



Enfield Methodist Circuit



Edmonton Methodist Church

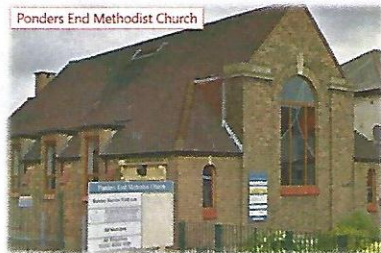


Grange Park Methodist Church

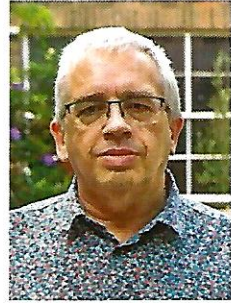
Summer 2026 Newsletter



Ponders End Methodist Church



Message from Revd Paul Weary, Superintendent Minister



Dear friends,

Welcome to this summer edition of the Enfield Circuit news.

As the school summer holidays approach, many of our regular meetings take a break – sometimes to make way for seasonal activities such as the holiday club at Goffs Oak. In practice, many of us who are not tied to school holidays avoid taking vacations in August, which means that the summer holiday season lasts several months - from June to September. Whether you are planning to travel, spending time with family or enjoying quiet relaxation at home, I hope and pray that this season will be a time for refreshment and renewal. Summer offers a beautiful opportunity to step back from our busy routines and appreciate the wonder of God's creation.

This finds an echo in a beautiful prayer/poem for the season by John Birch:

The warmth of the sun's embrace,
the gentle breeze swept in by incoming tide,
the rhythm of seasons,
of new birth,
death and recreation.
All these speak so clearly of your love,
your power
and your beauty.
All are expressions of your creativity,
and more importantly of yourself.
As an artist might share his personality
within each brushstroke,
so within the myriad colours of a butterfly's wing
you share the exuberance of your love.

(John's prayers are published at www.faithandworship.com)

I have some items of news to share with you.

Firstly, at the end of June we shall be saying farewell to our Circuit Executive Officer Anne Fairchild, as she takes early retirement. Anne has done remarkable and pioneering work for the Enfield Circuit and our individual churches, and will surely be greatly missed. There is an opportunity for the whole circuit to say goodbye to Anne on Thursday 18th June, as you are invited to afternoon tea at 6pm at Ordnance Road Methodist Church. This precedes the circuit meeting but is for everyone – not just members of the circuit meeting.

Anne is working with officers of the circuit to ensure as smooth a transition as possible – though some of us are just becoming aware of the wide scope of Anne's job as CEO.

Secondly, I want to thank the churches of the Enfield Circuit for the work that you have done on your church mission statements, strategies and action plans. These have been collated and analysed so we can better understand what resources may be required from the circuit, or otherwise shared across churches. This exercise is not complete, for action plans are 'living documents', subject to continuous reflection, revision and change. But I hope that putting growth at the centre of our thinking has generated some interesting – and hopeful – conversations.

Thirdly, congratulations to Grange Park Methodist Church as it has recently achieved certification for the solemnisation of Same Sex Marriages. Grange Park joins Trinity as the second church in the Enfield Circuit to gain this status, and it is a further step on the journey toward becoming a truly inclusive church.

To conclude, here's a thought and a prayer.

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time." – John Lubbock, *The Use of Life*

As the sun rises, Lord, let your light shine on me.
Your light to guide, your light to lead,
your light to direct, your light to brighten.
Let your light shine on me. Amen.

From a prayer by David Adam

With every blessing,

Paul

News From Trinity

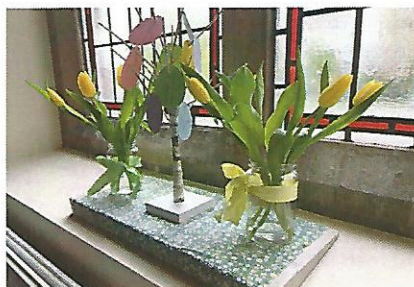
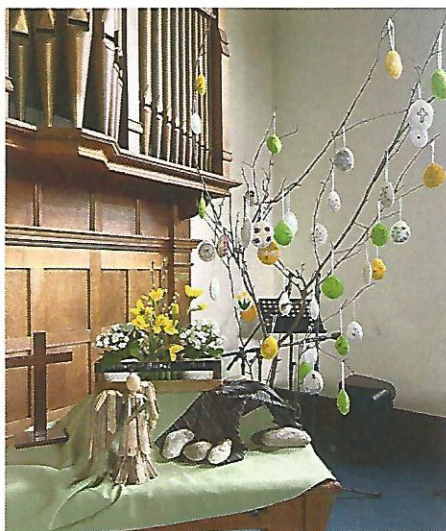
We followed the Methodist Church theme for Lent, 'Let go, make room', which ran with the Lectionary, had a liturgy for services and a study guide for Lent Groups, which was very much appreciated.

On Good Friday, 10 people watched the Wintershall 'Passion of Jesus' in the church at 3pm, during which 3 other people who were passing, came in - one to pray privately, one who sat for a while and a third who requested specific prayer after the death of his grandfather. It was good for the church to be open, with us available for that need.

On Holy Saturday, while the church held a very successful coffee morning, we distributed hot cross buns wrapped in explanatory serviettes, with chocolate eggs, to passersby. As always, it was a rewarding morning and we were cleared out!



The church was full on Easter Day, with very many visitors, and the church looked spectacular with decorations, which included our Eco trees, which held our week-by-week challenges of 'letting go', following the theme.



We have experimented with Café Church and will have held three, by the time this goes to print. Although the style is not to everyone's taste for morning worship, the informality in the hall, friendly seating, refreshments throughout and opportunity to share faith and express ideas has been appreciated, particularly by newer members and friends. We are advertising these services by way of an outside banner, in the hope that people unfamiliar with formal church may be attracted.

At Trinity, we have the benefit of resources available to us from two denominations.

The United Reformed Church offers a Daily Devotion online, free to anyone who signs up to receive it.

Different writers are invited to contribute, to write a reflection on a scripture passage in a series, or on a theme, with a prayer for each day.

For one week in May this year, the devotions featured a piece of Art, written by Revd Neil Thorogood, former Principal of Westminster College, Cambridge, and an artist himself.

The Art and the Devotion for 11th May, struck me powerfully, and as a Circuit that has as one of its priorities, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, I thought it would be good to share this here.



Reflection

Standing 16 feet tall, Leigh's bronze bust of a black woman was the first sculpture for the High Line Plinth in New York, a public park created from a redundant elevated railway. The city had very few monuments to Black people at the time. The only Black woman depicted then was a sculpture of Harriet Tubman in Harlem. The version of Brick House pictured here stands at the entrance to the campus of the University of Pennsylvania, placed there to underline commitments to confronting racial injustice. Leigh's woman

has no eyes. The artist wanted ambiguity, avoiding a sculpture easily identified with any individual or group.

Leigh grew up in Chicago, the daughter of Jamaican missionaries to the US sent from the Church of the Nazarene. She describes the joys of a childhood surrounded by black people, feeling "my blackness didn't predetermine anything about me." Her art often draws upon African forms and traditions, seeking to redress the marginalization of women of colour. Brick House is based upon the traditional huts of the Batammaliba people of Benin and Togo, and the Mousgoum

of Cameroon and Chad. In both cultures, deep connections are made between people, their environment and their buildings; traditional homes are cherished and honoured as family members.

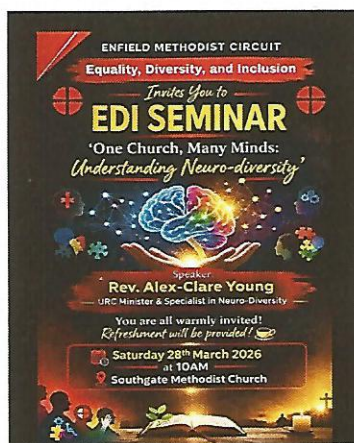
This is an art weaving together so many threads of experience, oppression, cultures, success and much more. It offers a dominating presence in a landscape. It invites attention and evokes contemplation. For me, Brick House stands in a line that reaches back into Hebrew scripture. Think of these lines in Proverbs: "Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? ...beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: 'To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it.'" (8: 1-5)

Prayer

Living and life-giving God,
grant us wisdom, we pray.
Wisdom to receive from the wisdom of others;
cultures and traditions so different and yet so wise,
people too often ignored and denied.
Set free our minds and open our hearts
to grasp the wonder of all that others might impart
in guiding us into today
and beyond tomorrow.
Thus, may we be followers of Jesus.
Amen.

EDI Seminar: One Church, Many Minds. Understanding Diversity.

The last newsletter was out before this stunning poster was created for the EDI seminar at the end of March. The content of the morning lived up to the poster, with such an informative talk from Revd Dr Alex Clare-Young, who explained the myriad ways in which neurodiversity presents in individuals and the broad range of 'diagnoses' like autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Discalculia, which can be unhelpful and limiting, as neurodivergent individuals often do not fit neatly into any one 'category' and no two people with the same 'label' are the same. The talk covered personal difficulties and experiences, what helps and what hinders, with particular reference to churches and services, and what accommodations might be possible that would benefit all. Alex was very clear that neurodivergent people do not need to be 'cured'; they display difference which is equally valid.



In the second part of the morning, Revd Paul asked Kathryn Reid questions about her own experience of being neurodivergent, which she answered thoughtfully and well, and then there was a plenary session. An article by Kathryn herself follows this.

The day was well attended, with several people who had not been to an EDI seminar before, and we all left wiser, with much to ponder and consideration to be taken about how our church services can be overwhelming for people with hypersensitivity.

The EDI Group is already planning the next event, which will be on Saturday 3rd October, and the feeling is that Neurodiversity is such a huge subject, we should explore it further. The EDI Service will be on Sunday 25th October at 4pm.

Nancy Hands

EDI Seminar, Understanding Neurodiversity, article by Kathryn Reid

The morning was very informative. Revd Alex Clare-young spoke about how as a church we could be more welcoming to people with neurodiversity and to welcome is to be liberating. They also spoke about their experiences of having autism. They mentioned that being neurodivergent is not something that stops when you become an adult.

This was followed by an interview between Revd Paul Weary and myself. The questions and answers are as follows.

You wear a distinctive lanyard with a card holder. What is the significance of this and why is it important to you?

The hidden disability sunflower lanyard came from a scheme started at Gatwick airport as a way to make life easier for those with hidden disabilities. This initiative has been around since the pandemic and helps when going about daily life, since wearing the sunflower lanyard especially in public such as shops and supermarkets. My card says I have dyspraxia. So *making the invisible, visible*



What does the word neurodiversity mean to you – and what do you want other people to know about it?

Neurodiversity a broad term on how our brains work in different way. this term is relatively new.

You are a steward in your local church, and operate the AV system most Sundays. What impact does your dyspraxia have on your approach to Sunday worship and church life in general?

Dyspraxia (Developmental coordination disorder DCD or Clumsy child syndrome, which I do not like) affects gross motor skills like walking, balance and movement and fine motor skills like writing, sewing, doing up buttons, zips ect. It also affects organisational skills. I have a number of different things I need and I use during different church activities. For Sunday worship as I work the sound or AV system a clear concise order of service if there is a Power Point needed an extended version with clear added.

Use of a large print Bible and reading aid I have also got dyslexia so I have difficulty with reading as well.

Churches are often better at responding to visible, physical disabilities, and not so good with invisible disabilities such as dyspraxia. What do you think churches could do to be more inclusive toward people who are neurodivergent?

No two people with dyspraxia are the same. Do not assume that someone can use a standard print bible, I have always used a large print. Dyspraxia does not stop when an individual turns 18, which is why I do not like the term clumsy child syndrome because that gives the wrong idea. An individual maybe wearing headphones because the noise is too loud. Do not automatically give a hug, ask first especially when sharing the peace or something like that. Best thing to do is to communicate with individuals who are neurodivergent with in our midst. Show respect to the individual and be patient as words can sometimes be difficult.

We often hear people today talk about their superpower, turning something that has previously been seen as a disability into an ability. What is your superpower?

I am creative and able to produce original pictures in watercolour. These have been shown at Southgate during the Bible study, art craft group as well as at Bush Hill Park. I'm also a lateral thinker, I do not like the term out-of-the-box thinking as I completely lost the box's. I am able to pick up things that other peoples may not have noticed and come up with Ideas that may not have been thought of. I can find things other people have lost.

There was a Q&A after and Revd. Alex was asked what could be done during worship and it was mentioned about continuity and having a box set aside for people to fidget, break up worship so it is interactive.

I was asked what can local Preachers and Minsters do to make it easy for me as steward? My response is this make sure order of service is sent by Wednesday and check what Bible the church use and if a different translation is needed.

Links to different organisation

Hidden disability sunflower <https://hdsunflower.com>

Dyspraxia magazine <https://www.dyspraxiamagazine.com>

News From Bush Hill Park

Bush Hill Park Anniversary Weekend 9th and 10th May 2026

Saturday a coffee morning with various stalls, jigsaws, hand crafts, cakes, books and refreshments with hot and cold drinks. We had volunteers manning the stalls, the Guides came with two stalls and were wonderful helpers in lots of ways. Quite a few folks came and we thank those who came from other churches.



On the Sunday a local arrangement service. The stewards arranged a good service with volunteers, songs chosen by the congregation, freedom for folk to participate (and they did) in prayers and with testimony. It was friendly, thought provoking and a blessing. Refreshments were served afterwards with cakes. We thank the stewards for all their hard work.

Carolyn Freeman

News from Goffs Oak

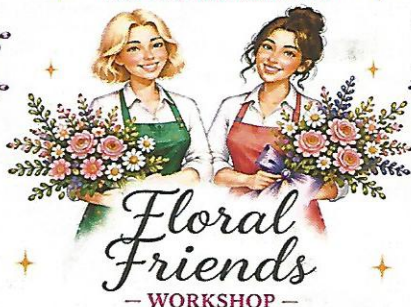
The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement, led by Christian women of many traditions, who call the faithful together to observe a common day of prayer each year. This day is always on the first Friday in March, and begins on the international dateline in Samoa. As the earth rotates, a great wave of prayer begins to build. It sweeps across the Pacific, touching Fiji and New Zealand, and travels on through Asia: Japan, the Philippines, Korea, and Bangladesh. Then follow the countries of Africa and the Middle East. The wave eventually reaches the shores of Europe as daylight dawns. Then it travels across the Atlantic, on to the Caribbean and the Americas, and finally to the Pacific again until the sun sets over American Samoa where the final service takes place and the worldwide circle of prayer is completed. Although the services are prepared by women, all are most welcome to attend.

We participate in a WDP service every year with other local churches – St. Andrew, the Life Church and St. Martin de Porres RC from Cuffley; St. James from Goffs Oak and of course here at Goffs Oak Methodist. We take turns to host the service and this year it was our turn. Thirty people from the churches attended and £220 was raised for the WDP organisation.

A different country prepares the service each year with a particular theme. This year it was Nigeria, with the theme 'I will give you rest, come'. Members of our congregation from Nigeria helped to bring the backdrop to life with examples of materials, photographs, and traditional Nigerian music was played. The service itself was full of hope, which in the current situation of wars in the world, was much appreciated. The chosen hymns and songs were lovely and the words were especially relevant.

Every Wednesday we hold a Coffee Morning, open to anyone and everyone. But on Wednesday 13th May, it was special when it became a Christian Aid Coffee Morning. Some 30 or so people visited us during the morning and enjoyed (or bought for later) a variety of cakes, jams, marmalades, toys, etc. Who knew that knitting patterns would be so popular! Some £300 was raised so thanks to all concerned.

THE OK FOUNDATION



Floral Friends
— WORKSHOP —

FLORAL WORKSHOP



Wednesday
3rd
June
2026

Goffs Oak
Methodist Church

11-1

Goffs Oak Methodist Church,
Newgatestreet Road EN7 5SS

Register your interest or sign up:

 okfoundation.org/floral-workshop |  07483 172781



£10
per person
to cover costs
of flower

Join us for a
morning of
*Flowers
& Fun!*

DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP BY

Oaks
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CUFFLEY
FLOWERS

Goffs Oak Methodist Church



It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.

Place: Grange Park Methodist Church

Date: Saturday 26th September 2026

Time: 10 am - 12 noon

Contact: helen.lunn76@gmail.com



MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (00401), Scotland (SC009090) and the Isle of Man (004). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC01012, an IZM partner.

Bible Month - Philippians

June is Bible Month, an opportunity to spend 30 days focused on a single biblical book. Bible Month 2026 invites churches, small groups, and individuals across the UK to rediscover the joy and strength that comes from knowing Christ – through the letter to the Philippians.

The short but powerful letter from the apostle Paul to the church in Philippi overflows with joy, encouragement, and love – even as he writes from prison. Philippians shows us that joy is not the absence of difficulty, but the presence of Christ in every circumstance. As Paul writes, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4).

Throughout Bible Month 2026, communities can explore what it means to:

- Rejoice in all circumstances
- Live lives shaped by Christ's humility and love
- Stand firm together in unity and hope
- Find peace through prayer and thanksgiving

There are a number of ways that you can get involved in Bible Month. Visit the Bible Month web page at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/the-bible/bible-month/> to find out more. From here you can download a free copy of the 30 Day Reading Guide, with readings for each day, notes on the text and a prayer for your daily devotions. It is also possible to order a printed version of the Reading Guide.

There is also a booklet with four weeks of materials for use in small groups. This costs £4.95 from LWPT (link on the above web page). Rev Paul and Helen will be leading this four week course at Southgate Methodist Church on Thursdays 4, 11, 18, 25 June at 2pm and at Bush Hill Park on Mondays 1, 8, 15, 22 June (the Bush Hill Park group meets in church members' homes, so please contact Helen for details of venue.)

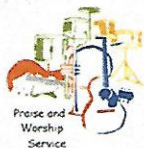
Philippians will also be the theme for the Taize Prayer taking place at Trinity on Thursday 11 June at 7.30pm.

Bible Month offers a chance for the church to feast on the Word together – and to grow in joy, faith, and love. Philippians encourages us to find our strength in the one who holds us fast. Whether in celebration or struggle, we are invited to press on together, confident that “the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6).

Revd Paul Weary

Worship opportunities across the Circuit

As well as the usual Sunday services, why not try some of these different opportunities for prayer, worship and fellowship across the Circuit?



Ghanaian Worship – 1st Sunday of each month 3pm-6:30pm at Edmonton Methodist Church

“Words & Worship” at 79 London Rd on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 6.30pm



Tea service at Bush Hill Park on the 1st Sunday of each month at 3pm



“Open Church” at Grange Park Wednesday from 10am-12 noon for quiet prayer, reflection and conversation



Soup and conversation at Grange Park every Wednesday 12noon-2pm



Bush Hill Park Wednesday Fellowship fortnightly from 8th September at 2pm



Faith and Fellowship at Southgate Thursdays 2pm-4pm. Bible Study, Fellowship and Tea