



Chelmsford Circuit

Issue 30

Newsletter Date: May / June 2024



A BIG THANK YOU

Firstly, I'd like to say a big 'thankyou' to everyone around the Circuit for the way in which our various Churches, including our ecumenical partnerships have responded to the invitation to review and consider our Mission Statements, Strategies and Plans.

Doing such a task is never easy, but I have been heartened to see how our Churches have risen to the challenge. It's made us think about the future and as we reflect on the work we are currently engaged in reminded us how many good things we are always supporting at the moment.

I hope the process of seeking God's will for the future will continue to inspire us in the present. Thanks for your efforts and keep thinking and praying about this!

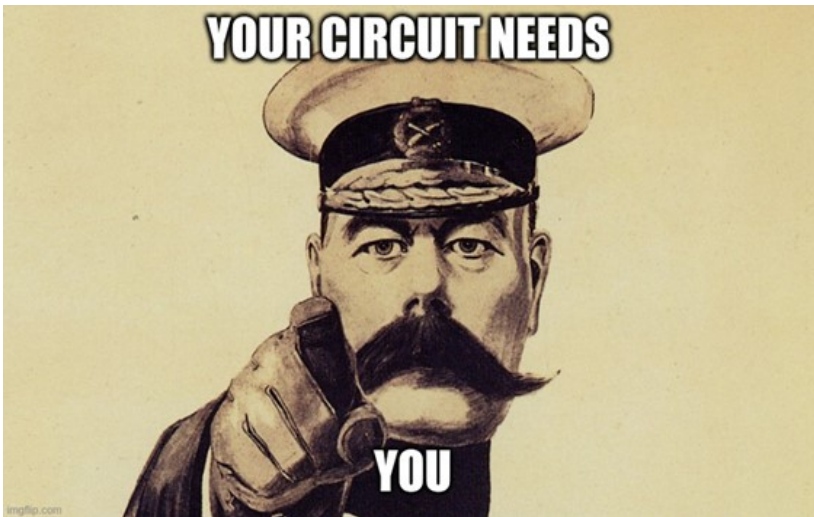
Secondly, I'd like to thank the Circuit for taking a significant step of faith in seeking to engage a third full time minister again for the new Connexional year (Sept 2024). Despite the shortage of available ministers, we were excited to find that we had made a 'stationing match' with Rev Asif Karam, who will be working with us, based at Trinity. We look forward to welcoming Asif at a special Circuit service at Trinity on Sept 1st, 2024, 6pm. Do 'save the date' to ensure the whole Circuit can give Asif a warm welcome to the Chelmsford Circuit.

Finally, another big 'thankyou' to all our Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and Ministers around the Circuit who continue to lead worship on so many occasions. At the recent Synod the District Local Preachers' secretary reminded us that every week across the British Connexion 50% of all services are led by Local Preachers.

This current Connexional year has not been an easy one to make the plan and there have unavoidably been more 'Local Arrangement' services on the plan as a result, so thanks to all those who make arrangements for those services as well. Despite this challenge we continue to worship and witness to God's love, as revealed in Christ, in a faithful way, week in, week out.

I pray that we will continue to be blessed and inspired by the God who raised Jesus from death and sends the Holy Spirit upon us.

With Christian love, Mark



Could you be a Circuit Steward?

We are looking for two new Circuit Stewards. Could it be YOU?

Let's start with the basics...what is a Circuit?

A circuit is a group of Methodist Churches that work together. It may also include Local Ecumenical Partnerships working with other denominations. The Chelmsford Circuit made up of 13 churches across Chelmsford and the wider area.

The Circuit has a leadership team (CLT) made up of the Ministers; Rev Mark Pengelly the Superintendent, and Rev. Barry Allen who from September, will be joined by Rev Asif Karam. In addition the CLT has lay members called circuit stewards. Our Senior Circuit Steward is Nigel Murrell. The Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) has a responsibility for the practical and spiritual functioning of the circuit. We meet on a monthly basis and although the responsibility can be daunting we are a supportive team.

Lay members of the CLT have taken on particular responsibilities according to their own interests and skills such as property, finance, ECO matters, mission and outreach. The CLT also has an important role in stationing (the appointment or re-invitation of ministers).

If you are interested in finding out more please contact Rev. Mark Pengelly, Rev. Barry Allen or Nigel Murrell. We'd love to have you on the team!



The **Methodist** Church

CIRCUIT SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Part-time: 14 hours per week

Salary: £16.00 per hour

Safeguarding is a priority for the churches within the Herts and Essex Border Ecumenical Area and the Chelmsford Methodist Circuit.

We need a knowledgeable and experienced safeguarding enthusiast with a passion for maintaining safe spaces within our churches and associated activities.

You will administer and lead on the delivery of all aspects of Safeguarding policy, practice, and record keeping. Your knowledge of safeguarding policy and procedure are essential as you work closely with the Circuit leaders, Church Safeguarding Officers and the District Safeguarding Officer.

Recent experience is essential as you deliver training, upgrade and maintain confidential records, and enable our churches to deliver a high standard of safeguarding. You will work flexibly both in the delivery of your working hours and the location of your work so you will need your own transport.

Applicants will need to reside either in the Herts and Essex Border Ecumenical Area or in the Chelmsford Circuit.

For more information and an application pack please email

Lynne Ling: lynne.ling2408@gmail.com

Closing Date for Applications: Midnight 23rd May 2024

Date for Interviews: June 6th 2024

Have you ever heard of a man called 'Beniah?'

Don't feel bad if you haven't. Most people have properly never

heard of Beniah. He is buried in the Old Testament book of 2 Samuel, chapter 23, verse 21 and 22.

Read it.

The bit that stands out to me is; *"He chased a lion down into a pit. Then, despite the snow and slippery ground, he caught the lion and killed it."*

Usually when confronted with a man-eating beast, normal people run as hard and as far as they can to get away. Now lions can run at 35 miles per hour and leap 30 feet in a single bound. If you confront a lion in the wild, you are more than likely going to end up being the lion's lunch. Not Beniah, he runs towards the lion and the lion turns tail and begins to run away, and somewhere in the chase the lion loses its footing and falls into a pit. Well done Beniah! It's time to leave. However, Beniah jumps into the pit with this 500 pound beast, pure madness, and kills it.

Has Christianity become passive and defensive and playing it safe? Maybe following Christ isn't supposed to be safe and civilized, maybe it is meant to be dangerous and uncivilized and about taking risks. Maybe God is looking for 'lion chasers.' Maybe the things that scare us the most are just God ordained opportunities that Christ wants us to take hold of. Maybe that means courage to swim against the current. Christ did that all the time. In the modern world of today that could be called colouring outside the lines. Which means defying odds, facing fears, reframing problems, embracing uncertainty, taking risks, seizing opportunities. And having the guts to step out in faith and chase lions.

Start your chase.

Rev Barry Allan





Beans, ground, instant, Italian, Arabica, flat white, multiple familiar trade names; then of course, there are machines, pods, cups (sustainable or not) even houses all centred on coffee.

The thought has occurred that even when we had our own building at HPMC, it may not have floated on a sea of coffee, but it certainly dispensed plenty. For many years back in the last millennium and beyond, we persisted with a weekly coffee morning on a Thursday. Also we had another occasion to dispense coffee on the second Saturday in the month, as scheduled with the other village Christian organisations. Sometimes these were boosted by plant or bric-a-brac sales, or the Christmas bazaar, even willow weaving and harpsichord playing were featured. After worship on a Sunday yet more coffee (or tea) was available.

Now our worship takes place next to the café in the village hall, so we have further opportunity to carry on imbibing the ubiquitous brown liquid; and you will appreciate I am not referring to beer. The second thought that occurs is with these different cost saving premises; comes the need for carefully planning things which formerly we could do spontaneously. The upside to that is the village hall will use their communication systems to do some outreach for us, if we are patient enough.

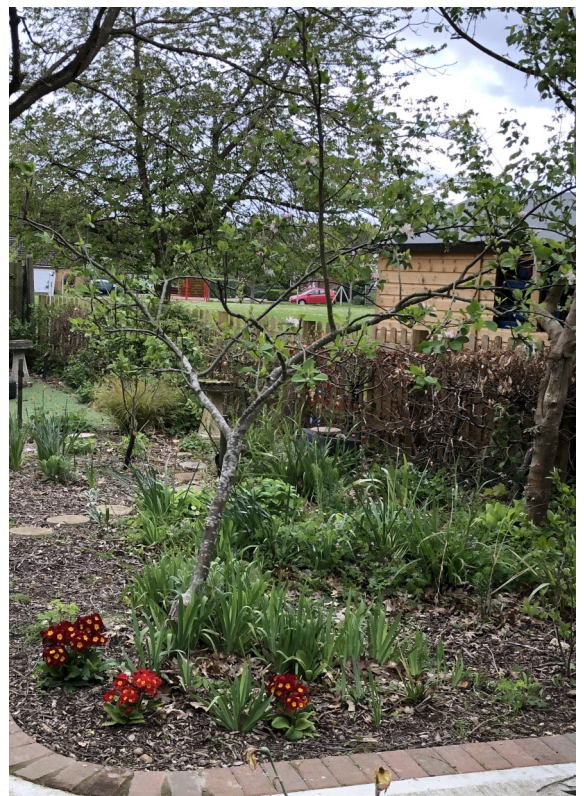
Here are two stories in our Christian heritage to give us hope:

The early church at Pentecost with the visuals of the flames around the apostle's heads; the sound of the wind and the babble of voices all seemingly coming together to experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; but only after remaining in Jerusalem for the right moment.

The early church at Hatfield Peverel: records show Methodism was firmly established in the village by 1818. George and John Shelley started preaching from "the cage" in Station Road, and beside the "the Pound" on the Green, (a stone's throw from the current village hall). There was also Dicky Belsham who travelled to preaching appointments on a "Dandy" horse or driving a two donkey tandem.

For ourselves we carry on working "in the vineyard" of our local school doing the lunch club (21 attendees at the last count) and establishing the garden. There follows a recent picture of the "Area for quiet reflection"

John Clemo



Methodist Homelessness and Housing Gathering

In Birmingham on 8 May, Methodists from across the UK will explore the why, the what and the how to tackle the national homelessness and housing crisis.

The crisis is stark and there are specific pressures at the moment because of a large number of Home Office decisions followed by immediate eviction from accommodation and because of a continued failure on the part of government to end No-Fault Section 21 evictions.

The Methodist Homelessness and Housing Gathering will be an all-day event with a range of speakers from within the Church and from the housing world (including from Hope into Action, Housing Justice, Resonance, Homes England and Greater Manchester Combined Authority) who will provide inspiration and knowledge on using church property for truly affordable and supported housing and on providing emergency support.

Meeting in person will give us the chance to meet Methodists from other parts of the country who also wish to play their part in tackling the housing and homelessness crisis. We will explore four questions together:

Why should The Methodist Church help tackle the homelessness and housing crisis?

How can we deliver truly affordable and supported housing?

What have we done so far?

What could our next steps be to tackle the homelessness and housing crisis in our own areas?

We will be able to hear about what Methodist churches are doing locally as part of our calling to serve the community. There will be case studies from York, London, Wales, Manchester, Keswick and Leeds and it will be great to hear about other examples on the day.

If you have any interest in homelessness and housing you really need to be with us on 8 May!

Book a place by clicking on the link below -

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/methodist-housing-and-homelessness-gathering-tickets-819141493257?aff=oddtcreator>

Methodist Homelessness and Housing Gathering

Wednesday, 8 May 2024 The Church at Carrs Lane, Birmingham 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

DAFFODIL DAY

“Blessed and being a blessing” – that was the theme of this years Daffodil day worship and It was indeed a blessing to attend. A small number of us travelled from Witham by minibus arranged by Rev Femi for which we were very grateful. From hymn singing, to listening to the Central Hall Westminster Choir, a small group from The London Community Gospel Choir and soloist Nando Mukerjee the music was a true blessing to me. A range of people were interviewed by TV personality Pam Rhodes from the Chair of Connexion to the Youth President – all spoke of how God has blessed them and how they have blessed others. This led to the message given by Rev Tony Miles – a challenge for us each to find the blessings in our lives and find ways we can bless those around us. The worship hall was adorned with Daffodils and we were encouraged to take small bunches home to pass on to those who couldn’t attend so in turn to bless them. I would whole heartedly encourage you to attend next year if you are able.

**May God Bless you
Julie Hill (Maldon)**

‘It is always a joy to go to Daffodil Day at The Westminster Central Hall. Wonderful music, beautiful flower arrangements, interesting speakers and a challenging Christian message all go to make this a very special occasion. This year it was good to see that more men had joined what was always an older ladies event. I was so glad that I had persuaded Tony to come with us. He loved it. As we left we were able to have a short chat with our old friend Rev. Tony Miles and shake hands with Nando Mukerjee – the talented and popular soloist who always supports Daffodil Day. Next year it’s on Saturday March 1st – do put that date into your diary and help to turn this year’s minibus into a coach. I can guarantee that you won’t regret it.

Pam Shrimpton



My love is
servant-hearted.

JOHN 13:3-5

'Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power & that He had come from God & was returning to God; so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing & wrapped a towel around His waist.' John 13:3 & 4.

Dear Friends,

When we know who we are in Christ, we cannot help but serve the way that He did. How did Jesus serve? Willingly & freely, with no regard for self. Or, putting it another way, without a compelling urge to preserve His reputation, regardless of what the cost might be to others. As we read in Philippians 2:6 & 7- **'Jesus, who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death; even death on a cross.'**

What did Jesus know about Himself, that also stands true for all Christian believers? I.e. An understanding about His relationship with God that set Him free to serve in such a giving, impartial, uncomplaining & altogether loving & caring way? Nb. The fact that, come what may, the Father's love for Him, a love incalculably great & unattainably high, would always remain.

I wonder if we appreciate just how much the Father loves us? How profound & committed His care of us is. As I write this brief message to you, I'm reminded of an old chorus my brother Peter & I used to sing back in our Sunday School days. An old chorus which speaks of the timeless truth concerning the nature of God's love for us. Nb.

**'Wide, wide as the ocean, high as the heaven above
Deep, deep as the deepest sea is my Saviour's love
I thought so unworthy, still am a child of His care
For His word teaches me that His love reaches me, everywhere.'**

I don't think Pastor Max Lucado is overstating the case when he writes, concerning the Father's feelings towards us - **'If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every spring & a sunrise every morning Face it friend. He is crazy about you.'** The day we grasp that as fact, is the day we will be truly free to gladly serve. No questions asked. No task too great or too small to perform. No person beyond our ability or indeed willingness to care for. Judas & his like, not excluded!

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

BROOMFIELD METHODIST CHURCH

3 B's Broomfield Baby Bereavement Support Group

When & Where We Meet

We meet at Broomfield Methodist Church, which is located on Main Road, in Broomfield, Chelmsford. The hall is at the back of the church, and is accessed via the path at the right of the car park.

Meeting Times:

7:30pm - Late - Last Tuesday of each month

(Adults only)

10:00am - 12:00pm - Last Friday of each month



The 3 B's Support Group

This support group is held on the last Tuesday of every month. The group is run by Julie and Dianne to allow a space for bereaved parents, grandparents and other relatives, particularly those that have lost a baby, to talk freely amongst others that have also experienced the loss of a child. There is no expectation to participate in conversations, you are free to come along and just listen or share your story at your own pace, in your own time. Please contact either Julie or Dianne, who can meet you before the group begins, to show you where everything is and make you feel a little bit more comfortable.

The Peace Garden

We understand that it can be hard to come and talk to others after the loss of a child, so it can be nice to have somewhere to go to remember our babies. We have created a peace garden behind the hall in memory of all of our babies. It is a beautiful place to sit, as it is so peaceful and is full of remembrance flowers and trees. It also contains personal decorations from other bereaved families. During special occasions such as Easter, Father's Day and Mother's Day, it is full of decorations and personalised items for your babies. Julie and Dianne organise events such as memorial rock painting, pumpkin carving and bauble decorating

throughout the year, which is also a great opportunity to receive support from each other during these difficult occasions.

The Peace garden decorated for Easter with wooden rabbits with the names of the babies written on them.



Many families visit the Peace garden to just sit quietly and reflect. A beautiful memory tree can be found in the garden with leaves engraved with the baby's names.

Rainbow Baby & Toddler Group

Our baby and Toddler group is held on the last Friday of every month, it is run by Julie and Dianne with the help of Jo. This group is for bereaved families who have young children or have had a baby after their loss, to come along and have a chat whilst their children play.

If you know of any family who has been touched by baby loss please pass on the details of this support group. Julie was nominated by the families for the "Big Thank you" on the BBC "One Show" which was broadcast in early April.

Our memory tree is for anyone who has lost a loved one and if you would like a leaf engraved with your loved one's name then please contact Dianne at Broomfield.



Testimonials

Without the 3Bs I would have been completely lost and I am forever grateful for their support and running the Rainbow Club. The 3Bs have always been there for me to talk to at any time and have welcomed us with open arms, they've provided a safe place for my children to enjoy playing with other children going through the same struggles as them and the peace Garden is the perfect place that they created to remember all of our babies. Thank you so much for your support.

Blossom's Mummy

3 Bs, for me, has been instrumental in helping me adapt to a life that will always be filled with grief. It is a place where my girls are always, and will always be, at the forefront of everyone's mind, and that means everything.

Rudy & Aurora's Daddy

I first started attending the 3Bs support group four weeks after my daughter died. I had no idea what to expect, but felt I had nothing to lose by going once - and I'm so glad that I did. Being in a room with people who knew exactly what I was going through was more than a comfort, it was a lifeline. I attended every month where I could, always looking forward to the safe space in which I could discuss my precious baby without fear of judgement or pity, instead surrounded by warmth and compassion. Because of the people I met in group (including my very best friend) and the support I have received, the 3Bs has become a natural part of my everyday life and I genuinely don't know how I would have managed without it. Ella's Mummy

- Leah Palmer



Time
for tea

CIRCUIT LADIES AFTERNOON TEAS 2024

Tuesday 20th February

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

Tuesday 21st May

Connecting Classrooms: Linking with schools
in Kenya with Nikki Batt

Tuesday 20th August

Tuesday 19th November

2.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church, CM1 2XB

Price £5.00 per person

Please highlight any special dietary requirements.

Book by Wednesday beforehand.

Judy Molyneux (01245) 465252

Janet Wintle (01245) 252146

Everyone is Welcome

Caring for God's Creation - Circuit News

[Sheridan Pengelly](#) - ECO Circuit Steward



April 2024

Recycling blister packs update

The blister pack (what tablets come in) recycling bin at Trinity is being well used and we have already taken a bin bag full to the Refill shop. They are one of the last pesky bits of plastic that are hard to recycle. Could you set one up in your church or 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.



No Mow May

Last year we took part in No Mow May and left part of our lawn to grow for the month. I'm wondering if that might be why we are now seeing more cowslips in our garden right now.

In the UK we've lost approximately **97%** of flower-rich meadows since the 1930's and with them gone are vital food needed by pollinators, like bees and butterflies.

But your lawn can help! A healthy lawn with some long grass and wildflowers benefits wildlife, tackles pollution and can even lock away carbon below ground. With over 20 million gardens in the UK, even the smallest grassy patches add up to a significant proportion of our land which, if managed properly, can deliver enormous gains for nature, communities and the climate.

This is why Plantlife calls for people to get involved with #NoMowMay every year, and let wild plants get a head start on the summer. To register or find out more visit <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>

Other tips for greener gardening this Spring

- Use less water by mulching and/or using a water butt.
- Recycle plastic plant pots and avoid using black pots

Family Fun Mornings at Christ Church Braintree

2023 saw the start of holiday Family Fun Mornings at Christ Church.

At our busy Thursday Tots groups during term-time we had heard the comment several times that they missed the group during the holidays – but as the Tots group was set up for 0-5 year olds and many parents have older children too, meeting during the school holidays in the same format wasn't the answer. So, we decided to set up a group for 0-11 year olds and their parents that was more structured and bible-based and, 1 year on, after 7 sessions (1 in each holiday and 2 during the summer) it is proving very popular.



We start the session with holding activities (mazes, wordsearch, colouring and some baby toys) while everyone is registering, and then we move to some beanbags where we watch a bible story on the screen, have a song and a game and finish with an interactive prayer activity before moving into the hall where the craft activities are set out. There are usually 6 or 7 different activities for them to choose from including a food-based activity, playdough and Duplo. The children and their adult can choose whichever activities they want to do for about 30 minutes and then we move to the tables set with snacks and share some food together including the food craft they have completed. During this time hot drinks are available for the adults too.

Each of the craft tables are manned by a volunteer – we are so lucky to have people at Christ Church who are enthusiastic about working with the children. We have also introduced a break out room where music is playing and there are small sensory boxes available as we have several children who have additional needs and find it hard to stay in the noisy craft environment.



After the session the crafts are displayed in the smaller hall where our Lunch club and Craft club members can enjoy them and see what we have been doing.



DAY of PRAYER

SATURDAY
18TH May



WITHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Chelmsford Circuit Day of Prayer

10am till 1pm

Discovering Hidden Treasurers

Worship starts at 10am led by Rev'd Femi Cole-Njie which leads to time at prayer stations.

Prayer Stations

Celtic Cross Making with John Clemo

Climate Change with Sheridan Pengelly

Older People/End of Life with Val Carter

Young People with Dianne Hodgkinson

Come back together with Rev'd Femi Cole-Njie

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Refreshments Available

Witham Methodist Church CM8 1BJ

Public Car Park Newlands Drive

Unable to attend: Prayer Handouts will be available from churches beforehand or you can download copies from:

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



DISTRICT DAY

**Our forthcoming District Day will be held on
Wednesday 22nd May from 10.30 am
to approximately 3.30 pm.**

We shall meet at The Methodist Church, The Square, Dunstable LU6 3SN.

Parking is in the car park immediately behind the church: it is not too expensive!

We are hoping that some Ukrainian ladies will be with us to share their experience of living in Dunstable.

Please come along.

And bring your friends too: everyone is very welcome.

We shall have some MWiB merchandise available to purchase - there is some very nice new wooden merchandise available made in oak - wooden crosses, book marks, key rings.





COMMUNITY PRAYER WALK

SATURDAY 15TH JUNE 2024
PRAYER WALK 10.30AM

Starting from
Moulsham Lodge Methodist Church
Lime Walk, Chelmsford CM2 9NJ

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

EVERYONE IS 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 second in a series of walks in various parts around
Chelmsford. Could you can suggest places where we could meet?

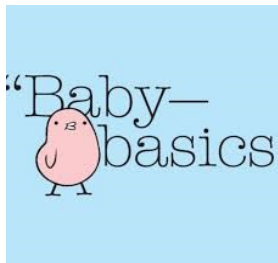
The **Methodist** Church 

BABY BASICS and CHELMSFORD CHESS HOMELESS



These two charities were set up with the help of members of Chelmsford Methodist Churches.

CHESS Homeless has been running many years after Churches Together in Chelmsford trialled night shelters for homeless people. Hall Street Methodist Church was one of the buildings used until the Chelmsford Homeless Emergency Shelter Scheme (or CHESS for short) found premises they could use in George Street. After that volunteers from many local churches helped run the George Street Centre, not only to be on hand overnight to help, but also to cook and clean and do many other jobs. Lately, CHESS took over and redesigned the interior of the old Red Cross building in New London Road, which was renamed Hodgkinson House after CHESS's chairman David Hodgkinson, a member of Broomfield Methodist Church. With so many homeless people needing help in Chelmsford, the charity is now embarking on creating a 24-bed shelter and has asked for donations to raise the £2.7 million cost.



Baby Basics Chelmsford is a more recently created charity which was started by the Mortimer family, members of Moulsham Lodge Methodist Church, to meet the needs of mothers and babies in and around Chelmsford. Many mothers are unable to provide the basics for their newborns, so the charity provides a Moses Basket filled with essentials for baby

and mother.

Referrals come through Midwives etc and in the 2-3 years the charity has been running, over 500 Moses Baskets have been given out. The charity is helped by several volunteers and continues to need donations for this wonderful work.

Last March a sponsored walk was organised between the railway stations of Braintree and Chelmsford – a distance of 17 miles – **Please could you donate towards the £1000 target (£500 will go to each charity)?**

If you can please log on to the website:-

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/malcolm-lees


 Present
LERNER & LOEWE'S



My Fair Lady

Book and Lyrics by **ALAN JAY LERNER** Music by **FREDERICK LOEWE**
 Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's play and Gabriel Pascal's motion picture "PYGMALION"
 Original production directed and staged by Moss Hart

15th-18th May 2024
7.30pm nightly
2.30pm Saturday Matinee

Book Online: www.chelmsfordtheatre.co.uk
 Ticket Office 01245 606505




This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

Stitch to Enrich

Come and make friends
 as we chat, stitch and relax

1st and 3rd Thursdays each month
 2pm – 4pm
 The Coffee Lounge
 Hatfield Peverel Village Hall
 Maldon Road, CM3 2HP

We share the joy of stitching and friendship.

A warm welcome awaits you...
 For more information, please contact Jane Cook 07827 594535 or
Stitch2enrich@gmail.com




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
 July & August by
 Mid June at latest.**