



# Chelmsford Circuit

Issue 26

Newsletter Date: June—August 2023



## Stories Everywhere We Look

The Bible is full of the most wonderful stories. I was introduced to many of them as a child in Sunday School: Daniel in the lion's den; Noah and the ark; the story of creation; Zacchaeus meeting Jesus; The good Samaritan; Moses in the bull-rushes... the list is nearly endless.

Like most stories these are not simply historical record or account, in fact many of them are clearly not historical at all (eg the parables of Jesus), but nevertheless, they are all important because they speak to us in many powerful ways; they reveal the love of God.

Although we often lament that the society of which we are a part seems to have less and less connection with our Bible stories, one thing I'm ever conscious of is the fact that most people love a good story today, as much as they ever did. What do many people spend so much of their time doing for leisure? Listening to stories of differing kinds - on TV/ internet, cinema, books, and of course in the theatre! This last means of conveying a story is one I've played a part in recently as Trinity's 'Music and Drama' society has put on its production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!

Ostensibly the story is about an amazing magical car, but the themes run much deeper and deal with bit issues in our lives. A few examples: greed vs generosity, (Potts' lack of interest in money, compared with the avarice of the Baron); freedom vs domination, (the free life of Pott's children vs the 'Repression of children Act' of the Baroness); and hope vs despair, (the inventors encouraging Grandpa to never give up).

The reason stories gain momentum in popular culture, and have a life that lasts is because they contain truth which speaks into our lives. I suggest that all people use stories to help them understand their lives and the things they are facing and going through.

I've been reminded of this whilst learning and practising for this production (which has been tremendous fun), but I've also remembered the importance of stories speaking into our lives and helping us find ways to navigate the joys and the sorrows we know in this life. With that in mind I suggest we can find ever-new ways to make the powerful stories of the Bible some of the effective reminders of God's direction in our living.

Tell the story of God's love - by the way you live your life.

**Blessings, Mark**



## *Easter Offering Service 2023*

This year's Easter Offering Service was held at Witham Methodist Church. The service was attended by women, men and children from around the Circuit. The service, which was put together by Hilary Evans, Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) President (2019-2021), had as its theme, "No Borders to God's love". The theme focused on the migrant and refugee crisis and considered the welcome that Churches provide to support those who have sought sanctuary in the United Kingdom. The theme was indeed relevant 'for such a time as this!'

Local arrangements for the service were made by Revd 'Femi Cole-Njie and Maureen Crilley and the Steward Team at the Witham Methodist Church. MWiB members and friends from around the Circuit shared in the service by leading prayers reading the Bible passages and the stories set out in the Easter Offering Booklet. The hymns were well chosen and reflected the various aspects covered by the theme – God's love, welcome, hospitality, justice. The hymns were accompanied on the organ by the organist at Witham Methodist Church and all sang lustily.

'Femi gave a reflection on the theme and this was followed by Intercessory prayers which Maureen Crilley led. Various members of the congregation brought forward items such as dry earth, a life jacket, a loaf of bread, a water jug, a purse, a mounted photograph, a blanket, a poncho, items which not only informed the prayers but also contributed to the building of a prayer feature. Small boats made out of paper dotted the Communion rail.

Carol Fairclough received the Easter Offering Envelopes from the Church Treasurers, in addition to general offering lifted during the service and all joined in a prayer for the offering. The Easter Offering is donated in full to the Methodist Church World Mission Fund

A big thank you was extended to all who shared in the service and made contributions in cash and kind.

At the end of the service, which all agreed was truly moving, everyone was treated to tea and a variety of lovely cakes.

### Prayer Feature



*'Femi Cole-Njie*



# It'll be a revelation!

As a circuit we are going to run the Bible Month four week Bible Study again this year, starting in September. This year the Book of Revelation is the chosen book!

There are four sessions and four local preachers have “volunteered” to prepare a talk for each week. We will record each talk and then play it back during the actual bible study sessions, followed by a discussion of the chapters concerned. Currently we have an online Zoom session planned and a face to face session planned at Trinity in Chelmsford.

However, I'm aware that Zoom and a trip to Chelmsford may not be possible for everyone. I have therefore been or will be talking to stewards in local churches to offer the opportunity to use the recordings at a time and place that suits their own local congregations, using a combination of the study guide and the video sessions prepared by our local preachers.

To date we have timetabled:

- ° Face to face sessions in Trinity Link on Wednesday afternoons starting 6th September 2023 at 2pm for four weeks.
- ° Zoom sessions to start on the 7th September at 7:30pm for four weeks.

As with the Bible Course earlier this year participants will be able to switch from Zoom to face to face or vice versa if other meetings or appointments crop up!

If you wish to sign up for this programme simply email me and I will email back with the study guide and put your name on the list. Alternatively, give me a call on 01245-328337.

**Mike Fogg**

**mikefogg@btinternet.com**



## **Circuit ECO News**

### **Sheridan Pengelly ECO Circuit Steward**

*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it  
Psalm 24:1*

As a Circuit we have made it a priority to consider our stewardship of God's creation in all that we do.

#### **Green Pilgrims Protest**

In April, 5 pilgrims representing 4 churches in the circuit, joined the climate protest in London. We took part in a moving act of worship at Waterloo organised by Christian Climate Action, then joined a peaceful march to the headquarters of Shell. Bishop Sentamu attempted to deliver a letter to Shell but was denied entry to the building. We then moved on to Parliament Square. BP have just announced £4 billion profits made in the first quarter of 2023, Shell £9.5 million in the same period. At the same time as scientists deliver 'final warning' on climate crisis: act now or it's too late. The IPCC report says only swift and drastic action can avert irrevocable damage to the world. It has never been more important to make our voice heard.



#### **Sharing ideas**

Please share what activities are going on in your church to celebrate our planet or to help protect it. For example, at Broomfield, members are bringing their plastic plant pots to church for recycling.

#### **Our current ECO Award standings**

Broomfield Bronze Award  
Moulsham Lodge Bronze Award  
Trinity Bronze Award

#### **Registered**

St Augustine's Springfield  
The Church in Great Notley  
Maldon Methodist Church  
Holy Trinity LEP South Woodham Ferrers

If your church isn't on the list but should be - please let me know.

If it isn't on the list but you would like it to be look at registering on the website

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Sheridan Pengelly



All disciples  
of Jesus are

called to listen for, speak of, and live out the Good News. In this collection you'll find courses and events to help us all step into our calling to evangelism.

Find more here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/equippedforevangelism>

**A five-session evangelism course for all Methodist Leaders delivered online**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/evangelism-1327199>



**Hall Street  
Methodist Church  
4.15pm till 5pm  
Quiet, contemplative  
Service with  
Jim Lowe**

Sunday 14th May 2023  
Sunday 18th June 2023  
Sunday 16th July 2023  
Sunday 13th August 2023

*Please pray for this service if you are  
unable to attend.*



# HATFIELD PEVEREL REALITY CHURCH

## Schools Ministry

St. Andrew's Lunch Club

Report May 2023

First and foremost, I would like to thank those who have help to keep this wonderful ministry at St. Andrew's going. Aileen has come along to assist every week. Rosemary and Brian have also been helpful in taking lessons when Barry and I weren't able to be there. Last year, Nicky came to assist and so did Eddie and Jane. A great big thanks for all your support.

We have two groups on a Monday, year 5-6, then year 3-4.

Last year, we took the children on a journey through the Old Testament. We did Abraham, Jacob, Joseph. We taught them, not only about who God is but also that God cares about them and loves them. God's is faithful to all his promises, not only to Abraham, Jacob and Joseph, but also to us today.

For this year, we have been focused on the stories of Jesus. We want the children to know about Jesus and learn how Jesus affects their lives.

Jesus was a boy a child like them – The boy at the temple (Lk.2:41-510). Jesus understands what it feels like to be a child. We can talk to him about our struggles.

Jesus was baptized, God's Son whom he loved. When we accept Jesus, we are baptized into the family of God, loved as God's very own child.

Jesus calling his disciples – Jesus calls us to follow him and be his friends just like the disciples.

Jesus feeds the multitude – nothing is impossible. All we have to do is offer the little we have and we will be surprised to see what God can do. This was all before the mid-term break,

then we moved into lent. The lessons: Always tell the truth; Bee Kind; Value your



Mum and those who care for you; Say Thank you.

April, we were able to fit in two lessons:

Jesus is alive! – Jesus has the power to make all things beautiful - the craft was a caterpillar, went into a cocoon and came out as a butterfly! That's life with Jesus.



Jesus made a barbeque on the beach for his disciples, where He said to Peter, "Take care of my lambs..." – we are all God's lambs, as God's lambs Jesus wants us to take care of each other - the kids each made a lamb which they loved.



We have found that it is best to present the lesson on power point. We put on a short video, mostly a bible story. Then we talk to them about it. We close the lesson with a prayer that all participates in as they read it on the screen.

The kids love the craft and some keep them in special places so that they can go back and look at them. Some craft was designed to hang on a door or a hook somewhere where they can be reminded of what they are to do.

I give praise to God for his guidance, for blessing us so much through this ministry.

Ria



## Cranfield Methodist Church Organ—new lease of life

I have attached an email from Richard Ward showing how a pipe organ from a closed chapel has been saved and now takes pride of place in a shopping centre.

Well done to Richard and the team that has made this happen and it shows how our Methodist legacy and witness can continue after a building is closed. I'm sure Richard would be happy to speak to you if you want to do something similar.

We have a number of chapels being closed and sold at the moment - can we come up with any other stories like this one!

Regards  
Steve

**Stephen M Watson**  
*District Property Officer*

Hi all,

After a great deal of toing and froing (throughout which Alistair has been stalwart) the organ from Cranfield has now been relocated and is up and running.

You will all have seen pianos in railway stations being played (often expertly) by random people. There's a similar scheme for other public spaces involving organs ... and the Cranfield organ has now been installed in a shopping centre in Croydon. Martin Renshaw, who organised the dismantling, removal and reassembly (working with the London Mozart Players), tells me it looks good following a clean-up and a fresh coat of natural lacquer. Martin played the Bach/Gounod Ave Maria with the LMP 'cellist last Friday morning and is planning to play some of Mozart's Epistle sonatas before long.

But the key thing is that the organ has been preserved and is in use.

Richard Ward

Property Officer, North Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit







**Introducing ..**

## **CHANCELLOR PARK METHODIST BOWLS CLUB**

Chelmsford Circuit members may be aware that, for many years, two Bowls clubs, Trinity Methodist Bowls Club and Hall Street Methodist Bowls Club, have existed alongside each other, sharing the same bowling green at Chancellor Park, Chelmsford. The two clubs have rubbed along amicably (well, they were church clubs!), sometimes playing friendly matches against each other and with their members knowing each other very well.

Now, it is quite unusual for just one bowls club to bear the name of a Methodist church, let alone two! In the “old days”, the only people who could join the clubs were church members but, in recent times, rules have been modified, allowing members of any church or faith, or none, to participate.

Over recent years, both clubs found their membership numbers were declining, almost to the point of non-viability, so the possibility of a merger was pursued and now we have.....Chancellor Park Methodist Bowls Club! We are in the early stages of our first season and some things are still settling down, but I believe we have retained the best practices of the two original clubs.

We are always happy to welcome new members, no matter whether they are experienced bowlers or complete beginners. There are opportunities to play league matches against teams from other clubs, or against individuals or pairs from those clubs in knock-out tournaments. There are also friendly matches (slightly less competitive!) against other clubs, internal club tournaments and “roll ups”, when we just play informally against anyone else who rolls up! I am aware that many of you will live quite a way from Chelmsford but if you are nearby and if you, or people you know, would like to try out playing Bowls, do have a word with me or drop me an email ([janandjeffgreen@gmail.com](mailto:janandjeffgreen@gmail.com)).

**We would love to see you at Chancellor Park!**

**Jeff Green (Chairman - 01245 420405)**

## A Spring in our step?

I clearly remember Bob and Glenda Griffin talking about Spring Harvest at Moulsham Lodge many years ago.

Eddie and I joined quite a crowd from there a couple of times and thoroughly enjoyed the activities and the time with

the extended church family too. Last year Jeff and Nicky Hosking said they were booking for 2023 – did we feel like going too? Why not? Eddie booked it and suddenly it was time to go.



SPRING  
HARVEST

My rearranged new hip had not been part of the plan, especially less than six weeks beforehand, requiring an overnight stay to break the journey to Minehead. The weather forecast was terrible, and I felt less than engaged with going. I wondered if I was 'meant' to be there, and I now believe I was. There are so many talks, workshops, worship sessions and other activities, it can be hard to choose what to attend. And then, there is enjoying the seaside and Minehead itself, if only Storm Noah had not chosen that week to visit! The choice of activity cannot be made by chance, it definitely feels like my choices were made for me.

Each morning we attended a Journey Through the Beatitudes, presented by and seen through the lens of a charity called Home for Good, encouraging fostering, adoption and the support of young people who have had a difficult start in life. We attended a presentation of Salt and Light, a dramatisation with music of tales of the first disciples, and a poetry reading by the amazing Harry Baker. We shared in worship with songs led by Lou Fellingham and laughed late at night with Tim Vine and John Archer. Eddie went to a session on songwriting and another on how to live well in tough times. I attended one on the Power of Weakness with John and Jade Reynolds. Jade was paralysed overnight at the age of 12 and gave such an insight into suffering and how to reconcile that with her faith. Sheridan Voysey had a great message about living a resilient life and the workshop on Spiritual Gifts certainly got me thinking. Evidently, we all have at least one – what is yours?

And then there was the workshop called 'Can anyone start a new church?'. I do not want to start a new church – we already have one, but I was interested to hear what tools might be presented to help us engage with those in our community. This workshop led to two more and has set me and Eddie on an interesting pathway which hopefully will bring some energy to our efforts locally. Once we have explored and participated more, I hope to be able to share some of the inspiration and ideas further.

We had an awesome experience at Spring Harvest. My purpose in writing this piece was to encourage you to miss no opportunity to find a direction for your travels. I could so easily have missed out. In the meantime, we would really appreciate your prayers for these exciting and scary possibilities as we try to follow where we believe we are being led. Watch this space!

**Jane Cook**

**He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.**

**And what does the Lord require of you?**

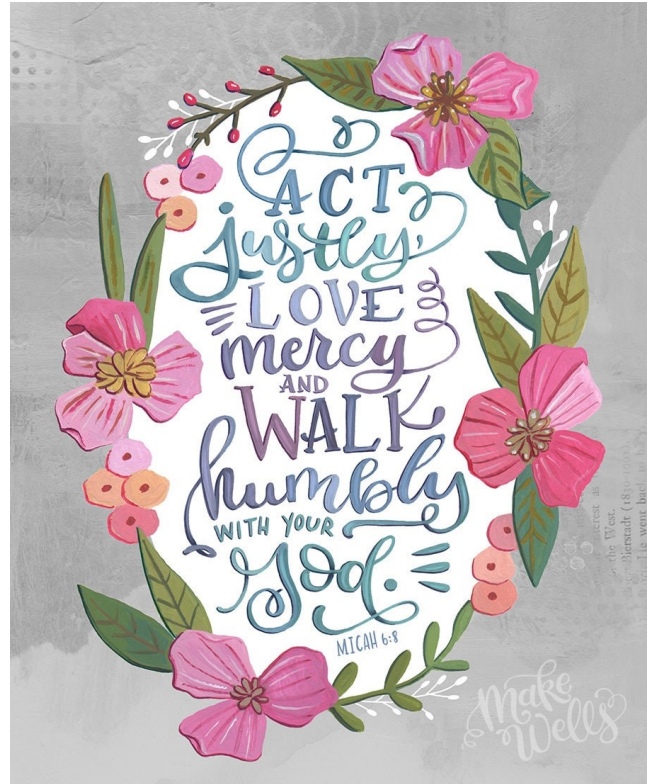
**To act justly & to love mercy**

**& to walk humbly with your God.'**

**Micah 6:8.**

Dear Friends

It's easy to pay lip service to the need for fair play, kindness & mercy, in our dealings with one another, isn't it? To be less than a true reflection of the God who, scripture tells us is, 'just & faithful in **all** His ways.' Nb. A God whose firm intention it is to always want to build His children up & not to tear them down. To encourage them, rather to hinder them. So that they, in accordance with the workings of His mighty grace within, might reach their true potential in Christ. The best of who they can be & will be, in Him, as well as through Him. Like I say, it's easy to give all the appearance of being what we know we should be whilst, in practice, knowingly or otherwise, doing the very opposite. Harming the very people we are duty bound before God, to help build up in their most holy faith. Nb. Jesus has a very stern warning for those who act in such a manner towards these, 'little ones,' of His. Matthew 18:6.



**'Clare, a fledgling believer, was one day invited to church by a friend. The church in question was a large, 'prosperity type,' set up, somewhere in the centre of Newcastle City. Clare couldn't wait to get there, having heard so much about it from her friend. When the service was over, the pastor invited the congregation to indicate their need for prayer. Hands went up all around the building & the designated prayer team sprang into action. As the person sitting next to Clare, (not her friend), awaited the arrival of an 'official' member of the prayer team, Clare laid a hand on the shoulder of her neighbour & offered up a simple prayer of her own. The severe telling off that she subsequently received from two members of the prayer team for her, 'blatant disregard of protocol,' helped to ensure that Clare never returned to Church, ever again!'**

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*Nb. Clare was beset with a huge number of very serious health issues her entire, short, life. On Christmas Eve @ 12:15 pm, 2010, I had the bitter sweet privilege of conducting her Funeral. I'll never forget the entrance of her plain white coffin, to the tune of Silent Night & the sadness that I felt, not only because of her passing but also because of what she'd encountered that first Sunday in church. An injustice she never really got over. Essentially because she couldn't reconcile the behaviour of those particular believers that morning with the notion of a God who, she'd heard tell, is as kind, fair minded & loving as it gets. A God who would never take issue with a child of His, prompted to pray for a complete stranger. Even though it be outside their official remit to do so!*

*John Wesley summarises it thus -*

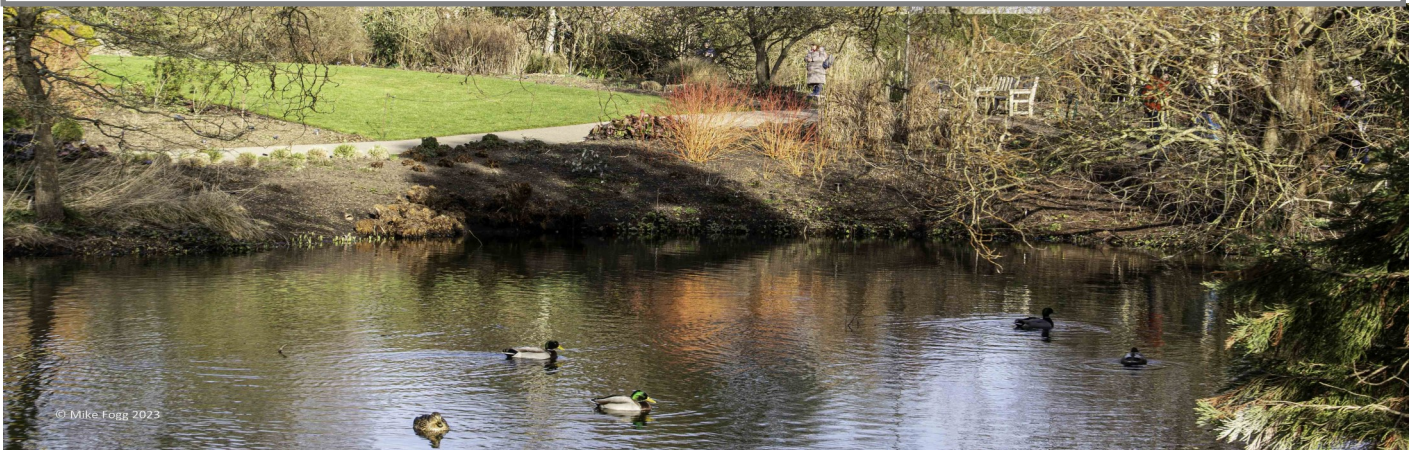
***'Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, @ all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as ever you can.'***

*With love from us all here @ Christ Church,*

***John Prothero.***

## IMAGES OF HYDE HALL

Mike Fogg



## Congratulations Gill Songer



Gill will be ordained in Coventry Cathedral on Sunday 25 June. 2023. What a wonderful day this will be for Gill and her family & friends. I'm sure we keep her in our prayers on this very important day.

Revd Gill Songer

Minister for St Andrews, Folkestone and  
the Elham Valley Methodist Churches  
In the South Kent Methodist Circuit

## FAREWELL FRIENDS

During the period of the next preaching plan (June, July August) we will be saying farewell and bon voyage, with sadness, to three people who have been very involved in preaching around our Circuit.

Firstly, after five years in the life of the Circuit here Deacon Ramona will move on to another chapter of ministry. Ramona's creative approach to spirituality has been a blessing around the Circuit, as has the fact that, although it is not a requirement of the Diaconal role, Ramona has been enthusiastic to take a good number of preaching appointments every quarter. We hold Ramona in our prayers as she first spends sometime after this appointment visiting family in Antigua.

Secondly, after nearly 3 years as a part time presbyter-in-training student, Trinity will say farewell to Heather Simmons. Heather's training draws to a close this summer and with it her time at Trinity which has been her 'Link Church'. Despite the challenges of the Link Church experience being at the height of the pandemic restrictions, Heather found many ways to broaden her experience and share gifts with friends at Trinity and beyond. Heather's probationary appointment is in her home Circuit at Southend, where she will continue to minister through the work of the Fisherman's Chapel and to the musicians.

Finally, Rev'd Brain Magadzire, a Methodist presbyter originally from Zimbabwe, has been accepted to serve in the British Methodist Church and has been stationed to the Strathclyde Circuit from this coming September. Brain will be working with three churches in the Lanarkshire area. We wish Brain, his wife Yvonne and the family every blessing. Go well friends, near and far.

With blessings, Mark

# Easter Offering Service 2023

## A Reflection



### There are no borders to God's love

'What are the main differences between refugees, asylum seekers and migrants?' various responses were given but one which stood out was the fact that whatever the differences, they are all people.

I would like to share the following brief definitions if I may.

Refugees are usually people fleeing armed conflicts or persecution. Their situation is so perilous that they cross national borders to seek safety in nearby countries and become recognised as refugees with access to assistance from states and aid organisations.

An asylum seeker is someone who claims to be a refugee but whose claim hasn't been evaluated. This person would have applied for asylum on the grounds that returning to his or her country would lead to persecution on account of race, religion, nationality or political beliefs.

Migrants choose to move not because of a direct threat or persecution but mainly to improve their lives: Finding work, seeking better education and reuniting with family. Unlike refugees who cannot safely return home, migrants can return home if they wish.

According to Judith Vonberg, a journalist who specialises in European affairs, we can reclaim and make changes to the meaning of the word migrant and its connotation. "Instead of rejecting 'migrants' we should reclaim it from those who have worked to turn it into a term of abuse. The term 'migrant' ought to be accepted as a neutral descriptor which covers the situation of everyone who migrates, whether in exercise of a positive right as a citizen through to the desperate search for a safe haven"

In addressing the issue of migration, which involves the crossing of borders, currently a hot topic, I wish to extend sincere thanks to all who continue to show kindness to Migrants. Permit me, however, to become a little radical this afternoon and by this, I mean reflecting on the roots rather than on the fruits of this rather complex situation. There are no borders to God's love.

Migration is as old as the hills! An interesting story on mass migration which hit the headlines at can be found in Genesis chapter 46, the first book in Holy Scriptures. Jacob leaves Beersheba for Egypt with his entire family. Prior to this move Joseph, Jacob's son had contributed a great deal, with strategic planning, to the building of the Egyptian

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economy. The children of Israel thrived in Egypt until a Pharaoh came who did not know Joseph and the ill-treatment of the migrants began. It grew from bad to worse until God had to send a deliverer in Moses.

Permit me to suggest that lack of knowledge is, to a large extent fuelling the unkind rhetoric behind the response to what is described as a Migrant Crisis. Migrants are labelled as scroungers, scavengers and even criminals. While there may be some who could be described as such, they surely are not in the majority.

Such rhetoric does not take into account the following fact that people from the West went into Africa, without permission and took both human and natural resources which were used to build the Western economy, a situation from which Africa and other areas of the world have not recovered.

The true facts of the story are hardly told. Africa is the richest continent in terms of natural resources – gold, diamond, uranium etcetera, etcetera, and yet it is one of the poorest in the world. I can hear voices shouting out, “Corruption!” Corruption, is however, not a one way street.

Is the migrant situation currently what it is because ‘Pharaohs’ who do not know or choose not to know about the contributions the ‘Josephs’ of yesteryear made towards the building of the capitalist economy through their sweat blood and tears. It is sad that we find immigrants in high places at the forefront of the negative response to the migrant issue. Praise God that there are no borders to God’s love!

In Scripture, again we find the greatest migration event that ever happened, God migrating from heaven to earth to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ all because of love for humanity. There are indeed no borders to God’s love. As a baby, Jesus became a refugee. Egypt in Africa was his place of refuge. To many, Jesus was a stranger, but to all who received Him, who believed in his name He gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12).

The Bible readings in the Easter Offering “No borders to God’s love” booklet (Genesis 18: 1-8; Hebrews 13:1-8; James 2: 14-22) exhort us to show concern for the stranger. In the parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus says, “I was a stranger and you either invited me in or you did not.”

Because there are no borders to God, we are all called to make a response to this Migrant Crisis. If there is one thing, we can all do is to pray. It would also be important if we could act in some way. We may need to become a voice for Migrants. The Revd Inderjit Bhogal, a Former President of the Methodist Conference and founder of the Cities of Sanctuary Movement was for a long time the lone voice crying in the

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wilderness, speaking about the building of a more just and humane approach to people seeking sanctuary among us. Thankfully, many others have joined in.

Education is vital since a lack of knowledge may be responsible for some of what is happening. We can sign petitions and write letters to our MP's. In the wake of the Rwanda initiative, Kenneth and I wrote, on behalf of our Charity - the Open Hands Gambia, to our MP, Priti Patel, who was then the Home Secretary, humbly requesting that an alternative be sought in responding to what is being proposed for addressing the Asylum Issue – Offshoring. We suggested that ways needed to be found to prevent mass migration – addressing root causes of poverty, conflict and war, and the climate crisis. We asked if it was time for a general re-think of the manner in which International aid is administered? Does the current model enable inhabitants living in the Global South to thrive? Should it rather be the creation of a level playing field for trade rather than giving out what would look like handouts and which result in dependency? Very few weapons are manufactured in Africa for example, how do nations acquire weapons which are made use of in war and conflict? Does the arms trade need to be reviewed? In short, assisting countries in the Global South in their socio-economic development to prevent people leaving their countries of origin and seeking greener pastures in the West.

There are no borders to God's love and God chooses to work with us – God has no hands but our hands, no voices but ours as the saying goes. On this day, the Sunday after Ascension Day, Aldersgate Sunday, we want to remember John Wesley's Words to William Wilberforce, in a letter which he wrote on his deathbed, on a hot topic of that era:

To William Wilberforce:

"Unless, God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God is for you who can be against you? Are all of them together stronger than God ? O be not weary of well-doing. Go on in the name of god and in the power of His might till even the American slavery (the vilest that ever saw the sun, shall varnish before it."

May God grant that we may truly find our voice in speaking out for justice and finding positive ways of responding to the Migrant Crisis!

*'Femi Cole-Njie*



## Susanna Wesley

Hidden behind the door of many homes is the reality of hardship. Secret things happen that few want the world to know. Yet, from some people (presently and historically) we are given the inside story, whether they want it told or not.

A devastated home isn't always apparent on first impression, is it? Susanna Wesley was married to a preacher. They had 10 children of which, two grew up to bring millions of souls to Christ. That would be John and Charles Wesley. It's a powerful story if you stop there, isn't it?

But, behind the door of her home, hopeless conditions were the norm. She married a man who couldn't manage money. They disagreed on everything from money to politics. They had 19 children. All except ten died in infancy. Sam (her husband) left her to raise the children alone for long periods of time. This was sometimes over something as simple as an argument.

One of their children was crippled. Another couldn't talk until he was nearly six years old. Susanna herself was desperately sick most of her life. There was no money for food or anything. Debt plagued them.

Sam was once thrown into debtor's prison because their debt was so high, which doubled their problems. Twice the homes they lived in were burned to the ground, losing everything they owned. It was assumed that their church members did it because they were so mad at what Sam preached in the pulpit! Someone slit their cow's udders so they wouldn't have milk, killed their dog, and burned their flax field!

When Susanna was young, she promised the Lord that for every hour she spent in entertainment, she would give to Him in prayer and in the Word. Taking care of the house and raising so many kids made this commitment nearly impossible to fulfil. She had no time for entertainment or long hours in prayer!

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She worked the gardens, milked the cow, schooled the children and managed the entire house herself. So, she decided to instead give the Lord two hours a day in prayer!

She struggled to find a secret place to get away with Him. So she advised her children that when they saw her with her apron over her head, that meant she was in prayer and couldn't be disturbed. She was devoted to her walk with Christ, praying for her children and knowledge in the Word no matter how hard life was.

One of her daughters got pregnant out of wedlock and the man never married her. She was devastated, but remained steadfast in prayer for her daughter. In the end, she knew that one day her hard life would be over and she alone would stand before the throne of God and give an account of how she lived her life.

We can be the best mom, wife, friend, person in the world and still have untold hardships. We need to take Susanna's example, flip our apron over our head and pray in the middle of it all.

Back to the beginning of my story...

Her son's John and Charles were powerhouses for the glory of the Lord. John Wesley preached to nearly a million people in his day. At the age of 70 he delivered the gospel message of salvation to 32,000 people- without the use of a microphone! He brought revival everywhere he travelled! His brother Charles wrote over 9000 hymns, many of which we still sing today.

By Sharon Glasgow

<https://sharonglasgow.com/.../susanna-wesleys-prayer.../>

# THE BRADWELL PILGRIMAGE

The Bradwell Pilgrimage is an annual gathering of Christians from across Essex & East London and beyond. The Pilgrimage starts at St Thomas', Bradwell-on-sea and ends at the beautiful St Peter's Chapel. The event is taking place this year on Saturday 1st July 2023. The event is free to attend, please bring a picnic. There will be worship, workshops and walks and a wonderful time of fellowship. Speakers this year include Archdeacon Mike Power of the Diocese of Chelmsford, Rob Purnell from Love Essex and Patrick Regan OBE from Kintsugi Hope.

Everyone is welcome, Saturday 1st July from 10:30am - 4pm. The Theme this year is "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Further information can be found on our website [www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk)

If you have any questions or wish to be sent hard copies of the poster/flyer at the event please email [jenny.clayton@cteel.org.uk](mailto:jenny.clayton@cteel.org.uk)

Many thanks,

Jenny

**Jenny Clayton**  
Ecumenical Lead (Essex)  
Churches Together in Essex & East  
London (CTEEL)  
07796 393131  
[www.cteel.org.uk](http://www.cteel.org.uk)



Many thanks for all those who have supported the Circuit Newsletter by sending in articles and sharing the newsletter with colleagues, friends and family.

I really appreciate your support.

Karen



Future Dates for our Circuit Meeting

**Tuesday 19th September 2023**

Christ Church Braintree

**Thursday 22nd February 2024**

Christ Church Coggeshall

**Wednesday 15th May 2024**

Witham Methodist Church

7.15pm for 7.30pm

Circuit Administrator: Karen Murrell.

Email: [karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk](mailto:karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk)

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

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

**'Share your news'**  
**Deadline for**  
**September/October 23**  
**to Karen by**  
**Mid August at latest.**