury who says in his foreword: ‘From 4 August let us mark 100 days with prayers for peace, hope and reconciliation.’

PRAYERS FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER



Almighty God, you sent into the world your Son, the Prince of Peace, to save us from the power of sin and evil. May we know his presence even in the midst of suffering; may violence cease, and may his justice and peace prevail. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen

Lord Jesus, when we find it so easy to remember the faults of others and so difficult to understand our own, give us the will to build understanding between people and so dismantle the walls of hostility, in pursuit of your gift to the world of peace. Amen

Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula

God of love! & God of peace!

We thank you Lord that Christians in North and South Korea who live in the same land, under the same heavens once again greet this year’s Liberation Day (15th August). Though August visits us every year, we have long forgotten that overwhelming moment of the past. For the last 73 years of separation, while in constant conflict with each other, we have failed to embrace each other with love. Help us overcome with strength the many walls and high barriers that still remain. The historical meeting between the North and South Korean leaders has taken place in Panmunjom, once a site of separation and conflict, and now with the signing of the Panmunjom Declaration, the two Koreas have finally taken a step towards reconciliation. But the walls of separation and the embers of war still remain. We pray that by completely removing any contemptible barriers of separation that threaten the people’s livelihood and block common prosperity, you bring long lasting peace that may be a stepping stone for peace not only in the Peninsula, but in Northeast Asia and the entire world. Lord, have mercy on us.

Part of a prayer composed by the Korean Christian Federation Central Committee (North Korea) and the National Council of Churches in Korea (South Korea) 2018

DIARY – AUGUST 2018

Sunday 5th	10.30 am	Morning Worship – Mr. S. Ebdon
Tuesday 7th	10 – 12 noon	Coffee in the Haven
Sunday 12 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship – Revd. O da Silva (S)

Monday 13 th	12 -1.15 pm	Lunch Club in the Hall
Tuesday 14 th	10 – 12 noon	Coffee in the Haven
Sunday 19 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship – Mr. A. Anteyi
Tuesday 21 st	10 – 12 noon	Coffee in the Haven
Sunday 26 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship – Revd. N. Grigg
Tuesday 28 th	10 – 12 noon	Coffee in the Haven

DIARY – SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday 2 nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship – Mr L. Cheng
Tuesday 4 th	10 – 12 noon 6.30pm	Coffee in the Haven Welcome Service @ Loughton Methodist Church for Revd. Sue Creighton.
Sunday 9 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship – Revd. O. da Silva
Monday 10 th	12 – 1.15 pm	Lunch Club in the Hall
Tuesday 11 th	10 – 12 noon	Coffee in the Haven
Thursday 13 th	7.30pm	Church Council
Sunday 16 th	10.30am 3.30pm 6.30pm	Morning Worship – Mr J. Adofo Messy Church BB Gathering
Tuesday 18 th	10 – 12 noon 8.15pm	Coffee in the Haven Property Meeting
Sunday 23 rd	10.30 am	Morning Worship – Revd. O da Silva
Tuesday 25 th	9.30 – 12.30pm	MacMillan Big Coffee morning
Sunday 30 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship – Mrs. G. Farnfield

Please check the weekly notices for the dates of the next Bible Study sessions.

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, 18th Sept, 2018

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



Messy Church - Sunday, 16th September

3:30pm – 5:30pm.

Curious?

**Come and see what it is all about
and see it in action!**

Children must be accompanied by their parents or carers

Activities day by day

Sunday	10.30 - 11.30am	Worship Service For other services, see noticeboard
Monday	9.30-11.30am 12.30- 3.30pm 12.00 - 1.15pm 2.00 - 4.00pm 6.00 - 7.30pm 8.00 - 9.00pm	Dizzi Tots (from 17 th Sept) (neither session meets on 2 nd in month) Lunch Club (2nd in month) Singing for Fun U3A (3 rd in month) Brownie Pack (term time) Karate Class
Tuesday	10.00 - 12noon 1.30 - 3.30pm 4.15 - 5.45pm 7.30 - 9.00pm 6.30 - 8.05pm 7.45 - 9.45pm	Coffee in the Haven Flower-arranging U3A (2 nd in month) Tudor Rose Dance School Ultrasound Ladies Choir Boys' Brigade (Anchor Boys & Juniors) Boys' Brigade (Company Section)
Wednesday	9.45 - 12noon 9.30 - 12noon 10.00 - 11.00am 4.15 - 7.30pm 7.30 - 9.30pm	Pilates Class (until end of August) Monkey Music (term-time) Music & Movement U3A (1st & 3rd in month) Tudor Rose Dance School Woodford Singers
Thursday	10.30 - 11.15am 4.15 - 5.45pm	Hey Diddle Diddle Tudor Rose Dance School
Friday	9.45 - 11.45am 4.15 - 8.30pm	Sounds Right Tudor Rose Dance School
Saturday	9.30 - 2.30pm 6.30 - 9.30pm	Tudor Rose Dance School Jagannath Hall Alumni Association (monthly)

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