

The Eye of the Beholder

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder the saying goes, but I wonder what your idea of beauty is? What's in your eyeline? The focus of Lent - penitence, fasting, sackcloth and ashes are the sort of things that perhaps readily spring to mind when you think of beauty, but this is perhaps another reminder that there are many perspectives on what is truly beautiful.

In the Christian tradition of my childhood, (rural Methodism that had its roots in the 'Bible Christian' movement), any imagery of any kind in the 'Chapel' (not Church, which equated to the Anglican's!) was viewed with deep

suspicion. The internal window reveals of the thick walls had steep angles in all four directions, so much so that it wasn't possible to place a vase of flowers or anything else of decor on the bottom ledge. I never really worked out if the angled reveals were simply a device to let more daylight in, or if their purpose was partly to prevent frivolous distractions from adorning the window ledge! I suspect the latter as I also note that for most of my childhood there wasn't even a symbolic cross, or any other icon, art or symbol at the front of the chapel with the exception of the Communion Table (not altar!) and the rather large pulpit which towered above it. Perhaps it's for these reasons, and the fact that I had little encouragement from my art teacher at school that an appreciation of art was a late developing interest in my life.

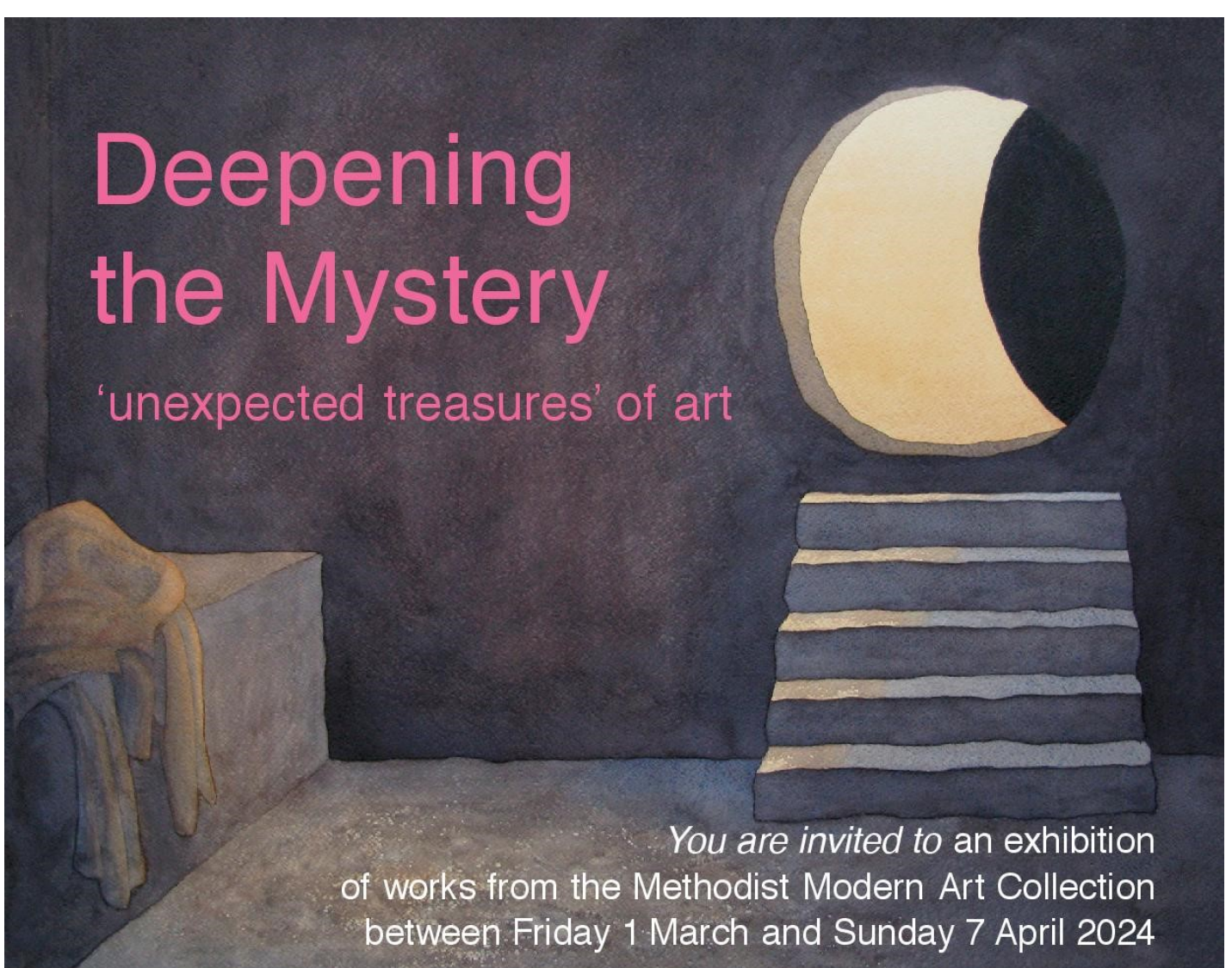
It was on a retreat for ministers in training that I was invited to reconsider if art had any appeal and I found to my delight it did! In my early years as a minister, I was the organiser of an exhibition using the Methodist Modern Art Collection. This remarkable resource (paid for by donors not from Church funds note), is an exceptional hidden gem in the life of the Methodist Church. My interaction with the collection was truly inspiring and I found the works in the collection thought provoking and, to my eye, beautiful.

Perhaps you might also?! Take advantage of the Collection being displayed in our District: Saturday 2 March and Sunday 7 April 2024 at the Focolare Centre for Unity, 69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JG (Free admission). **There are various special events happening and I plan to go to a special evening when two poets will speak: Wednesday 27 March at 7.30 pm. Let me know if you'd like transport or could offer car space. Maybe a group could go all together? Be inspired this Lent.**

Blessings, Mark

Deepening the Mystery

'unexpected treasures' of art



*You are invited to an exhibition
of works from the Methodist Modern Art Collection
between Friday 1 March and Sunday 7 April 2024*

Focolare Centre for Unity

69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JG

The Methodist Modern Art Collection

'... one of the art world's unexpected treasures, including some of the most powerful and arresting religious art of the 20th and 21st centuries.'

Tim Marlow, Chief Executive and Director of the Design Museum, London,
and former Artistic Director of the Royal Academy

The Collection includes exhibits by key figures of 20th and 21st century British art (such as Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink), as well as works by international artists. The exhibition will include a programme of workshops and lectures for all ages.

For more information, see Facebook: **Art 2024 at WGC**
or contact art2024@focolare.org.uk

'The Empty Tomb' by Richard Bavin. Image from the Methodist Modern Art Collection
© Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.



The Inclusive Language Guide

We are proud of our [Inclusive Language Guide](#). This helps the Church hold conversations without making assumptions or inadvertently causing upset.

In this blog, the Assistant Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Michaela Youngson, explains why words are important and how the guide affirms traditional terms such as husband and wife while allowing people to express themselves using the language that is right for them.

Words in general are powerful and important and, of course, human language is changing all the time. The Methodist Church, as part of our calling to be an inclusive Church, is paying attention to the language that we use and is encouraging everyone to be careful in the words used when we are talking with and about people. We should never use offensive, racist, sexist or homophobic language but also part of loving our neighbour is to consider how they might want to be addressed or described.

Those in the life of the Church who help prepare people for special events such as baptisms, funerals and marriages will want to use language that is inclusive and reflects for those involved the language that they would choose to use for themselves. So, as well as traditional language such as 'husband and wife' it might be appropriate to use words such as 'partner' or 'spouse'. This is not a discarding of particular terms but an opening up of our language in a way that reflects the gracious and inclusive nature of God's love.

As the world's understanding of each person's identity changes, the Church is learning more about what it means to be created in God's image – our language about God is limited by our human understanding – as that understanding grows, so does our knowledge of the God who created us. In our guide to inclusive language we offer practical advice about how our language might be used in ways that do not exclude people, whatever their identity. We are called to love in the way that Christ loves, recognising, as St Paul's Letter to the Galatians, that in Christ Jesus we are all children of God in faith.

(Taken from The Methodist Blog. January 2024)

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/the-methodist-blog/the-inclusive-language-guide/>

Written in 2020, this article was originally circulated electronically to the community at Maldon in 2020 during the lockdown.

The 26th March 2020 was three days after the lockdown was announced. It was a sunny day so I went into the garden to play with my camera. We have a picket fence that has seen better days and one of the wooden posts that holds it up has a knot in the wood. It would be a nice challenge, I thought, to capture the knot with a macro lens. This is the kind of lens that gives big pictures of tiny things and as I normally like to capture images of landscapes, I don't often use my "macro" lens.

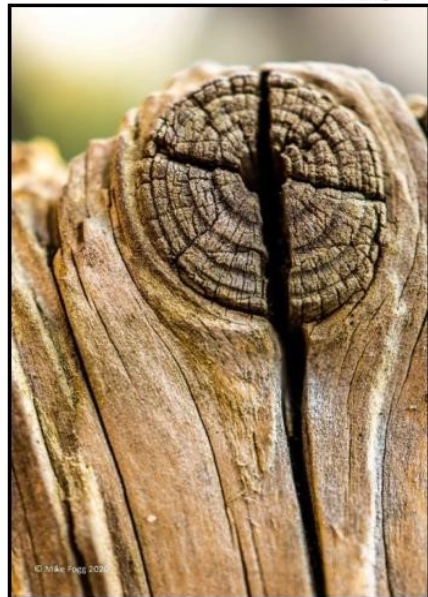
Image 01



Image 01 on the left is the post in all its glory and if you look closely and follow the red arrow you can make out the knot, it's about $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter in real life. It at the top on the left hand side.

Now move on to image two below, which is the knot captured with the camera mounted on a tripod using the "macro" lens, which is probably about $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the knot. The knot is still only $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter, however we see a more detailed view of it. Simply put the macro lens allows us to see something that's there all the time, but we don't notice it.

Image 2



How often is God "there all the time" in our lives, maybe in the actions of others

or simply in nature all around us and yet we don't see him. Echoes here I think of the story of the road to Emmaus.


Now look at the cross more closely. Well, infact there is nothing there, the wood has split because I have not maintained it over its 30 years in the garden. What we see is a dark space in the shape of a cross. It reminds us that, like the people who sought Jesus body after his crucifixion, he was not there, he is risen, the tomb was empty, just like the "cross" here is empty.

Now look again at the image and the circles around the knot radiating or rippling outwards from the centre of the cross that isn't there. I see the circles as the Church (the body of Christ) down the centuries, radiating God's message in Jesus to people far and wide and radiating it from an empty tomb. One of the first ripples was to include people who were not Jews, people like you and me. God used Cornelius as a channel to achieve that part of his plan.

Our place in Christian life is in one of those circles. We may be old and battered, crinkly at the edges, however our clear purpose is to continue to spread the message outwards, near, far and wide. Look at the image again. There are diagonal cracks in the knot leading out from the centre and perhaps we can see these are channels through which we can deliver the message and to use different means to take the message further.

So then, when you are “carrying on” this week, you might feel like the fence post which could fall over, which is battered and gnarled and if you do, think again. Look at the cross and radiate out from it to be with and serve others in the name of Jesus. Pick up the phone and talk to someone, write a letter, talk to people on your daily walk. All of these are opportunities to continue to spread the message as it has been spread down the centuries.

Mike Fogg



**What are you
reading this
lent?**

LENT BOOK CLUB

**Join us again this year for an enjoyable
Lent Book Club.**

Tuesday March 12th 2024 at 2pm

Cake & Company Cafe

Moulsham Street

CM2 OJF

Bring along a book that you are enjoying and
could perhaps recommend to others.

Contact Jean Brown from Moulsham Lodge

Or simply just turn !



PRAYER WALK

**JOIN US ON 23RD MARCH 2024
FOR A PRAYER WALK**

Around Waveney Drive
SPRINGFIELD CM1 7QE
Meet at 10.30am
ARUN CLOSE CAR PARK
(Parking is free for 2 hours, Café on site)

JOIN US IN THIS NEW INITIATIVE TO PRAY FOR CHELMSFORD.
WE WANT TO BRING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER AND BUILD A
PLACE WHERE ALL FEEL LOVED and CAN GROW

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Why not bring your dog?
Walk will not exceed 1 hour

Organised by the Methodist Churches in Chelmsford
More details from 07731 831541
This will be the first in a series of walks in various parts around
Chelmsford. Could you can suggest places where we could meet?

The Methodist Church 

BIBLE month GENESIS

TRAINING DAY

SAT 16 MAR 2024 | 10AM-3PM



"My understanding has gone from zero to wanting to know more..."

"I thought the whole approach and delivery were extremely helpful..."

"I now feel more confident about preaching and leading house group discussions on the subject..."



Online (at home)
Via YouTube



At a Hub
In your District



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bible-month-2024-training-day-genesis-tickets-774469558297?aff=oddtcreator&fbclid=IwAR2ZXYdmSUNDZcroaKY4zQiiXswc4SMelTheT0gf-fmvOjltf6AutPhbyF4>

EXPLORING



Explore programme

Spring 2024 start

Explore is an opportunity for any member of the Methodist Church in Britain to take a step back, and consider how you are called to respond to God's invitation to church leadership

9 sessions **1** evening a month

2 hours per session

countless benefits

Taster: April 11th 2024

You can register at any time of year, although the course element starts May or September.
Next course starts 9th May 2024

Booking link for taster

Booking link for the whole Explore programme



www.methodist.org.uk/exploring

From Braintree to Chelmsford



for Baby Basics Chelmsford & CHESS



💙 Please support Malcolm
by sponsoring his long walk home! 💙

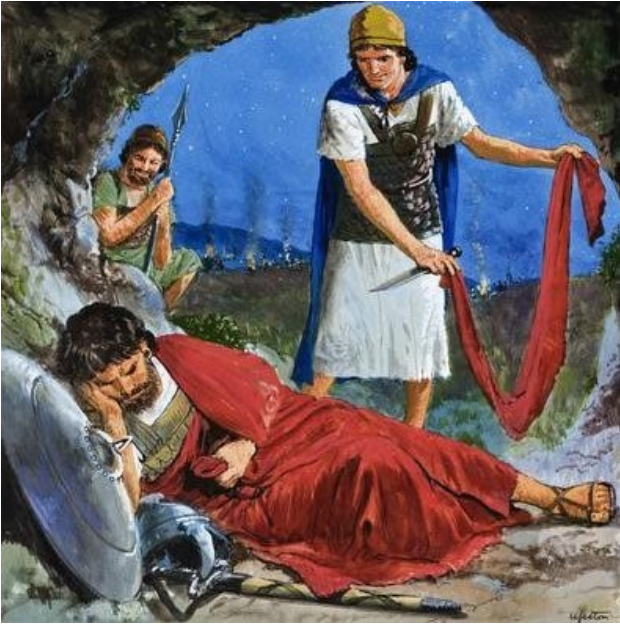
The wonderful Malcolm has set himself the challenge of walking from Braintree to Chelmsford to raise funds for us and [@chess.homeless](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/malcolm-lees...) 💙 He will be walking in March 💙 Your sponsorship would be an extra spring in his step! 💙 please visit his Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/malcolm-lees...> to pledge your support
💙 Thank you! 💙



**Middle East
Crisis Appeal**

The four Methodist Churches in Chelmsford have raised £418.00 for the Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal.

Well done to Hall St, Moulsham Lodge, Broomfield and Trinity Methodist Churches.



8 Then David went out of the cave & called out to Saul, “My lord the king!” When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down & prostrated himself with his face to the ground. 9 He said to Saul, “Why do you listen when men say, David is bent on harming you? 10 This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you but I spared you. I said, I will not lay my hand on my lord because he is the Lord’s anointed.” 11 See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of

wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you but you are hunting me down to take my life. 12 May the Lord judge between you & me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me but my hand will not touch you. 13 As the old saying goes, ‘From evildoers come evil deeds,’ so my hand will not touch you.” 1 Samuel 24:8-13.

Dear Friends,

*Here was the perfect opportunity for David to take full advantage of Saul’s vulnerability. To exact upon Saul the same revenge Saul sought to exact upon him. But David didn’t because unlike Saul, whose was heart fuelled by hatred & jealousy, David’s was a heart ruled by love & compassion. Love & compassion that took it’s lead, not from the diktats of men but from the express will & purpose of God. Nb. A God who delights to show mercy, even towards those who blatantly hate, use & despise Him. As we read in Psalm 145:9 - **‘The Lord is good to all & His tender mercies are over ‘all’ His works.’***

*How did the love & compassion of David manifest itself towards Saul that day. The day that, for no good or apparent reason, Saul set out to destroy him? It manifested itself through the kindness that he expressed towards him. Unwarranted & undeserved which, in truth, applies to us all. As we’re told in Psalm 103:10 - **‘He has not dealt with us, according to our sins, (as we deserve). Nor rewarded us, (with punishment), according to our wickedness.’***

*The fact that David understood the limitless nature of God’s mercy meant that he would never knowingly take advantage of another person’s vulnerability. Even if that individual was out for blood. David’s blood. As we read in Matthew 12:20, a direct reference to God’s tender dealings with every part of His broken humanity - **‘He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle. Finally He will cause justice to be victorious.’***

Is it our heart’s desire to be kind & merciful in our dealings with others? Even when, to all intents & purposes, we appear to have the advantage & therefore could so easily behave differently. Nb. David’s worst response to Saul’s potentially gross miscarriage of justice was to cut off a piece of his royal robe.

Hardly the stuff of revenge but every inch the way of our God. Who, alone, has the right to decide if & when justice, proportionate, as well as fair, needs to be administered. As the apostle Paul puts it in Romans 12:19-20 - **Do not take revenge my dear friends but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."**

'Were you ever bullied as a child or a young adult? Did you & do you still feel helpless in the light of such bullying. Where are the bullies now? I doubt that they'd pose the same threat to you today as they did then, much as, even after all these years, you'd still like to give them a piece of your mind. Perhaps even a bump on the nose. But what would be the point? I suspect if they did ever turn up on your doorstep one day & offer you an apology, your reaction would be a lot more conciliatory than the one you think you'd have. At least I very much hope so. After all you've got Jesus & likely as not they haven't. And on that basis alone, you have all the advantage you need when you're up against the odds. With Him on your side, it's win, win all the way, regardless! Wouldn't agree?'

Just as the love & compassion of David towards Saul that day, manifested itself through a profound act of kindness, so too it found its expression through the honour that he chose to confer on him. Even after all that Saul had put David through, David still had regard for Saul's authority. I.e. He was still willing to acknowledge him as king. A king to whom he was prepared to be completely subordinate. A mere servant. One who, via his musical expertise, had consoled Saul many a time. Especially whenever said king was plagued by the presence of an evil spirit. Nb. **'Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre & play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better & the evil spirit would leave him.'** 1 Samuel 16:23.

Nb. Paul tells us doesn't he in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 -

'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession & thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings & all those in authority, that we may live peaceful & quiet lives in all godliness & holiness.' I wonder how often we pray for world leaders, thus conferring on them an honour they don't necessarily deserve? Not as much as we should I suspect! Yet this is precisely what God expects of us, isn't it? Where might the likes of Rishi Sunak, Sir Keir Starmer, Donald Trump, Joe Biden, Benjamin Netanyahu, Vladimir Putin, Volodymyr Zelensky be, were we to take this injunction from the Lord more seriously? How much better our lives! It's a challenge isn't it but then isn't that exactly the cost of loving others the way that Jesus loves us? With a mercy beyond measure & a desire to honour us in ways we'll never be fully deserving of?

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



Caring for God's Creation - Circuit News

February 2024

One week ago, scientists reported that for the first time on record, global warming has exceeded temperatures of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) over a 12-month period. The warning bell is getting louder. On the same day, one political party scrapped their £28 billion green investment pledge and last September the government pushed back net zero goals. People in power seem to have their fingers in their ears. (If you look in the Gospels, things were much the same in Jesus' time).

What are we to do?

1. **Speak to those in power about climate change.** Write to your MP, email, meet in person, sign the online petitions. An election is fast approaching. Make sure the candidates know that climate change is a crucial issue and not a can that can be kicked down the road. (It should have been recycled anyway!)
2. **Attend the Westminster Lent Vigil.** Christian climate change movements are holding a prayer vigil outside parliament from Ash Wednesday for 10 days in Westminster. As the climate crisis wreaks havoc, we bear witness to its impacts and pray for transformation. In Lent 2024, join us as we gather in vigil for climate justice 24/7 for 10 days at Westminster, London. More information here <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/climate-change/nfiff-lent-vigil-climate-justice>
3. **Pray** Prayer is powerful. It can bring transformation, even in the midst of injustice. If you can't attend...pray anyway.

Other news

Save money on public transport Using public transport is one of the ways we can tackle climate change but some can be expensive, especially trains. On a forthcoming trip to Sheffield I saved almost £60 by using a website that splits your journey into several mini trips. Although I have multiple tickets for each part of my journey, I can still hop on the train at St Pancras and stay on board until Sheffield. It certainly made the trip on public transport much more affordable <https://trainsplit.com/>



Use your refill shop. I was sorry to hear that SILO, the shop in Maldon, has closed. However, Refill Chelmsford is still open and offering a new service of **loo roll delivery**. I was using another delivery company, but this service is much cheaper and they personally deliver in Chelmsford using EV vehicles. It's also climate friendly because it's plastic free, the cardboard box is the only packaging. If you're not in Chelmsford, other online suppliers include Serious Tissues or Who Gives a Crap.

Recycling blister packs Hurrah! The Refill shop has been able to take blister packs (the plastic you get your medication in) for recycling. They are one of the last pesky bits of plastic that are hard to recycle. **I am planning to set up a recycling point at Trinity - other churches may consider doing the same.** Better still, take your blister packs along to the Refill shop near John Lewis and make a purchase. They are offering the service for free and we wouldn't want to lose another great refill shop.

<https://www.refillchelmsford.co.uk/>

Sheridan Pengelly

UNCONSCIOUS BIAS TRAINING

(this is part of the EDI Module—have you completed this as well?)

Some people who have done the EDI module are realising they also need to complete unconscious bias training, and are asking for opportunities. In response to this, the Learning Network are putting on an extra online zoom session on unconscious bias.

If you have not yet completed this training, please sign up here!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/unconscious-bias-training-tickets-775589949417?aff=oddtcreator>

There are three dates to choose from. January 31st, March 5th and June 7th 2024.

THE HIGH STREET CHELMSFORD

This year, we look forward to getting together again.

We are delighted to be able to gather once again in our city centre to be a United voice and to share the gospel message.

There will be live worship and an opportunity for us to pray together and give thanks.

Join us for an 11 am start, for about an hour near the town sign.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Christians Together in Chelmsford. You can download the song sheet from the website.

<https://ctic.org.uk/>

GOOD FRIDAY

11 AM
29.03.24

City Centre celebration followed by afternoon outreach.

What's happening?

Local churches' procession of witness' into the city centre to join with people from across the city to celebrate the message of Easter with live music, inspiring talk and prayer.

That's great tell me more

Rolling programme of evangelistic outreach and cool music in the afternoon aimed at those yet to believe.

when are we meeting ?

11 - 12 for celebration
1 - 4 for the outreach

Cool see you there 😊

'get the message?'

Supported by

LOVE
ESS EX

worship
UNLIMITED

The WORD....
On The Street

ON THE MOVE
A MESSAGE FOR YOUR AREA

@ Motown Band

At Broomfield in January we heard the following:

Psalm 61

Lord, listen to our prayers, we call to you from the ends of the earth, some with loud cries, some with faint hearts. Lead us to the rock that is the highpoint. For you are our refuge, a strong tower against those who oppose us.

Psalm 62:7,8

My salvation and my honour depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him; For God is our refuge.



First hand experience of collecting Ukrainian refugees from Eurostar

The family were living in separate hostels in Amsterdam, but there was no work for the Dad so he went back to Germany to find work. Another Ukrainian family that they knew were here, and some more sponsors/hosts were found, so as soon as the email giving permission to travel to the UK came through he arrived.

It was a while before the Mum and daughter made it over to the UK, as the little girl was unwell, and the Mum couldn't find the right place to get a ticket on Eurostar as no-one on the desk seemed to know anything about free tickets being available to Ukrainian refugees. Eventually the health improved and the ticket became available after a lot of research on the internet and chasing down the right place in the Eurostar terminal.

The host and the Dad set off to St Pancras to meet the train. Dad's English was non-existent but he's of a cheerful disposition. At the international terminal there was a glass room designated for Ukrainians with some people who could speak Russian. Also available, was a list of things you had to do, and forms that needed to be filled in subsequently, but at least they were written in English and Ukrainian. There was some food and water, nappies for babies, a sim card for a mobile. All of this seemed to be co-ordinated by the London borough of Camden.

Mum had the biggest heaviest suitcase you could imagine, as soon as Dad picked it up the handle broke. He then had to take it on the underground and onto the train at Liverpool street in a bear hug. It was a month or so before the little girl was able to understand that where they had arrived was now their home.

In terms of what the article is trying to get across:

- At the beginning there are a lot of unknowns: visas, British resident permits, travel arrangements etc.
 - The UK is a safe refuge that we probably forget to appreciate,
 - There are agencies providing support: Eurostar (eventually) Camden Borough Council, Adult learning
- It's about taking risks and keeping cheerful?

We would say for sure that being able to speak (and read) English is a huge advantage for any refugees.



How to break out of the box

(The Methodist Blog February 2024)

To celebrate the launch of the **A Methodist Way of Life discipleship toolkit**, the Evangelism and Growth team is producing a new monthly blog series on leadership and culture change.

Whether you're **mission planning**, **starting an NPNP**, focusing on one of **the commitments of MWOL**, or re-orienting **your church's focus to discipleship**, we hope these blogs will provide inspiration, encouragement and guidance for making your hopes and dreams a reality.

In this blog, we suggest five activities that can help you break out of the box and stop having the same conversation over and over again (we've all been there!).

Hear different voices

If we want to break out of the box, hearing different voices to bring a fresh perspective can bring new ideas and help avoid 'group think'. Different voices can produce ways forward that you might never have thought of. How can you include voices that represent different ages, cultures, ethnicities, theological viewpoints, gender identity, etc? Most importantly, listen to the voices of people who would be most affected by any plans and ask them to co-create with you. To find these voices, go to the places they are, ask them what they'd like you to hear, and what you could do in response (this doesn't commit you to doing anything).

Dream big

A big dream inspires people and helps keep Godly perspective on details, practicalities and challenges that might otherwise hold you back. It should respond to the voices in your community but be centred in a discernment of God's voice. If you had all the resources in the world, how would this enable you to do what God wants you to do? The goal isn't to come up with a realistic, feasible plan (that will come), but to excite people with the possibilities and provide a space to release people's creativity. Here's one possible activity:

Commit to some fun but firm 'dreaming rules': 'only build on ideas, don't criticise', or 'if you mention a capacity issue you have to wear the mute button for five minutes'. Keep focus by writing out your aim where everyone can see it. Spend 5-10 minutes coming up with as many ideas as you can individually. Then share ideas in small groups, either verbally or by swapping written notes around. Spend 2-5 minutes building on each other's ideas and noting common themes and repeated ideas. Again, only positive comments are allowed. You could finish with a fun, non-binding vote on which idea people are most excited about for future potential.

Continued/....

Look back on the future

This is another great exercise to give people opportunity to dream about what could be and identify some first steps without being overwhelmed by fears or capacity concerns. Ask the group to imagine it's a date 10 years in the future and your idea or culture change has been 100% successful. Describe what this 'perfect' situation looks like then look back 10 years (i.e. from that future date back to today). What happened to achieve success? What barriers did you overcome? Here's an example:

It's February 2034: We've eradicated racism in the primary school. There is increased diversity in the school and church as minority ethnicity and multi-cultural families are moving to our villages because of the school's reputation. The whole community feels more welcoming.

In the 10 years since February 2024: We partnered with other faith groups and a local charity to run assemblies, RE and PSE classes. We built relationships through activities like food fairs, world dance classes, and a global cinema club, as well as 1-2-1 conversations and community forums. The school began peer and intergenerational mentoring schemes with diverse mentors and mentees.

Barriers and responses: Families shared experiences about racism in church, so we used the Methodist Church's [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion materials](#) to explore our own attitudes. We hosted a weekly justice bible study on Zoom and several [Ask Me Anything](#) sessions. We changed our majority-white leadership (in the school, church and this project) to be representative of all the communities present in the five local villages that feed into the school.

Finish by asking 'what can we do with what we've got to start this journey' and setting milestones. In this example, it might include meeting with local faith and community leaders, teachers and parents, then recruiting a core group to lead the project. As you listen to these voices, your ultimate plan may differ from the one in the exercise.

Prepare for the barriers

If you know there are particular questions or concerns within the community, show you've thought about this by preparing in advance. If you've got a team on board (or even just one other person) make sure you're all agreed on how to respond. It's good to acknowledge the issue - 'thank you for sharing that, I know it's something you're passionate / angry / hurt about'. Then remind the person of what you're trying to achieve and why (watch Simon Sinek's classic Ted Talk '[How great leaders inspire action](#)' for a reminder of the power of 'why').

Pray

Pray for your team: Ask the Holy Spirit to give a spirit of peace, consensus, or joy to the whole group during your ideation sessions. Pray for good listening ears.

Pray for your neighbourhood: Ask God to open your eyes to the needs and people around you.

Check out the [Methodist Church's creative prayer cards](#) for ideas for praying in your community or prayer walking resources from [24-7 Prayer](#)



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

Wednesday 29th May 2024

Witham (No Wi-Fi available)

7.15pm for 7.30pm

Circuit Administrator: Karen Murrell.

Email: karen.murrell@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk

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

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

'Share your news'

**Deadline for
May & June by
Mid April at latest.**