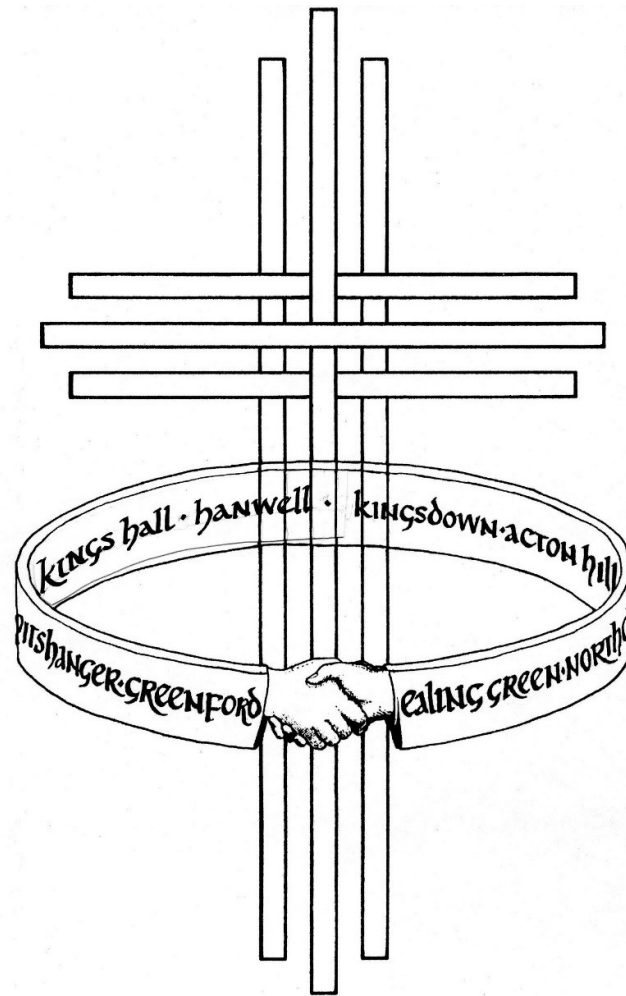


In-touch

No 96

December 2022 – February 2023



The magazine for *all* the Ealing Trinity Circuit.

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Circuit website: www.ealingtrinity.org.uk

Front Cover designed by Marion Narain

From the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter the shops are already filled with Christmas products and more than a month ago I was greeted by life-sized animatronic reindeer singing “Jingle Bells” when I went into a local garden centre.

I wonder how all the Christmas advertising and the expectation it brings is effecting those members of our communities who are worried about how to make ends meet or are already making decisions between food and heat. I wonder too how it makes those who will be alone this Christmas, or are grieving the death of a loved one feel. I wonder about those who have risked everything to try to make a life in this country and find themselves unwelcome and those who have left everything behind fleeing for their lives from persecution who are attempting to claim asylum here.

I wonder about you all, and those who we welcome for coffee and cake, for craft fairs and for worship. What are you feeling as we prepare for another Christmas that promises to be so different once again from those that have gone before?

I know that some of you feel called to try to offer support to those in the wider community and to show a welcome. I know that others will be donating to the Foodbank or finding ways to support the night shelter. Others will be struggling to keep their own heads above water and just thanking God for every day they manage to put one foot in front of the other. Still others will want to forget the concerns of the last few years and have a chance to celebrate.

I wonder how many people in our communities, living around us and in our churches feel that there is no room or welcome for them anywhere. I wonder too how many feel so overstretched or overwhelmed that they are unable to offer a welcome to others. I have an image of a packed rush hour tube train in my head with all those people standing on the platform longing to be able to fit in and get home.

Whatever you're feeling, the coming of God to “pitch his tent in our neighbourhood” (as Eugene Peterson paraphrases the Gospel of John's great proclamation that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us) gives us the assurance that all are welcome at the feast of God's coming. Later in this magazine you'll see the material from the Methodist Church which explores this in more detail. You'll also find invitations to celebrations, to a carol service for those who are grieving, to cups of coffee, carol services and times of quiet reflection.

I pray that in all you experience in the seasons of Advent and Christmas and in the year to come, you will know God's presence with you and that with God you are always welcome.

With love to you all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel".

Encounter 2023

a Methodist exploration of discipleship & vocation

*Ever wondered what God is calling you to?
Would you like to have a greater impact as a Christian disciple?*

Make 2023 the year in which you join with others to explore your gifts and faith

Encounter is...

- *a place to deepen your awareness of God*
- *an opportunity to reflect on your faith journey*
- *a supportive small group environment*
- *for sharing and learning together*

Starts January 2023, ends November 2023

"Encounter gave me a better understanding of myself in relation to God and my life's path." Alison, Lambeth Circuit

To find out more visit <https://www.methodist.org.uk/encounter> or speak to **Rev Sue Male** who is an accompanist on the programme and would be willing to chat with anyone interested in participating. She can also put you in touch with past participants

Circuit Advent Quiet Day – The Gifts of Christmas

**A time to reflect on the gifts that Advent and Christmas can bring
with experienced Spiritual Director, Marguerite Kuhn**

**Ealing Green
Saturday 3rd December 10.30am – 12.30pm
Coffee served from 10.00am**

Let God in at the beginning of Advent and be ready for Him to come again at
Christmas as the child in the manger born for us

To book a place or for more information, contact Rev Sue Male

susan.d.male@googlemail.com 07939 150194 or 020 8579 8114

From the Circuit Meeting

The last Circuit Meeting was held on 1st September 2022 at Hanwell.

The meeting opened with a quiet moment to give thanks for the life of our churches praying that God will inspire and guide them as they work together for His glory and mission.

Rev Rachel Bending presented some thoughts on a model for how a Circuit should work. Churches like to feel their own identities and regard themselves as individual spiritual families. Perhaps as a result churches do not do things together and do not communicate well with each other. However, circuits and churches need to think of themselves as one spiritual family sharing each other's burdens and working together.

United services, both at circuit level and within our pastoral sections help build relationships between our churches. Looking to the future, these may begin laying the ground for changes in the structure of the circuit. We have to consider the ongoing viability of our churches and look at the possible opportunities for amalgamation. This could involve closing some of our churches, but could also mean finding ways of sharing together – sharing church councils, property meetings or treasurers for instance. Bigger families would enable churches to run. This comes down to considering our strengths and weaknesses and the possibilities for mutuality and sharing.

We also need to consider how to encourage people who feel that their churches are 'closed' when we have united services. This may involve finding ways to draw our congregations together, beginning with small steps, perhaps finding things that congregations can do together.

We are about to enter into an autumn and winter that are going to be really tough. We need to ask ourselves how we can support each other and our local communities. This could involve providing space in our churches, where people can be welcomed with hot drinks and somewhere that will be warm for a short time. This could be something we want to share across the Circuit. We are asked to think about how we can volunteer to open the churches and provide this kind of space. Churches can register with Warm Welcome space, which is an online service that lets people know where Warm Spaces are and how they are run. Let the Circuit Office know what is going on and think about how to get volunteers across the Circuit.

The Circuit is establishing a fund for people who are in greater need of the money being refunded from the Government to help with utility bills.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Foundation Training was being arranged (there was a well-attended session at Pitshanger on 16th October).

Property Issues

Rev Rachel Bending presented plans for the new King's Hall building showing how the various spaces within the building will fit in. Design work is proceeding on how the frontage of the building will look.

The Circuit Meeting was asked to note that the Circuit Leadership Team had approved the appointment of Gardiner Residential to manage the flats at 37 and 39 Newton Avenue. The meeting also approved a proposal to transfer the management of flats at Havelock House to Gardiner Residential.

Re-invitation of Rev Sue Male

Following consultations, the Circuit Invitations Committee recommended that Rev Sue Male be re-invited to serve in our Circuit for a further five years from September 2023. In line with Standing Orders, members of the meeting had been asked to express any views to the contrary prior to the meeting. Perhaps not surprisingly, no such comments were received and accordingly Rev Sue's re-invitation was approved.

Registration for the Solemnization of Same-Sex Marriages

Both Ealing Green and Kingsdown have agreed to register their buildings and have obtained the consent of the congregations they host. Note that where churches host other congregations, they are deemed in law to be 'sharing churches' and must at least obtain the consent of those congregations to buildings being used for the purposes of conducting same-sex marriage ceremonies.

Hanwell has agreed to register and is in the process of consulting the congregation they host. Discussions are underway at Acton Hill.

The next Circuit Meeting was scheduled for 23rd November.

Christmas Memorial Service

Greenford
Sunday 11th December 6.30pm

A special service of carols followed by refreshments at which you are invited to remember relatives and friends whom you mourn. During the service, names of your relatives and friends will be read out and displayed.

If there is someone you would like remembered at the service, please send their name(s) to Rev Rachel Bending by Wednesday 7th December.

rachelbending@hotmail.com

THERE IS NO ROOM

In the Christmas Story for

YOU ME US ALL



God makes room for people: for you and for me.

You can see all the key players in the Christmas story in this picture. Baby Jesus is at the centre. Christians believe that God became a human being in Jesus. But Jesus wasn't born in a palace, in comfortable surroundings.

Mary and Joseph, his human parents, had to travel to Bethlehem for a census. When they got there, there was no guest room for them. Instead, they had to find room among the animals. Jesus' crib was a manger – the animals' feeding trough.

In Jesus, God found room in the world in a place of humility and poverty. When Jesus was born, God sent angels to visit humble shepherds keeping watch over their sheep in a cold, dark field. God wrote a message in the stars that was read and understood by wise men in a far-away land where people worshipped other gods. People working hard for a low wage and people who weren't religious insiders were the first to hear the good news: baby Jesus was God's Son and he was born for all people, including them and including you and me.

Mary lived at a time when women were second-class citizens – even more than today. She was very young when she gave birth to Jesus. She might have lacked life experience. God placed great trust in Mary despite her youth. God gave her the crucial task of nurturing Jesus, and loving and protecting him as he grew to be a man who would be good news for the whole world. **The Bethlehem stable has room for people whom others overlook. What is your experience of being overlooked?**

**There is room
for all ages and
genders**

The wise men travelled a long way, following a star, to find the baby Jesus and worship him. They probably came from Persia (modern-day Iran), and they weren't Jewish like Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They were 'magi', men who studied astrology. This was forbidden for Jews and for followers of Jesus. And yet, God chose to write a message in the stars to these magi and they responded to God's invitation. **The Bethlehem stable has room for people of many religious and ethnic identities, even people who might not expect to find themselves there. Have you ever felt like a religious or cultural outsider?**

**There is room
for difference**

When Jesus was still a babe in arms, an angel came to **Joseph** in a dream and told him to take his family to Egypt, the neighbouring country. King Herod had sent men to look for Jesus and kill him. So Joseph, Mary and Jesus became refugees, fleeing for their lives. They gathered up a few precious possessions and left everything and everyone that they knew, escaping in fear to another country. It was only after Herod eventually died that they were able to come home. **The Bethlehem stable has room for people who are made to feel scared and unsafe in their homes. Have you ever felt unsafe or scared?**

**There is room
for refugees**

Angels appear again and again in the Christmas story. People are going about their lives when the veil between heaven and earth is briefly lifted and a messenger from heaven brings a revelation from God. And God still speaks to people today, sometimes making the ordinary a place of divine encounter. God speaks through dreams; by putting a thought in someone's mind; through conversations with others; and when we reflect on life events. **The Bethlehem stable has room for a story God wants to share with all people. Can you think of a time when God spoke to you?**

**There is room
for revelation**

The shepherds were the first people after Mary and Joseph to know about the birth of Jesus. Angels visited them as they watched their sheep in a cold, dark field. Shepherds were rough-and-ready people: they didn't earn much money and they didn't get a lot of respect. But God chose them to be the first to hear the good news of Jesus' birth. In fact, God often favours people experiencing poverty throughout the Bible. **The Bethlehem stable has room for people who have little. What has been your experience of poverty in your own life or in your community?**

**There is room
for people
experiencing
poverty**

There are lots of **animals** in the Christmas story. There are the animals around the feeding trough that became baby Jesus' crib. Some sheep might have followed the shepherds. The wise men may have travelled on horses or camels. Our lives are interwoven with the lives of the animals and plants that share our planet and whose fate is bound up with our own. **The Bethlehem stable has room for all creatures and the whole cosmos: God loves every bit of it. Which aspect of caring for the environment are you most passionate about?**

**There is room
for all nature**

Perhaps **you** have sometimes felt on the edges of things. Perhaps you are not religious. Perhaps you are struggling with the cost of living or see people close to you struggle and wish things were different. Perhaps you are young and sometimes feel patronised. Perhaps you are older and sometimes feel ignored. **The Bethlehem stable has room for all people, including you, including me. Every single person is part of this story: God wants all of us to take our place and receive love, wholeness and peace. How does knowing that there is room for you in God's story make you feel?**

**There is room
for you and me**

God found room in our world when baby **Jesus** was born in the Bethlehem stable. We call this the 'incarnation' – God made flesh and blood in Jesus. But God isn't limited to one place and time. God wants to be born in our hearts too. **There is room in the Bethlehem stable for all of us and there is room in all of us for the stable. What might it look like for you to make room for God? Take a moment right now. The divine wants to be born in your heart today. Can you make room?**

**There is room
for God**

Meet the New Youth President

Ay Up, I'm James Carver, the Youth President of the Methodist Church for 2022/2023. Now, you may have guessed from my greeting that I am (technically) from the North, from a council estate in Clifton, Nottingham. I live with ADHD and autistic traits.

The beginning of my term as Youth President has been interesting. As you may know, we had my induction service planned for the 11th September 2022 but due to the unfortunate passing of Her Majesty, it was decided to postpone. Luckily, I was inducted at 3Generate, and the experience was fantastic; like a bolt of lightning going down your spine.

We had Daud Irfan (Youth President 2021/2022) presiding, and Anthony Boateng (Vice-President of the Conference) share a prayer over the two of us.

Over the past few years, I studied Criminology at Nottingham Trent University; qualifying with a BA (Hons), and I am working towards graduating with a Masters.

Covid was an interesting experience. I didn't see many people, probably the introvert in me, but I did see churches do amazing work to adapt and ensure the Methodist Church continued despite growing challenges. To celebrate this work, I am hoping to visit congregations that have discovered new and inspiring ways of worship and hope to share these stories with others to change the perception that churches are dull!

In addition, I hope to use my personal experience of living with neurodiversity to inform and encourage churches in being welcoming, accepting and accommodating places to all.

Finally, I am also going to be working on re-developing the Youth President Social Media to reach a larger audience and would be extremely thankful if you could share the pages with your young people.

It is tradition, I believe, at this point for the Youth President to finish on an inspiring quote from the likes of John Wesley, Martin Luther King, or the Revd Graham Thompson. Unfortunately, my memory is awful at remembering quotes without a trigger so I leave you with this - young people are not the Church of tomorrow; we are the Church of today. If you engage with us, learn with us, and worship with us, Methodism will thrive.

You can find out more or get in touch with James by following the Youth President pages on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram or by emailing youthpresident@methodistchurch.org.uk .

Downloaded from the Methodist Church website

Forgiveness: Stories from the Front Line

Gerald Barton, Editor

“Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.”

These are familiar words which we pray whenever we say the Lord’s Prayer. Forgiveness is central to our Christian faith so much so that we often almost too easily take it for granted. A little while ago, BBC Radio 4 broadcast five short programmes by Maria Cantacuzino, founder of the Forgiveness Project in which she presented how people who had undergone profoundly traumatic experiences had dealt with the question of forgiveness. All had undergone harrowing experiences such as rape, attempted murder or the murder of a loved-one. Each had to find their own way through the aftermath of what had happened in order to reach some sort of balance point.

The first programme described how, in November 1999 Rosalyn was subjected to a prolonged rape at knifepoint in her own home while her daughter slept in an adjacent bedroom. The rapist told her she would not survive his attack and as the attack went on she became firmly convinced that she would indeed be killed. Eventually, the rapist left but not before threatening to kill her family if she went to the police. Rosalyn later discovered from the police that she survived because a screw had fallen out of the handle of the rapist’s knife so he could no longer use it.

For the following three months Rosalyn had shaking fits, could not sleep, could not open the door and kept hearing things around the house. Sadly, her marriage also broke down. She tried to ‘let go’ of the incident but found she could not forgive what had been done to her. What, though of the rapist himself? If not the act, could she forgive the man?

The rapist was arrested and sentenced to three life sentences in 2001 - he had been a serial rapist since he was a teenager. Rosalyn decided to try ‘restorative justice’ which would give her the opportunity to meet her attacker under supervision. She discovered that the week before the meeting was due to take place he had tried to hang himself. Not surprisingly she wished he had succeeded. Then perhaps the pain would have stopped.

At first when she saw her attacker Rosalyn did not recognise him. The ‘monster’ of November 1999 had become a pathetic individual. During the course of the next three hours, he admitted he had not realised the impact of his crimes on his victims but was desperate *not* to be forgiven. Nonetheless Rosalyn found herself able to forgive the man despite his protestations. With forgiveness came a sense of great relief. She felt she had at last got her sense of personal power back.

For Rosalyn, forgiveness was an act of ‘self-healing’ which set her free from the shadow of what had happened. As Bishop Desmond Tutu put it, “Forgiving is the best form of self-interest.”

Jude Whyte was born in Belfast in 1957 and grew up during the 'Troubles'. He is a lecturer in social work. Although his family is Catholic they lived in a largely Protestant area of the city. He describes his childhood as 'happy' and also says that he was happy to be 'British'. That all changed with the Troubles. In April 1984 his mother, who worked as a taxi driver was killed by a bomb left in a bag on the windowsill of their house.

This was not the first attack on his family. The year before a bomb went off prematurely at the rear of their house badly injuring the bomber. Jude's mother shouted to him to call an ambulance. The bomber pleaded with him, "Don't kill me, mister."

Because he and his mother had taken pity on their attacker and had helped that bomber Jude felt that his family would be protected against further attack. The sense of betrayal Jude felt following the fatal attack on his mother only served to deepen his anger. He wanted to kill every loyalist. He distrusted authority and everyone and everything. He became, in his words a "horrible husband and a horrible father."

Despite his feelings he tried to find meaning in the tragedy through working with victims like himself and assisting them with compensation claims. At one class he attended, one of the speakers was David Irvine who had been a leading member of the Ulster Volunteer Force but who had turned peacemaker. One of the women at the class said to Irvine, "Your organisation killed my father. What are you going to do about it?". There was a moment of silence then Irvine went over to her holding out his hand. "We must work night and day to make sure that doesn't happen again. I am deeply sorry for what happened." He remained holding out his hand. Eventually the woman responded by taking his hand in return.

At that moment Jude realised that love and forgiveness can triumph over hate. As Jude explained, "I forgave to survive." The act of forgiving is a 'survivalist instinct' and a kind of defence mechanism against forever being a 'victim', something that he did not want to be. While he could not forgive the wanton violence of the Troubles he began to understand how they had grown out of a 'toxic society' where people were not seen as 'people' but labelled as 'nationalists' or 'loyalists'. His mother had not been targeted because of who she was but because of the label that had been attached to her.

Forgiveness for Jude grew out of his growing understanding of the situation in Northern Ireland. He believes that forgiveness is a creative alternative to hate which can bring about peace and break the cycle of violence. 'Hatred is not the way people are supposed to live'.

For himself, Jude has also found personal benefits from forgiving. He reduced his drinking, gave up taking sleeping pills and loves himself and his family more. He stopped being the 'horrible' person he had become following his mother's murder.

Salimata Badji Knight was born in Senegal but now lives in the UK. At the age of 4 at her grandmother's village she was taken on a 'picnic' with 20 - 30 other girls. One by one the girls, including Salimata were taken into woods nearby. She was held down by four women and subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM) although at the time she had no understanding of what was being done to her. Salimata said some of the women present cried – they were just doing what had been done to them. Her mother was not present, only 'elderly ladies'.

Tradition in some societies dictates that young girls be 'cut' ie subjected to FGM to maintain their 'dignity' and 'respect' and to make them 'real' women. It is also believed to serve as a 'proof' of virginity to men who may be possible marriage partners.

It was not until she was a teenager that Salimata realised what had been done to her. She knew something was not right when in the showers at school she saw that she 'wasn't the same as other girls'. She felt angry and suicidal. When she tried to speak to her mother about it she initially refused to talk about it and threatened to have Salimata 'cut' again. However, she broke down and cried and said that she had not wanted it to happen to Salimata explaining that it was the elders who insisted on it. It was the tradition, they were all victims.

At that point something shifted in Salimata's heart and she decided to forgive her mother, although it was still a long process.

When she was in her 30's Salimata learnt that some other girls were to be taken to Senegal to be 'cut'. She decided to break with tradition and speak to her father, to whom she had always been close, about it. He realised that what he, and all the other men who had stood by had let happen was wrong and showed deep remorse for what they had effectively connived in. When he heard that another group were to be taken to be 'cut' he called on an elderly cousin in Senegal to help stop it.

For Salimata the fact that her parents both showed deep remorse was an important factor in paving the way for her to forgive them. As for the village women, she realised that they were caught up in this tradition and could not liberate themselves from it. They were equally victims. Salimata's anger at what had been done turned, through the process of forgiving, into strength.

Father Michael Lapsley is an Anglican priest living in exile in Zimbabwe. During the 1970s and 80s he was a chaplain to the African National Congress and an anti-apartheid campaigner. As a result of his activities in South Africa he was forced to move to the relative safety of Zimbabwe but on 28th April 1990 became the victim of a letter bomb hidden in a magazine that had been posted to him. He lost both his hands, an eye and his ear drums were ruptured.

For the first four months after the attack, Fr Michael was 'helpless' and could do nothing for himself. He now has hooks for 'hands' which allows a degree of freedom but he knows he can never be fully independent again. He practises what he calls 'healthy interdependence' recognising that there are times when he has to depend

on others to accomplish even some simple tasks, dealing with a door-knob, for instance. This approach, he feels is much better than what he calls the 'extreme independence' practiced in Western societies.

Fr Michael describes forgiveness as an 'act of freedom' but for him, forgiving the bomber(s) is not really possible as it has never been established who they were as individuals. What, he asks, does it mean to forgive an abstraction? Forgiveness is not easy when people are hurting but may be possible when that hurt is acknowledged. Nonetheless, forgiveness is key to healing – people cannot be free of their hurt until they feel able to forgive.

Is conditional forgiveness possible? Fr Michael says he chooses to forgive as an act of 'healthy selfishness' in order to untie the knot of being held prisoner by anger and hurt.

Reparation and restitution are two important aspects towards being able to forgive. What Fr Michael calls the 'justness of restoration' is better than punishment. What, he asks, can perpetrators do to make reparation/restitution for their evil acts? For him, that does not necessarily mean perpetrators doing something directly for their victims, but can involve them engaging in activities that relieve the ongoing effects of evil, showing that they recognise the evil they have done and seeking to do good instead.

Fr Michael had some specific comments about Christian forgiveness, or the way it is often spoken of in churches. He feels churches often make forgiveness something that becomes a burden. At times it can be used as a kind of 'weapon' against people who are hurting almost as a way of shutting them up. Forgiveness can be costly, painful and difficult. Too often the church makes it into something glib.

Fr Michael now works with people from all sides of the struggle against apartheid. Losing his hands, he says has made him a 'better person' because of the journey he has had to travel sharing his pain with others who have also suffered. For many people what has been done to them remains unfinished business – as he said, he cannot complete the process of forgiveness because he does not know who planned and sent that letter bomb. However, all who have been hurt should ask themselves how what happened to them imprisons them. Better to 'choose life'!

The final programme in the series involved two men, Ivan Humble a former member of the English Defence League (EDL) from Lowestoft and Manwar Ali a former jihadist, and their unlikely friendship.

Ivan Humble had been a victim of abuse as a child and was unemployed with two children when he joined the EDL. Before he joined, he 'didn't feel a man anymore' but the EDL gave him back a sense of manhood. However, this also involved hating Muslims and everything about them. The EDL became his life.

Ivan joined an EDL demonstration in Peterborough against Muslims but found himself invited by the local mosque to meet with them. At Christmas 2011 he followed two Muslim women to a conference centre where, perhaps to his surprise he was greeted warmly. He agreed to meet people from the local mosque out of curiosity. "Have I got something wrong" was the question he asked himself. Through these encounters he met Manwar Ali.

Manwar lost 22 members of his family in Bangladesh following which he became radicalised by the Muslim Brotherhood. For some time he embraced the idea of 'martyrdom' and went to Myanmar (Burma) and Afghanistan. However, he realised he was on the wrong track and now works for the Home Office with youngsters at risk of radicalisation.

In 2013, Fusilier Lee Rigby was brutally murdered by Islamic extremists. Shortly after Manwar phoned Ivan to apologise for what had happened. Following that, both Ivan and Manwar joined a march by the EDL and Muslim groups to protest against the killing. Shortly after, Ivan left the EDL – he now had Muslim friends. In fact, when his father died Manwar supported him more than his former friends in the EDL.

Both men realised they had got onto the wrong track but for them, self-forgiveness was the hardest part. This is bound up with feelings of regret, shame and guilt – 'you don't just feel pain, you are pain'. Seven years on, Ivan still struggles with self-forgiveness. Manwar feels that if he forgave himself he would have no reason to carry on doing what he does with youngsters at risk of radicalisation. He fears he would forget what he owes for having been a radical jihadist. As a Muslim he knows that God forgives but nonetheless believes he needs to make up with good deeds for the things he did.

For Ivan, self-forgiveness means leaving the past behind and not being a hostage to self-blame. In other words, being the person you are. It also provides a drive to make up for past wrongs.

This was a fascinating and powerful series which provides significant insights into the process and meaning of forgiveness for people who had suffered devastating and catastrophic wrongs. Forgiveness is messy and complex but has the power to transform lives. In our current society where often the call is for 'holding to account', blaming the guilty and finding 'closure', these are powerful counter messages. Forgiveness is, however a two way process. To be complete the victim has to let go of the hurt but the perpetrator, as Fr Michael Lapsley stressed must recognise the wrong they have done and make some kind of restoration or restitution, in other words show repentance.

Forgiveness: Stories from the Front Line was broadcast between 27th June and 1st July 2022 and is available on BBC Sounds for over a year. If you would like to listen, the link to the series is: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/m0018npb>

Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter

The Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter will be operating from 24th November until the end of February providing accommodation for ten guests using a hybrid model with some nights hosted by various local churches and others at a B&B hotel in Southall which was used by the Night Shelter last year. The Shelter Worker will provide the guests with support, liaising with the local referring agencies including Ealing Council's Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator and outreach teams from St Mungo's and Thamesreach, charities working with homeless people.

Ealing Green Church will be providing a venue on Thursday nights / Friday mornings during January and February next year. If you can volunteer to help with the various tasks involved, either evening, overnight or early morning, please contact Lee Horwich email unitymagazine@hotmail.com or Jane Horwich tel. 07884 478102 . Also welcome will be donations for the shelter guests of good quality second hand winter clothes, new men's underwear, and small size toiletries.

Should you be concerned about a homeless person you come across on the street, the appropriate response is to contact the Streetlink website with the relevant details so they can alert their rapid response team to investigate and direct the person to local support such as St Mungo's, etc. Please do not try to send homeless people directly to Night Shelter venues.

The Streetlink website is as follows:

https://www.streetlink.london/Streetlink_London_HomePage#

Clitheroe Church Members Take Action to Tackle Critical Climate Issues

Founded in 1868, Trinity Methodist Church sits in the heart of Lancashire's Ribble Valley in the town of Clitheroe - within the shadow of Pendle Hill, famous for its historical connection with witches.

In 2019, Trinity's minister, Rev Ian Humphreys set about addressing some of the critical climate issues raised at the National Methodist Church annual Conference. Archie Whymark, one of Trinity's older members of the congregation volunteered to be their Climate Action Champion with the first activity being to register for the **A Rocha Eco Church Award Scheme**.

Archie Whymark, Trinity's Climate Action Champion said "The first thing I did was contact three other Methodist Churches, who had already successfully achieved A Rocha Gold Eco Church Awards, to pick their brains. I contacted Romsey, Stratford upon Avon and Wellspring Wirksworth. I also contacted our own Clitheroe URC who had a Silver Award. They were all brilliant and very helpful.

“All the churches I spoke with seemed to have a supportive Minister along with a small group of committee members to head the activity up. Our Minister, Rev Ian Humphreys, is a great supporter and very positive. However, I thought finding volunteers to help would be a different matter. Nevertheless, I was astonished to have four ladies come forward straight away for our Eco Group. Since then, our group has grown to six, a dog plus myself. The members are all brilliant and I would be lost without them.”

With an impressive start to their climate change activities, Trinity Methodist Church were awarded their A Rocha Bronze Eco Church Award in April 2022, spurring them on their eco journey to achieve Silver in the coming months.

Some of the highlights of Trinity Methodist Church’s journey to their A Rocha Bronze Eco Church Award include:

- A successful ‘Climate Sunday’ celebration service in September 2021 in support of COP-26
- Completion of an in-house one-page Climate Action Survey by the Church Council
- An impressive bug hotel built out of pallets and house bricks by the Sunday School ‘Treasure Seekers’
- The ‘twinning’ of three church toilets with ones in Uganda, the Yemen and Zambia
- Regular eco church news updates in the weekly Church Notices
- Eco contributions to the church website and Facebook page
- The formation of an Eco Church WhatsApp group
- A monthly climate action prayer letter
- The use of Fairtrade refreshments after church services
- A new relationship with Natural England for help and advice.

Archie Whymark continues “To achieve a Silver award, we need to maintain what we did last time and increase activity. We have already held a successful ‘Caring for God’s Earth’ service along with a coffee morning to raise money for twinning our remaining three toilets. We have every hope that, provided we continue to retain the support of our Minister and the sympathy of our congregation, we should achieve a Silver award by next Summer.”

Downloaded from the Methodist Church website

Action for Children – Secret Santa

Christmas for children is magical. Decorating the tree. Delicious food. Presents! But there are children all over the UK who will wake up on Christmas morning to nothing but a cold house. No toys, no treats, no Christmas dinner – maybe no dinner at all.

But there's hope. Your support could help stop children going hungry. Your gift could help make sure children have the essentials. You could help keep children warm. And you could help put the magic back into Christmas.

Last year, people like you helped Action for Children reach more than 670,000 children, young people and families in the UK.

Vulnerable children in the UK desperately need a Secret Santa like you.

You can choose from a range of gifts either on as a one-off or as a monthly gift.

Follow this link to become a Secret Santa with Action for Children

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/support-us/secret-santa/donation-shop/>



Ealing Animals Fair

Hanwell Methodist Church
Church Road, London, W7 1DJ

Saturday 4th March 2023
10:30am - 4:00pm

Lots of stalls
Great guest speakers
Live music!

admission
FREE

Now in its
44th year



www.ealinganimalsfair.london

Christmas Services around the Circuit

Acton Hill

25th Dec 11.00am Worship for Christmas Day

Ealing Green

18th Dec 6.30pm Carol Service (nb No service at 11.00am)

24th Dec 4.00pm Holy Communion for Christmas Eve

25th Dec 11.00am Worship for Christmas Day

Greenford

11th Dec 6.30pm Christmas Memorial Service (see page 6 for details)

24th Dec 11.15pm Midnight Holy Communion

25th Dec 11.00am United Service at Northolt

Hanwell

18th Dec 6.00pm Carol Service

24th Dec 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

25th Dec 10.30am Worship for Christmas Day (Local Arrangement)

Kingsdown

18th Dec 10.30am Carol Service

24th Dec 6.00pm Holy Communion for Christmas Eve

25th Dec 9.30am Worship for Christmas Day

King's Hall

25th Dec 1.00pm Worship for Christmas Day (with Holy Communion)

Northolt

18th Dec 11.00am Carol Service

25th Dec 11.00am Worship for Christmas Day – *united service with Greenford*

Pitshanger

25th Dec 10.30am Worship for Christmas Day (Local Arrangement)

New Year's Day 1st January 2023

Circuit Service at King's Hall

The service will be held at Hambrough Primary School, South Rd, Southall adjacent to King's Hall. Car park access is via St James Drive.

Forthcoming Events around the Circuit

[as notified to, or discovered by, the Editor]

November

27th Sun 5.30pm **Circuit Service – Advent Party at Ealing Green**
A special ‘café’ style service to celebrate Advent together

December

3rd Sat 10.30am **Circuit Advent Quiet Day at Ealing Green**
12.30pm *“The Gifts of Christmas” – see page 4 for details*

4th Sun 4.00pm **Acton Hill – Iris Axon Concert Series**
Stavroula Thoma, piano
Admission by programme
Adults - £6, Concessions - £5, Children - £2

10th Sat 10.00am **Kingsdown Festival of Nativities**
12.30pm *Display of nativities from around the world*

11th Sun 6.30pm **A Christmas Memorial Service at Greenford**
See page 6 for details

17th Sat 10.00am **Kingsdown Festival of Nativities**
12.30pm *Display of nativities from around the world*

January

1st Sun 1.00pm **Circuit Service for New Year’s Day at King’s Hall**
Meet at Hambrough Primary School, South Rd, Southall
Car park access via St Joseph’s Drive

February

5th Sun 4.00pm **Acton Hill – Iris Axon Concert Series**
Catherine Underhill, oboe

March

4th Sat 10.30am **Ealing Animals Fair at Hanwell**
4.00pm *Lots of stalls, guest speakers, live music*
Admission free

Articles for ‘In-touch’ Issue No 97 (March - May) should be sent by e-mail headed ‘In-touch’ to the Editor, **Gerald Barton**, or as hard copy to the Circuit Office.

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ealing.trinity@btconnect.com

Office hours: Tues & Thurs 09.00 – 14.00

Deadline for next issue: 26th January 2023