


# THE WORK OF GOD

## CHELMSFORD CIRCUIT



*Stop and consider  
God's wonders.*

Job 37:14

Year Ending  
SEPTEMBER 2020

# BROOMFIELD

Since Lockdown measures have eased, we at Broomfield, have developed new ways of “doing church” as the following articles outline.

## **Outreach by the Overcomers Group**

In the last few weeks we have been busy taking church out to the older members of our congregation.

So far, we have managed to visit Rose, Betty, Margaret, Kath, David and June, and this week Pat Johnson, and finally catching up with our lovely Revd Anne, who we have so missed.

Not only have we all enjoyed catching up after months of not been able see each other, we have been able to hold a short service which has brought so much joy to everyone.

Hilary opens with a short prayer, then we sing, Eric does a short reading in the middle, and then we sing again. We have even found out more about our older members, many stories that we did not know, as they shared them with us. Who knew Kath was a midwife, and Margaret was involved with the navy? But the best bit of all, there was lots of singing, laughter, a few tears and even claps, flowers, and lovely comments from all the neighbours.

Our grateful thanks to Al, who leads our singing on the guitar.



Two letters from church members at Broomfield which illustrate some of the care undertaken during the pandemic. These were published in our TOPIC magazine

*“I have had a lovely morning! The Overcomers ( a fellowship group still meeting outside of church buildings) came and led a wonderful service in my garden. It really felt like church, they were great!. We sang, prayed, and Eric did a reading from the Bible. God was with us all and the weather couldn’t have been better!!”*

## **And from one of our older members shielding at home:**

*“I was prompted to write for our magazine because of all the unbelievable care the church members have shown to us during this Lockdown period.*

*Many phone calls to check that all is well with us, cards and letters, visits and chats in the garden, often home cooked cakes and biscuits and a coffee morning and home bakes with Heather and Les.*

*A gallant six came to lead a church service with prayers and readings with Al providing background music for a rousing singing of hymns. Not forgetting the sterling work providing literature and a Sunday service online.*

*Continued/.....*

*So, a huge, "Thank you" for the efforts of all of you, may God bless you all.*

*I have always attended church during periods of my life, even as a child. The last church I attended, for 20 years, was the Elim Church. When we moved to Broomfield, my husband and I, both worked full time as well as looking after four elderly relatives.*

*When my husband died, I realised I needed the support of God and the church. But which church? The first church I tried was Broomfield Methodist. I was welcomed in by Barbara and I looked no further. I am so glad I walked into our church, what a pleasure it has been since I joined.*

SO, A HUGE THANK YOU TO YOU ALL."



*Hi Dianne, thank you we loved doing the June bags. We'd love 3 if you do them again in July. Thank you so much x*

*Hi Diane! The June bag was amazing and we did one activity a day so it lasted us a long time. We would love a July bag please! Thank you so much xx*

*Thank you so much for our pages, they were amazing- so well thought out and the boys loved them. The favourites were the whale activity and the jelly fish* ❤️ ❤️

These were some of the messages we received on our church Facebook page following Messy Church at home in June. So we decided to do it all again in July, this time taking the story of David and Goliath as our theme.



Craft bags were made up containing all the materials needed for the craft activities as well as the instructions. Included in the pack was the story of David and Goliath for families to read together and songs they could sing along to on their computers.

**Dianne and David Hodgkinson**

# CHRIST CHURCH BRAINTREE

Like everywhere else, Christ Church have not been meeting for worship since March. However, the building has been open as we have hosted the Braintree Food Bank for most of the week throughout the pandemic.

This year we planned to focus on Prayer and Outreach – but the events have had to be postponed until 2021.

We are planning an online Parenting Course in conjunction with the Nursery that meet at Christ Church. This starts in September for six weeks.

An Alpha Course is being planned for the new year which will again be online.

Some of our Home Groups have continued to meet online and we are looking into starting a new group due to their success.

We are planning our first service back on 27<sup>th</sup> September which will be our Harvest Service.

Rev David Sebley

# CHRIST CHURCH COGGESHALL

Dear Friends

Please don't lose sight of the fact that, despite the many challenges that lie ahead of us, the kingdom of God is advancing here in Coggeshall. I.e. We are, albeit slowly, moving in the direction in which He is leading us!

When a number of us, a relatively short time ago, received visions and dreams of a thriving church fellowship, make no mistake about it God was letting us know, in no uncertain terms, that not only does His loving and gracious hand continue to be upon us but also that His agenda for Christ Church is ultimately one of meaningful change and significant spiritual growth.

Whilst we may not, as yet, have revival on our hands, our morning services have a much more contemporary, open and lively feel about them. Thanks, I believe, to the gifted input of our now regular, small team of musicians, the select and appropriate use of YouTube and a more intentional and robust ministry programme. One which not only serves to provide consistency and continuity of teaching/preaching but also to promote a clearer and deeper understanding of God's word and more importantly the One who is at the centre of it all, the Lord Jesus Christ. In addition to all of this I'm also encouraged by the growing number of new faces that have recently arrived on the scene, as well as heartened by the fact that more people are choosing to come forward for prayer at the end of worship. Nb. What an enormous privilege it was just a matter of a few weeks ago to pray a prayer of commitment with one individual as she gladly committed her life to the Lord! Remember what Jesus said in Luke 15:7?

**"I tell you, in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance."**

**AMP.**

My grateful thanks to the person who is willing to take responsibility for nurturing this new daughter in Christ!

Of course, the issue is never about the vision but about the people needed to implement that vision. Jesus Himself said to His disciples, **'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.'** Matthew 9:37-38. ESV. Which is precisely the situation we face here at Christ Church and precisely the very thing we need to do in order to bring people through our doors. People who will not only come along to our services but also, more importantly, bring their specific gifts into the broader arena of church life and witness; that God's good work here may not simply continue but positively flourish and grow!

As Victoria Thomas Pollar notes -

**"We must seek to ask God where we fit in and where He would have us serve!"**

**John Prothero**

# HALL STREET

I am expecting that most of these reports will include or begin with the words "What strange times we are in" and that is indeed true.

We had our Church council in February, a couple of weeks went by, and then largely nothing....until about 4 weeks ago when at the beginning of August we recommenced our Sunday worship rather tentatively not knowing what might happen and trying to cover all the rules and regulations we now had. It went well. It has gone well and hopefully will become better and better as we head back to normality sometime in the future.

At the Church council we agreed that Jo Wright who transferred into the area from Witham and came into membership a little while back would take over the running of the Thursday Fellowship something she did in Witham Methodist. We still await the first meeting of the year but have great expectations.

The Presbyterian Church continues to use our premises and have just restarted along with us.

A number of other churches and organisations that use Hall Street are still waiting before they restart.

Fortunately, we all keep well although a small number have had to self-isolate because of age or circumstance. We look forward to being able to talk of it all as being something that happened once.

We pray that all our friends and churches and staff all over the circuit keep well and come out of it with greater strength, resilience and purpose for the Kingdom of God.

**Mike Shelbourne**

# HALSTEAD

How has your Church family survived during Lockdown? Being isolated, at whatever age, has not been very pleasant but as we were blessed with some warm sunny days, if we had a garden we could sit outside or just enjoy gardening in the sun.

Our own congregation kept in touch with each other via our Halstead WhatsApp group (for those who have a smart phone that is) and we have had a weekly quiz circulated in an attempt to keep our brain power active. Our Minister, Sue, has passed a weekly Sunday Service sheet to everyone in an effort to provide active worship for holy day (we do not have a Halstead Church email page) and our Stewards have made regular checks with those living on their own and in isolation with offers of shopping and prescription collection.

However, our church building has not coped too well. In the gales shortly prior to lockdown we had several slates blown off the roof into the garden of an adjacent private house (new neighbours) and they were not very pleased. These were replaced by a local roofer and then a few weeks later further slates came down. We have since had to employ someone to fix snowguards on to the eaves of our building so that any loose slates in the future would hopefully not slide into the neighbouring garden. These were unexpected expenses not accounted for.

As with other Churches we have had no regular weekly income but the majority of our congregation have taken up monthly direct debits and this has helped. We have also held a "Virtual Gift Day" to help with these unexpected expenses and our lovely congregation responded admirably!

Our lovely neighbour Michael who lives on the other side of the Church, has finished refurbishment of our car park and gardens and this is a "sight to behold" and we are very grateful to him for all the work he has done over the Winter/Spring to bring about this vision of beauty! Our congregation responded very well to our annual Spring Clean in the sanctuary and school room in late June/early July and we are grateful for this early preparation with a view to opening again.

Now all we need is to re-start our worship and fellowship in these difficult times. A time-limited service; no singing; face coverings having to be worn and a limited number of attendees. It would appear that we have to cover our faces in the sanctuary but if we move to the school room we can partake of our own refreshments with no face coverings. How illogical is that!

We send our thoughts and prayers to congregations in all other churches in our circuit who we know may have suffered similar problems to ourselves. We can only hope that we will soon fill our churches with prayer, songs and worship together as we all move forward into normal times.

**Chrissie Armitage**

# MALDON

God at work, for sure.

We kicked the year off with a combined Harvest Festival of the 4 churches in the Maldon Section, (Maldon, Reality church H.P, SWF and Witham), all coming together at Maldon Methodist to celebrate.

Worship was led by a team from Reality and Maldon and as part of the Harvest people exchanged dead stones for live Potatoes that they could plant and there was a great fellowship lunch that we all shared together in.

Then in November time for the traditional vintage fair in Maldon. MMC opened its doors to the community to come and enjoy mince pies and coffee/tea as well as join in carol singing both traditional and more modern. Each 30minute slot was led by people from the various churches, Reality, Maldon, SWF and the drama group Harambee.

The Christmas carol service in December was different. An interactive drama that began with Adam and Eve and the bad snake, through to the birth of Christ and again a lot of singing and refreshments.

MMC also had the joy of welcoming two new member's Mike and Nathan during the year.

The Saturday coffee mornings continued to be joy and a great time of fellowship as did Keyring a ministry led by Maureen to the elderly. A time of fellowship, pray, lots of singing and a time around the word of God and let's not forget the refreshments.

Other ministries that God was at work in was Wesley Guild, and the senior youth and Junior youth club. The senior youth was being led by Nathan and it was good to have a younger person leading the youth and they were connecting well.

The junior youth was led by Sandie, Barry, Ria and Sarah (One of the mums) What a joy these young people are. In the time of getting to grips with the word of God, they would take the lead and act out many of the stories. This lead to them asking if they could put together a nativity for Christmas. Sandie wrote the story in the form of Rhyme and the kids acted it out and we interlaced it with carols, both old and modern. The church was packed with family members, and congregation members and the senior youth and all enjoyed the refreshments afterwards.

Messy church was led by Sarah and well supported by a team from MMC and Sandie our family, schools and youth worker. Everyone looked forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month when we came together with some of the community to just have fun, doing craft, eating, singing but at the same time learning more about Jesus.

Our weekly pray and study evening was going well and growing.

Great things were happening and then along came Covid19. And everything came to a grinding halt. Well everything as we saw it and did it. But God was and is still at work.

Continued/...



Sandie started a 'virtual' junior youth club that reached not only the Maldon children, but children from Hatfield Peverel, South Wooden Ferrers, Chelmsford and Grays. That in the climate of Covid19 is still very much alive.

We formed a Whats App group that kept people in touch with each other and also a zoom fellowship (See and chat).

People kept in touch with others that could not be in the whats app group or zoom through the telephone.

As regards the word of God and worship, in this Covid19 climate, everyone was spoilt for choice. Live stream worship from Reality Church and of course the message on Radio and other on line streams.

Then came the news "Hear Yea, Hear Yea" you can go back to your church buildings but no singing, no refreshments. MMC reopened their doors on the 12<sup>th</sup> July and on the first Sunday back, with masks on and hand washing and physical distancing, people came, even some new faces.

We have even had physical distancing picnics at the Maldon Prom and what a joy they have been. God is at work.

As Jesus said "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"

**Rev. Barry Allen**

# MOULSHAM LODGE

Covid19 has presented itself with many challenges, the worst being that our church has been closed to all since the end of March, just like many others, although required maintenance has continued of course.

However, we have managed to keep in touch with most of our congregation through several channels including a daily email direct to members, families, friends, or third-party addresses. The email starts with a verse for the day, then there is usually a prayer from varied sources, followed by “chat”, encouraged by asking the question, what are you most enjoying/disliking, about Covid19, where have you been different, what books are you reading, favourite readings or verses etc. We include prayer requests and have also shared riddles, jokes, quizzes, pictures from walks etc, history lessons regarding VE and VJ days and so much more. Best of all have been the way conversations have move from say Repair shop, to repairing an accordion and onto Tenements in Glasgow in the 50’s! Of course, we advertise all Circuit services, physical and online, the Prayer evenings and so much more. Emails also include national and local authority information, First Bus information and so much more.

Many of our folks look forward to receiving their “MLMC Daily news” and by the time you will be reading this we shall have passed the 150 continual daily email mark (August 11th) and still going strong! There are lots of contributors and our tag line is **“the church that shares, cares”**. Our Pastoral Leaders fill in the gaps where we are not in “cyber” touch with our congregation.

We had a “chat on the green” on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, just a Sunday afternoon get together for folks to come and go as they pleased, but an opportunity to see people they may not have seen for 4 months! It was a great success and will be followed up with a “Taster Church” on Aug 19<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm and then a brief service on Sunday Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11am led by Ramona.

All this as part of our preparations to resume regular worship when our congregation is ready. At the time of writing we have not decided when to return but we have provided our congregation with the opportunity to sample the “new norm” when it comes to pass.

**Clive Pickett**

# HATFIELD PEVEREL REALITY CHURCH

Although we have not been able to meet together we have enjoyed our services “on line” every week since the beginning of “lockdown”.

For this, we are very grateful and indebted to Barry, Ria, David, Esther, Eddy, Jane, Jeff, Nicky and family for combining their talents of preaching, singing, playing guitars or key board, bible reading, puppetry, **and** their IT skills, enabling us all to share inspiring services, at 9.30am every Sunday.

As many of you know, Rev. Barry also leads us on Facebook Monday evenings at 7pm, in a time of prayer, which brings us closer together with members of other churches in the circuit.

We are also very thankful to Sandy and her team of helpers for producing a weekly session of action packed bible stories, songs and crafts, on line for “Reality Kids” every Saturday at 10am --- which is very much enjoyed by “kids” of all ages!!

We are lucky to have a recreation ground behind our meeting place where we met recently for a picnic. We all enjoyed the opportunity to chat face to face, while remembering to keep our “social distance.”

Meanwhile, modern technology is proving to be very helpful in these unprecedented times. While waiting to return to our meeting place for indoor services, we are keeping in touch with one another via WhatsApp where we can share happy or sad moments, good or bad news, which enables us to support and encourage each other via our thoughts and prayers.

## **Aileen French**

In October Reality Church celebrated its first birthday. What a joy, a growth from 6 members to 14. Reality church is alive and well and blessed to have in its membership people with so many talents and gifts.

In December Reality together with brownies and rainbows put on a nativity with members playing different parts. The closing scene of Mary (Sandie) discreetly giving birth to Jesus and placing him in the manger will remain with us for a long time, not because of the birth, but because of how the children just spontaneously came to the front and sat on the floor looking at the baby Jesus in awe. The building was packed with people from the community and they all stayed after the service and joined in refreshments and discussion with the folk from Reality.

Reality has a very active bible, fellowship group led by Jeff.

And a number of people from Reality have been joining in the quiz evenings in the local pub in H.P.

We have a very active Whats app group.

Reality Church refused to bow its head before Covid19. Maybe we could not worship together in a building but we have worship together via live stream on YouTube. We have great worship with new songs and puppets and services have not been limited to the minister, but have been led by very capable local preachers. And Reality Church is no longer limited to H.P but has become international with people tuning

in from South Africa, Ghana, Zimbabwe, New Zealand, Australia, America and other parts of the UK. Covid19 could not stop worship at Reality. This is where the amazing talents of people have been seen. From David who makes the stream work, to Esther, Jane and Eddie who lead worship to Barry, Jeff, Ria, David, Glenda bringing Gods word to a very diverse community. And not forgetting Nicky, Anna and Katie who have used puppets to bring joy to so many. And those who have willingly stepped up to play other roles in the worship, Tom, Lynda, Rosemary, Esther, John, Brian, Aileen.

Then of course there is Reality Kids a live stream for kids of all ages. Sandie is what we call the 'face' on Reality Kids but again there are many who have used their talents to bring Gods word to a very diverse community. There has been drama, puppets, creative storytelling, and amazing craft. And, David once again brings it all together that Gods word can go out.

God is at work.

Reality church have been in this time of Covid19 "a voice calling out to the world fear not for God is Emanuel, God with you"

**Rev. Barry Allen**

# SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

We had two Harvest Festival services in September 2019 .

On the 8th September we had a joint service with the 4 churches led by Rev Barry - Hatfield Peveral, Maldon, Witham and ourselves. It was held in Maldon and was followed by a bring and Share lunch. It was a lovely opportunity to meet with members of all the congregations and share fellowship with them

29th September was a joint service in our own Church with our Anglican friends. Our gifts (including money) were taken to CHESS in Chelmsford. (Charity for the Homeless in the Chelmsford area)

Our Christmas services and activities included Carol Singing in St Peter's Hospital, Carol Singing at Maldon Vintage Fayre, Joint Anglican/Methodist toy service, Ecumenical Advent course, Christmas social evening, Christmas party,

"Brew Saturday" on January 25th to raise money and awareness for the Samaritans.

Donation was made to the people of Abaco through a church member who had friends there whose lives were devastated by Hurricane Dorian.

"Open the book" project was extended to schools in South Woodham other than the church school.

In February we began to look at the possibility of having a Parish Nurse.

Ecumenical Lent group started in March before lock down.

## Coronavirus

We have been fortunate to enjoy a great variety of Zoom, You tube and Facebook services. Weekly Sunday services from Reality Church and Mark Pengelly are familiar to us all and have been very much appreciated. Young (and old!) have enjoyed Reality Kids every Saturday. Weekly prayer meetings from Barry continue. South Woodham enjoyed our weekly Fellowship zoom meetings. We have also been fortunate to share in the Anglican led weekly zoom prayer meetings and have been welcome to join all their online services.

We have continued with Worship and Outreach meetings via Zoom and our Joint Church Council zoom meetings were held frequently in June and July in preparation for Church re opening. Our first service was on August 2nd. Despite the obvious restrictions it has been good to worship together again in Church. We are fortunate to continue to enjoy online services too - particularly valuable for those not able to attend church yet.

As well as the above mentioned services we have had a weekly 'virtual' service for anyone who can't access Zoom or You tube. This has been printed for those who don't have access to a computer.

Doing Lockdown members contacted kept in regular contact with those who lived on their own and supported them in a socially distanced way.

## Regular Activities

- Monthly memory worship
- Foodbank - church members help with this weekly and regularly donate food.
- Weekly prayer group
- Monthly House Group
- Retiring collections for disaster funds as appropriate.
- Action for Children Collecting boxes and advent appeal.
- Regular donations to "Chatty Bus" - offers teenagers in the community an opportunity to have a drink and a chat every Friday evening.
- Tithe committee - we regularly financially support local ventures . This year included supporting the cafe at St Peter's hospital in Maldon, The Parish Nursing proposal and a donation to South Woodham Ferrers Health and Social Care group to support their good work.
- We regularly support Medicines Sans Frontiers

**Patricia Tutin**

# ST AUGUSTINE'S

Much has happened at St Augustine's over the past year. After twelve months in interregnum, we were happy to welcome our new vicar, the Rev Caroline Brown, replacement to Rev Jane Anderson, who is now a vicar in the Yorkshire Wolds. Caroline's licensing service was held on November 5<sup>th</sup> 2019 and was an evening of real celebration with over twenty clergy attending and approximately one hundred and fifty people in the congregation.

For Caroline's first Christmas with us, we wanted to forge closer links with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters, with whom we share our church building, and a successful joint carol service was held called "Candles by Carolight". The collection money was donated to "Sanctus", a local charity which supplies food and help to homeless and vulnerable people.

We were planning ahead to Mothering Sunday and Easter when Covid struck. It wasn't long before we started Sunday services on Zoom. These were held jointly with St Andrew's, Sandon, as Caroline's husband, Terry, is the vicar there.

We held quizzes via Zoom to raise money for our chosen charities of Chelmsford Food Bank and Friends of Marsabit, an area in Northern Kenya with which Caroline has links, which is particularly hard hit by global warming.

As a church council we had lengthy discussions about the way forward once we were given permission to reopen the church building. We had been managing O.K. with Zoom services and we knew that returning to normal services would entail a lot of work – so, we didn't return to 'normal services'.

We meet on Sunday mornings in church but the format is far from what it used to be. We have decided to sit in a circle to face each other, while maintaining social distancing, involve as many people as possible in the delivery of the service and have invited discussion after sermons/talks. Since the reopening, Ramona and Sheridan have both come to preach. We are using more music, not necessarily hymns and, even if we can't sing, we can listen to a soloist and copy Caroline's signing instead. As I write, we are planning to resume Communion services, some sort of choir (which is now permissible) and Sunday School.

Our monthly "Progressive Christianity Network" group has continued to meet but we are doing so via Zoom now, which actually makes life easier for those members who live some distance from Chelmsford.

Some shielded people are still unwilling to attend church but Caroline holds a Zoom service on Sunday afternoons, when she can share the message from church that morning. So, we are having two services on a Sunday, whereas before we had only one. We are also holding a prayer meeting on Zoom every Tuesday evening which, once again, is new since lockdown.

Sandie Hulbert, one of our members, was appointed 'Methodist Church youth, children and family worker' in October. Children from our church have been able to watch and share her "Reality Kids Creative Session" on YouTube, which would not have been possible before Coronavirus restrictions.

It's still early days, but we are changing, and different ways of teaching and learning about Jesus are evolving. Church is becoming a place where we are invited to share our thoughts and feelings more openly and learn from each other. Caroline is keen for us all to take an active part. Are these experiments that were waiting to happen? Maybe Covid has just given us a push in our new direction. So, we have been made to revise the way we do things. These new ways may not last but they are certainly keeping us on our toes and making us, perhaps, think more carefully about what we want from church and what God is calling us to do.

**Jenny Murphy**

# TRINITY

Having said our farewells to Rev. Mike and Pam Lewis and blessed them on their way, September 2019 found our earnest prayers answered regarding stationing, as we welcomed Rev. Mark and Sheridan Pengelly to Trinity and the circuit. Little did Mark or the congregation suspect what strange times lay ahead of us!

We had a calm time (on reflection!) with our traditional special occasions such as Harvest and Christmas services, welcoming quite a few new people to Trinity as we moved towards 2020 and the Covenant service. We started considering / sharing ideas to improve facilities (e.g. IT issues addressed) and were focussing on developing our personal and collective skills in spreading the love of God. Our 'old rugged cross' was erected in readiness for the Easter service but sadly was not to be used, as following Government and Methodist directives, lockdown was imposed so that Churches have remained unopened.

A challenging time for everyone as we were unable to attend church activities or meet up with friends. All Trinity lettings were cancelled which undoubtedly caused problems for the many groups using our facilities, plus our Trinity groups such as Trinity Care Club, various fellowships, Hunger lunches etc.

Music and Drama were in full swing rehearsing for their presentation of 'Jesus Christ Super Star' which had to be cancelled.

After the initial shock of our change in situation, many of our congregation have been very active in phoning, emailing and using creative methods to keep in contact during the last 6 months – which has made quite a few of us improve our computer skills! Individuals in our Pastoral groups have kept in regular contact and supported each other very well – help being offered in many guises such as regular shopping. The highlight of our Sundays now is the excellent 'U tube' Church service which so many of us look forward to. We send our very grateful thanks to Mark and Ramona for leading them and to everyone across the circuit who helps with the presentation. The 'WhatsApp' facilitating participation through messages is very popular and the number of known viewers is rising amazingly!

Despite uncertain times still being ahead, we are actively looking forward to having our first service in Trinity on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30. The Church council will then review future possibilities. We pray for guidance as important decisions are being considered.

This is a world of awe and beauty that God has created, full of diversity and teeming with life and colour – but a world that is seriously wounded at the moment. We pray for the Lord to give us insight and strength to care better for the world and each other.

Pam French

# WITHAM

Witham have been blessed with a membership that is growing. Rev Femi and Kenneth Cole-Njie have joined the Witham Community of Faith as well as two other families of 5 people.

The church is on the move.

There have very informative Bible studies led by Patrick and then later in the year by Ria.

Friday's coffee mornings have been a joy to many. Which include fellowship and a craft morning once a month.

Worship has been enhanced by the use of technology. And, not to forget the Ukulele group that participate in worship from time to time.

Covid19 came and the coffee mornings and worship in the Witham building came to an end for a while. However, God is still in control.

A Whats app group was formed to keep people in touch with each other and a zoom fellowship was started in which we can share and pray together.

People from Witham Methodist continued to serve the community by helping out at the foodbank which operates from the Witham Methodist premises.

When Witham heard that you can reopen places of worship they were the first to say let's reopen our doors. Jenny and Mike made sure that the building was Covid19 safe and worked miracles in putting everything in place so that on the 5<sup>th</sup> July the doors could be reopened.

Up until that time, The Witham community of faith had worship in their homes using Reality Church's live stream and had enjoyed it. But to be together as one people called by God under one roof is a joy.

Therefore, God's children came to the Witham building with thanksgiving in their hearts and shouts of Joy on their lips, singing Gods praise for keeping everyone safe and celebrating the joy of worshipping together again.

The Witham community of faith celebrate that they know that "God is good and His love endures forever."

God is at work.

**Rev. Barry Allen**



# Initiatives within the Chelmsford Circuit

## Chelmsford Circuit

invites you to a day of conversation and reflection

### God in Love Unites Us

a report from the Marriage and Relationships Task Group of the Methodist Church

to be held on

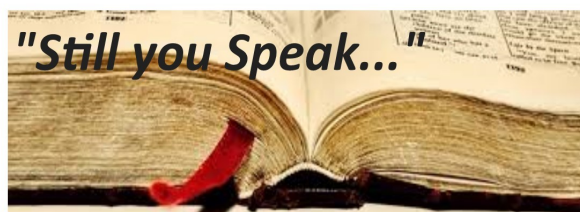
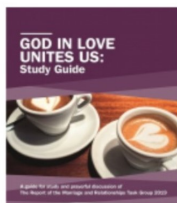
**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**10am to 3pm**

**at St Augustines Church, Springfield**

#### Before the meeting please:

- **Pray** This is an important and sensitive issue, about which people have differing convictions. Please pray that our conversation might be one that reflects God's love and grace.
- **Read the Study Guide.** Copies have been sent to every Church in the Circuit for a brief overview.
- **Alternatively, read the complete Report** which can be downloaded from the Methodist website. Please contact the Circuit Administrator if you require a printed copy. Karen Murrell 01245 269079 [chelmsford.circuit@gmail.com](mailto:chelmsford.circuit@gmail.com)
- **Bring a packed lunch.** Tea and coffee will be provided.



## "Still you Speak..."

Chelmsford Methodist Circuit

Invites Everyone to a

## A Circuit Celebration Service

## "Still you Speak..."

**Sunday 26th January 2020**

**4pm till 5pm**

**Moulsham Lodge Methodist Church  
Lime Walk, Chelmsford CM2 9NJ**

The Circuit service will give thanks for those who are involved in the work of proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel, and explore how God might be calling people as preachers and worship leaders in the communities we seek to serve.

For more information contact.

Rev'd Mark Pengelly.

[mark.pengelly@methodist.org.uk](mailto:mark.pengelly@methodist.org.uk)

## ONLINE BIBLE STUDY FOR JUNE 2020

Bible Month

30 DAYS WITH  
**RUTH**

In June the Chelmsford Circuit invites you to join in

### "30 Days with Ruth"

a time of sharing in God's word in a special way throughout the month of June.

Bible Month, a study resource offered by the Methodist Church, is a great way to build an understanding of the wonderful Old Testament story found in the book of Ruth.

You can join in Bible Month this June in the following ways...

Listen to one of our Circuit's Local Preachers on a Youtube video each Monday evening at 7.30pm (or anytime later)

The videos, each introducing you to a different character from the Ruth story will be on the Circuit's YouTube channel:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCrQavARuyJM1FsVUBI8i6Sw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrQavARuyJM1FsVUBI8i6Sw)

Download the Bible Month resource booklet (pdf) from [www.preachweb.org/biblemonth](http://www.preachweb.org/biblemonth) It's free!

Join together in a live discussion forum each Thursday evening at 7pm using Zoom video

Please email the Circuit administrator for more information and access to the Zoom meetings each Thursday.  
[chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk](mailto:chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk)

"We're really hoping our 'online' Bible Month in June will give people the chance to explore faith in new ways, even with the restrictions we're living with at the moment"

Rev'd Mark Pengelly

Chelmsford Methodist Circuit. <http://www.chelmsfordcircuit.co.uk/>

Rev'd Mark Pengelly, Methodist Superintendent Minister.

The Methodist Church

## Considering a call to be a Worship Leader?

**Worship is at the heart of all we do as God's people.**

**Worship leaders are appointed trained and commissioned**

**by their Church Council to take a leading and significant**

**role in public worship in their church.**

**They work alongside the minister or local preacher**

**appointed to lead an act of worship.**

#### Course Outline

The course will comprise 8 sessions which will include: presentations/discussion via Zoom session; group and individual preparation exercises; oral practice, group evaluation and assigned reading. Worksheets and keynote summaries will be provided.

Dates and session times are yet to be confirmed.

If you are interested and would like an informal chat please

contact Local Preacher in Chelmsford Methodist Circuit.

Mrs Val Carter.

[val\\_carter08@hotmail.com](mailto:val_carter08@hotmail.com)

Further information is can be found on The Methodist Church website.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/local-preachers-and-worship-leaders/worship-leaders/>

The Methodist Church