



Chelmsford Circuit

Volume 1, Issue 3

Newsletter Date: June & July 2019



As I come towards my last days in the Circuit I want to take time to consider what God is saying and how it affects the conversations I have over the last few weeks. What have I discovered? What does God want of me today?

I don't know about you but there doesn't seem to be much that is worth watching on the TV at the moment. As a result I retreat to old favourites and through them God nudges my imagination.

I was watching an episode of the US political drama "The West Wing" and a conversation introduced the theme of how you can and what it means to be subject

to one another. It arose from the later part of Ephesians six which contains lots of good stuff, teaching that is helpful to the church and personal discipleship. The last part is popular with some in the life of the church who like to codify and legalize behaviour. Yet the verse that precedes that passage places each one of us in the same position of servanthood. Not a relationship of hierarchy but of mutuality.

"Be subject/submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." E5.21...

The question I want to ask is of myself is "Have I been subject/submitted to you?"/"How have I served you?" You may come up with other possible questions and answers of all shades and variety.

But I consider the question of subjection/submission is at the heart of discipleship because it is not only my question but it is yours as well. Everyone we meet in church/community are the people we are to subject to.

My default position on sin is that it is selfishness, towards God, your family, friends and neighbours. Jesus showed a life that was selfless. He flung his arms wide on the cross and said this is the love of God for the world. He said follow me to this place and give yourself for others. Full stop. That is what you are asked to do with no thought of the future, no hope of reward.

However God is gracious and you find yourself reborn and renewed through the resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit. I pray that you will continue to grow in Christ and will be able to take the place of Christ in the world as servant of all to His glory and praise.

Yours in His Service
Mike



I would like to offer my thanks to all who prayed, visited, sent cards and flowers, made meals and generally cared for me and

Pam during my time off sick.

It has all lead me to understand something of the way the fellowship of Christ works to support each other in love.

Thanks, Mike

DAY OUT - COACH TO LEEDS CASTLE.

Come join us.....

We've arranged a coach trip to Leeds Castle in Kent on Monday 24th June 2019. Just £25.00 pp for the coach and you pay your own entrance fee on arrival. A great day out with friends. Contact Karen Murrell if you would like to join members of Trinity.



We invite all to our Strawberry Tea on Saturday 29th June, 2 – 4 p.m., at the church in New Street, Halstead.

Cost is £3.00 per person.

There will also be a bring & buy stall, cakes and Wendy's famous handmade cards for sale. All are welcome.



Getting to know.....Karen Murrell, Circuit Admin

It was Easter 2015 when I first walked into Trinity Methodist. I don't know why, it was just a spur of the moment decision and, after a lifetime of not going to any church at all, it was daunting to say the least. Needless-to-say, four years later and here I am as Circuit Administrator; on a very steep learning curve.

I have spent all my working life in the hospitality and leisure industry in Management and Sales/Marketing roles; the last 24 years in management at The County Hotel in Chelmsford until I retired in 2015. During my time in Chelmsford, I was President of the Chelmsford Chamber of Commerce from 2003 to 2006; at a time when there were few women members and a three year term was rare.

You'll find me at Trinity Methodist on a Wednesday and Friday morning as I work with Diane Potter in the office doing the notices and social media but fit my five hours a week in for Circuit Admin work as and when needed.

Never one to take it easy, in 2016 I became a volunteer at Chelmsford Citizens Advice Bureau and I am now a fully trained Advisor and work there each Tuesday. We cannot give legal advice as we are not trained solicitors, but Advisors have a good general knowledge of many subjects and can guide clients on their rights; empowering them to help themselves.



If I don't know the answer to a problem then I know someone who does.

I enjoy my Circuit Admin work immensely; is it very different from the hotel industry? no not really! The basic principle of creating a need is the same and as my old boss used to say 'it's all about bums on seats'. I don't know the bible, but I do understand people and my contribution is still based on sales and marketing activities and communication. I hope that by creating bright interesting websites and newsletters, we can get the message out there that we are open to everyone, that we are not inclusive, non judgemental, that you don't have to feel ashamed because you haven't read the bible, that there is something for everyone to get involved in and to become part of a loving caring community.

Social Media is a powerful tool—don't ignore it—spread the word .

Feel free to write endless articles for the newsletter—spread the word of all the good work that you are doing in your church—inspire people to follow and work to together on projects.



In conjunction with Chelmsford Foodbank, Trinity hosted a 4Families event over the Easter period.



Providing lunch for over 95 adults and children, with football fun for the children provided by West Ham Football Club. A big thank you to all the volunteers. They will be back every Wednesday in the August to provide these families with much needed support and help during the school holiday.

Flowers and goodwill wishes for Gill Singer at the last Circuit Meeting.



Dates for your diary

Sunday 21st July 2019—Mike Lewis— Sitting Down Service

Trinity Methodist 3pm

Friday 30th August 2019—Mark Pengelly -Welcome Service

Trinity Methodist 7.30pm

Tuesday 24th September 2019—Circuit Meeting

Trinity Methodist 7.30pm

Deacon's Digest

Every year, members of the Diaconal Order of the Methodist Church gather together for what is known as Convocation. The Convocation is an event in which the Order discusses business, finance, receives the Warden's report, and addresses any relevant papers from the Connexion in preparation for the

There is something beautiful and unifying to hear the voices along with yours, echo the words "I will" and "I do",

general Conference of the

Methodist Church. We usually have in attendance the Methodist President and Vice-president, as well as other Connexional officers.

Convocation, is for Deacons, part of the discipline of being a member of a religious Order, and therefore, no Deacons are exempt, including those retired, unless in exceptional circumstances.

So, last week, I drove over 100 miles to Swanick to gather together with my fellow sisters and brothers, for four days.

One of the highlights of attending Convocation, for me, is the opportunity to reconnect with friends I haven't seen in a while, as well as renewing my Ordination promises, which happens on the final day.

There is something beautiful and unifying to hear the voices along with yours, echo the words "I will" and "I do", and it reminds me of the bigger picture and of my commitment to serve God through the life of the Church.

Apart from the business that happens, there are workshops and café groups, which all serve in helping us as Deacons continue in our spiritual and practical development. This year's workshops included, among others, one on Craftivism, which is about the art of gentle protest using creative elements, and one on recognising the signs of burnout. Both of those, for me, sit at different ends of the ministry spectrum. It might surprise some to learn that even Ministers suffer burnout and yet, during the week, I met up with many of my friends who like me, were feeling that they were teetering on the edge.

The idea of Craftivism as a form of protest reminds me that we serve a creative God who is also interested in justice.

Those two very different workshops reminds us that we all have a part to play in building God's kingdom; that we must always be aware of the suffering of ourselves, as well as those around us.

So what can you do? I would encourage you to look out for opportunities to take a stand for justice, in whatever small or large way you can; learn to listen to your body's rhythm and know when to rest; be mindful that ministers too get tired so ask God to show you how you can help, either through prayer or a goodwill gesture. God bless you

Ramona





3GENERATE

I hope that everyone knows about 3Generate, the National Methodist "Youth Conference" that is like no normal conference.

The annual event is now attended by around 1200 young people between the ages of 8 to 23. They are split into three age groups, hence "3Generate". For the past 2 years and this year, the Pontins Holiday Camp at Southsea is hosting "3Gen". The event is an opportunity for young people's voices to be heard within the Methodist Church on a range of topics. Some topics are talked about from year to year and others are new. They are generally chosen from suggestions submitted by youth clubs around the country. 3Gen elects the Youth President and submits a "Manifesto" to Conference and local Methodist Churches to act upon.

Going to 3Generate is "free" to the young people, so that all can attend if they wish.

The voices of the young people is heard through many outlets, including discussions, craft, outdoor activities and responses to exhibitions. Many of the "senior" leaders of the Methodist Church attend and they engage with the young people, not just at worship opportunities either.

Going to 3Generate is "free" to the young people, so that all can attend if they wish. Financial support is provided by The Rock Trust, the Circuit and churches from where the young people are connected to. Whilst 3Gen is not an "evangelical" event, there are many opportunities to explore the Christian Faith and, as Leaders, you never know what question you may be asked.

Planning for 3Generate 2019 is well under way, and tends to start on the Sunday of the event. Registering for tickets has already been undertaken for 2019 and I'm please to say that Esther Burton is coming along as a Leader this year.

David Songer

From a Mother's Pen
Selections from the spiritual writing
of Susanna Wesley



Charles I Wallace

Susanna Wesley's reputation has traditionally been 'fame by association', primarily as the mother of John and Charles Wesley, the most prominent of the founders of the worldwide Christian movement of Methodism. But Susanna was an accomplished writer, practical theologian, dedicated teacher and principled churchwoman, deeply devoted to God. We can glimpse in this anthology not only the triumphs and authentic struggles of a woman in the eighteenth century, but also find resonance and inspiration for our own life's journey today.

Each extract from Susanna's extensive penning of journal entries, letters and advice to her children, is set briefly in context for the reader. A product of her time and yet ahead of it, Susanna Wesley (1669 – 1742) is celebrated here in her own right – and through her own writing: Available @£9.99 from....

<https://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk>

Circuit Administrator: Karen Murrell: chelmsford.circuit@gmail.com

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

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

**Deadline for August/
September to Karen by Mid
July please.**