

September 2025 to 2026

CELEBRATING
THE WORK
OF *God*
IN THE CHELMSFORD
METHODIST CIRCUIT



GROWING FAITH
Lives transformed
as we follow Jesus
and grow together
in faith.



**BUILDING
COMMUNITY**
Welcoming all,
journeying together
and loving our
neighbours.



**SERVING
OTHERS**
Sharing God's love
through compassion,
justice and acts of
kindness.



**SHINING
HOPE**
Bringing hope to
our communities
and making a
difference.



Together in God's Purpose
ONE CIRCUIT, MANY CHURCHES, ONE MISSION
Sharing God's love. Making disciples. Transforming lives.



“ I can do all this through him
who gives me strength.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13



**WORSHIP
TOGETHER**



**GROW IN
FAITH**



**SERVE OUR
COMMUNITIES**



**SUPPORT
EACH OTHER**



**SHARE HOPE
WITH THE WORLD**

Thank you, God, for all you are doing in our Circuit. 

Appreciation and thanks to all who contributed to our annual publication. It is much appreciated.

BROOMFIELD

Our church family and Worship

We have been delighted to welcome new folk to our church family of all ages. With more Local arrangement services to organise we are pleased that this is shared between the Overcomers group, the newly formed worship group and the worship leader. We have been blessed to be led in inspiring and encouraging acts of worship by our ministers, local preachers and members of our own congregation.

Children's Ministry

Heather Steed kindly left a legacy to the church, and it was decided to spend the money on developing a corner for children to play and craft at the back of the church. This is a fitting memorial to Heather as she always loved children, and it will be called Heather's Corner. Cupboards have been fitted to house the toys and craft materials, and a carpet has been fitted. A craft table and chairs have been ordered and a small settee large enough for a child and carer to share a story together. Our Messy Mums are making bunting to decorate the corner. We are pleased that we do have families with children worshipping with us and, we are praying, that Heather's Corner will help to encourage more families to come and worship with us. Messy Church continues to meet monthly on Monday between 3-5:30pm, although sometimes it is difficult to persuade the families to go home, they are having such a good time. We have a very dedicated team of helpers, and we are grateful for them all, especially our three helpers from Moulsham Lodge, a great example of how we can help each other to develop ministry in all our churches. Below are some of the activities the children took part in at our" Messy Church goes Wild at the Allotment."



An offshoot of Messy church is Messy Mums, which meets

once a month on a Monday evening. This is an opportunity to have some well-earned "Time Out" away from family and work responsibilities to learn new crafts, chat and "just be" in a safe space. We have painted plates, made macrame rainbows, made Christmas cards, created things out of clay and Lego and enjoyed each other's company.

Other activities

The Men's Supper Club meets regularly to enjoy a three-course meal cooked by members, with the opportunity to get to know each other better and enjoy fellowship.

The Overcomers

This group meets every other week on a Wednesday morning to sing hymns and songs, read and discuss Bible passages, share each other's journeys of faith stories, pray together and prepare worship services at church and in our local care home. The Overcomers welcomes all, nurturing and supporting each other through both joyful and challenging times.



Eco Church

For the past two years we have supported TWAM (Tools with a Mission) as our church charity. This has engaged our local community in Broomfield as well as folk from all parts of Chelmsford in bringing in

preloved tools, sewing machines and haberdashery, for refurbishment and distribution to countries in Africa, where folk have been able to set up their own business, using the materials and support from TWAM. This work will continue in Broomfield I am sure, even though we now have a new charity to support. Many carloads of donated tools etc have found their way to the refurbishment centre in Ipswich.

Our lovely church garden provides a place where wildlife can flourish, and people can find a place of peace, stillness and healing.

Ministry in the Community

Christmas

Last year BMC hosted the village Christmas Tree festival, and the church was open for three afternoons and all day on the Saturday for visitors to come and admire the trees. Both children and adults enjoyed taking part in the Nativity trail, where participants had to find 12 different Nativity Scenes, collect a letter at each and then decode the Christmas word the letters made.

During that week woollen sheep were placed in the shops and services in Broomfield and families were invited to find the names of all the sheep! The silver Band also gave a Christmas concert and on the final Sunday afternoon families were invited to join a torchlight procession from the

village hall to BMC to enjoy Christmas stories, songs and crafts, with hot chocolate and gingerbread men to sustain them.

We are delighted that the village have voted to hold the Christmas Tree Festival at BMC again this Christmas. We would love it, if anyone from the circuit churches, could join us and perhaps even lend a hand.



BMC were also represented at the Village Flower Festival, held at St Mary's Church where the theme was Hymns and songs. Hilary produced a stunning display based on the hymn "O for a thousand tongues to sing"

BMC were there again at the Village

Fayre providing craft activities for the children and around 60-70 families came to visit our marquee.

The 3B's (Baby Bereavement Support Group) continues to meet providing a safe space for families to shed their tears, share their experiences and talk about their babies. The Peace Garden is visited often by our families, where the names of their babies are engraved on a metal tree, and where families are encouraged to plant flowers in remembrance of their precious little ones. Twice a year the church is flooded with candlelight, and calming music and families are invited to come along and light candles for their children and write messages to them.

A Toddler group also meets once a month, where no awkward questions like, "How many children do you have?" are asked.

At the other end of the age spectre BMC folk lead a service in our local care home, where two of our church family have their home. The services are well received by both residents and staff.

Dianne Hodgkinson

CHRIST CHURCH COGGESHALL

Christmas was busy, as always. As part of the community Christmas market, we organised a Christmas Tree festival and Christingle-making. We also hosted the very popular Christmas Eve carol singing in market hill, printing 300 carols sheets and still running out.



Our weekly toddler group is thriving, and we have regular attendance at our coffee morning. We are also pleased to host and support the relaunched Christian youth club, which is organised by the three churches in Coggeshall.

We are grateful for Lynsey's continued support one day a week, while we seek a part-time, community-focussed minister.

GT NOTLEY

As we wrestled with low finances, low morale, and big changes in our team and church community, there was a sense of winter. And yet, as a bulb grows underground for a long time before it reaches the light, so God has been preparing and leading us into a new season, into growth. 1 Corinthians chapter 3 reminds us that “God alone brings the growth” and so we give God the glory.

As we give thanks to God, we give thanks too to all who are “co-workers” with God – to all who worship here, to all who volunteer, to all who give generously of their time and their skills and to all who contribute financially to the church. It is a joy to share in ministry together. Particular thanks go to the Church Council, for all their hard work which goes on behind the scenes and their faithfulness to God and to the Church.

This year the Church Council established a Mission Action plan, with five key priorities for 2025.

Focus on building up All Age Worship.

We endeavour that this is an intergenerational service that is engaging for all ages, so are grateful for the support and encouragement from all ages and stages in faith.

Become a more welcoming church.

This year we increased the number of welcomers and changed the layout slightly to make our church more accessible. We have also made some necessary changes to our building to make sure it is safe for all. The Church Council adopted policies that helped us to welcome others which meant that we were able to host a Notley High School student on work experience for a week during last the summer. We know that welcoming is the responsibility of the whole church, so thanks to all who befriend, support, and encourage each other.

Establish and improve links with the local community and seek opportunities to serve, support, and be a blessing to them.

As part of the 80th anniversary of the VE day celebrations, we worked with Great Notley Parish Council to host an event on the green opposite the church. Thanks were expressed to all those who assisted to make us part of such a wonderful community occasion.

Our Christmas Tree Festival brought together so many different community groups and was very well attended. It was also good to work with the Parish Council again for the Torchlight procession which walked from the church to the Great Notley community centre.

We established a new sensory room to enhance our existing family room. The need for this came about by listening to members of the community, including Little Notley's preschool and Notley Green School. We are grateful to the various grant giving bodies who have provided the funding to make this possible.

We maintain good links with Notley Green School by donating weekly home baked cakes to show love to the staff. It was great to host their school art exhibition in the spring and to welcome parents and carers into our church building. It is also good to have regular contact through Church services with White Court School again.

Develop a discipleship pathway.

As a result of our Alpha courses, we had the joy of baptising two people on Easter Sunday by full immersion, marking their confirmations later in the year. We also had the privilege of combining the baptism of a mum at the thanksgiving of her toddler daughter.

In Lent we hosted eight children for a first communion course for children across our three church benefice. They went on to receive Holy Communion before being confirmed.

Across benefice, various courses were offered to help people grow in faith including two Lent courses, an autumn course on the Nicene Creed, and another Alpha course in September to November.

Work towards becoming a Bronze Eco Church in 2025.

An Eco Church group was formed to help us make progress here. We are delighted to say that we have achieved our Bronze Award. We are also making progress in achieving funding to install solar panels at the church.

It is good to remember that we share in the task of ministry. Thank you to the Methodist and Baptist church for their support in providing us with ministers. Thanks to all who run groups and to all who support and care for each other and the wider community. Thanks to all for everything they contribute individually in our shared life together. And, of course, thanks be to God, who has begun a good work in us and who we can trust to bring it to completion! (Philippians 1.6)

June Frisbee

HALSTEAD

We were very pleased to welcome Rev Dr Jennifer Walters to Halstead in September last year. Jennifer has been extremely supportive in all directions and especially with the development of the Junior Church with the number of children who now attend each week. The positive influence on our church family by Jennifer has been recognised.

In the autumn of 2025, we were thrilled to have a Christening in the church – something that has not been witnessed here for a few years. We enthusiastically welcomed baby Great into our church family.

The young people of our church have been very involved with organising various services during the year. Notably the Nativity Service which took on a modern theme with Jesus being born in the car park at the back of the Premier Inn and The Three Wisemen travelled by train! A Christmas party was organised for the children of our Junior Church where they enjoyed various games and activities along with a surprise visit from Father Christmas who came bearing gifts!

Moving on to Easter we had Sherlock Holmes and the children investigating the disappearance of The Missing Body! This was a most memorable service.

In the Spring a new mid-week group was formed for anyone who would like to communicate socially on a monthly basis. We have invited speakers each month, play games, have a quiz master and the obligatory tea, cake & chat. The group have named themselves the Wobbly Wednesday Club. Everybody is welcome from the general community.

During the summer some of the older children joined Jennifer for the activity's day at Bradwell on Sea and had a wonderful time. Thank you to all involved.

The Junior Church Anniversary in July was organised and led by them, and it was their decision to have the theme 'How the life of Christ affects Young Christians Lives today. At the end of the service, they all received prizes. Two of our young boys asked about doing some voluntary work in the community, as encouraged by their school and we organised for them to do litter picking on behalf of Halstead in Bloom and were awarded with certificates which were presented to them in church.

We are very fortunate to have volunteers keen to lead a local arrangement or an own arrangement service at Halstead and one member will be starting her official training very soon to take on the role of Worship Leader.

Halstead has been fortunate enough to have the benefit of a projection system and Wi-Fi for which we are most grateful to the Circuit for funding and also to William who has spent many hours installing. We have now arrived in the modern age.

Finally, we are thankful to the Circuit & District for the financial support, by way of grants that have been agreed, for the upcoming replacement of some of the church windows.

Helen Catley

HATFIELD PEVEREL

“Work of God “Sept 2025 to Sept 2026 Hatfield Peverel

Soon after writing last year’s report we were delighted to welcome Rev. Jennifer Walters to be our new Minister starting in September. Since then, we have always enjoyed and been inspired by her refreshing and thoughtful forms of worship. We have also been especially grateful to her for her guidance and constant encouragement as we endeavor to follow the Myriad Vision of “Shining the Light of Jesus in Hatfield Peverel”.

So, as well as warmly welcoming all visitors to our regular 9.15am Sunday services, we have continued with our regular bible study meetings and our Seasonal Craft Sundays during which we celebrate Harvest, Christmas or Easter, by providing appropriate crafts for everyone to get involved with.

As a consequence, many more people have been encouraged to enter their crafts into the village Spring and Autumn Horticultural Shows which are important community events. Naturally the increase of entries ensures the success of the shows and pleases the organizers. Also, many members of our church” Stitch 2 Enrich” group (still popular after it’s conception 6 years ago) enjoy entering a variety of sewn, knitted or crocheted items and more recently, unique types of fabric pots.

Our St 2 En group has also continued to support a local charity called “Kinder Essex” by making seasonal decorations for the charity to include in their Gift Bags, that they give out to lonely local people during Christmas and Easter, to show that “someone cares” At present some members are also knitting poppies for the Chelmsford Remembrance appeal.

Other ways of showing that we are active in Hatfield Peverel has been to sing Christmas carols in our local pub, where we were enthusiastically accompanied by the customers! and in June, having a table at the annual Community Event where any individuals, social groups, businesses, charities, are invited to advertise their services.

Then more recently in July we had a tent at the village “Party in the Park” event, from where we enjoyed giving out “I am Loved” stickers, to everyone passing by, which were happily received with very warm smiles. So

hopefully we managed to pass on the message that Jesus said, “as I have loved you, so you must love one another”.

Now hoping to continue conveying this message, we are looking forward to a special service organized by local Christians, to warmly welcome and encourage, people of **all faiths or none, to come** together to worship and pray. This event will take place at St. Andrew’s Church Hall, Hatfield Peverel on Thursday Sept 10th at 7.30pm, with refreshments available from 7.00pm.

ALL are Welcome!

Aileen French

MALDON

It has been another busy year in the life of Maldon Methodist Church. We started the year by welcoming our new minister, Rev Jennifer, who has brought with her lots of energy, enthusiasm, and fresh ideas.

Outreach

Back in September, we had some serious concerns about the state of our roof, with a real worry that we might need a complete new roof. We now know that this is a few years down the line, but unexpectedly it was just the project we needed to bring the best out of the church. Fundraising has been a focus for this year, but through this we have developed some exciting new outreach activities and events. Nathan has been brilliant at organising two musical variety shows which were very well supported and received by both the circuit and the local community. Mark has organised two beetle drive afternoons for us, again bringing more people into the church, as well as raising some money and creating a lot of laughter!

We have re-started our monthly coffee morning every third Saturday of the month, which has also included a very successful table-top sale. Thursday's Knit and Natter group hosted by Mark and Moira continues to offer a space for vulnerable and isolated people to meet on a Thursday morning in a warm space, where they can also share in a light lunch.

The church has been opening its doors and welcoming in new people in so many different ways.

Mums and Tots

Our Monday morning toddler group continues to flourish with around 20 children attending every week. This year we have been able to offer some extras to help bring these families closer to our church family. Just before Christmas someone generously donated a Real Advent Calendar to every child which included a Christmas story booklet, and we had our Christmas party with Rev Jennifer leading the children through the nativity story.

In February we invited families to a pancake party, with pancake pass-the-parcel and pancake flipping, and far too much chocolate spread on cheeky faces. At Easter we had an Easter egg hunt for the children and again a

generous donation of an Easter egg and Easter story booklet for every child, plus an invitation to our activity morning on Easter Saturday. And finally, at the end of the summer term, we had a Teddy Bear's picnic when members of the congregation were also invited to bring their teddies and meet the families.

The families from our toddler group have also supported the church's fundraising efforts by filling up Smartie tubes with 20p pieces, and we look forward to welcoming older brothers and sisters to our Holiday Club this summer. It is with these families in mind that we are starting a monthly Messy Church in September on the second Monday of each month from 3:45-5:15pm. Please pray for us as we seek to connect with families in our community in new ways.

Worship

Having more LA appointments on the plan has encouraged a number of us to become involved in planning and leading worship. This can be nerve-racking but is also developing our confidence in talking about our faith and giving us new opportunities to be part of church life.

On Christmas eve, we had a beautiful and gentle candle-lit service, and Rev Jennifer led us in a reflective and intimate service on Maundy Thursday evening. On Good Friday Churches Together in Maldon invited our church to organise a dramatized bible reading, at the Catholic Church, covering the events of Holy Week. This was followed by a silent walk of witness up the High Street. Always an impactful moment is the symbolic banging of the nails into the large wooden cross outside our church. We finished our walk with a street-side reflection in the grounds of All Saints followed by hot cross buns and hot drinks

Keyring worship for older people continues every Tuesday afternoon and the Wesley Guild still meet fortnightly to reflect together and share in activities.

It has been a joy this year to re-start in joining in worship with our friends from the URC. Our stewards have met with their elders several times this year, where we are exploring the question "What can we do better together?". Both the summer Holiday Club and Messy Church are joint

projects, and we have already planned a joint Harvest service and lunch for September.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and the new adventures and challenges which will come our way.

Julie, Maureen, Sue, Pam and Tony

MOULSHAM LODGE

The church year opened with a joint service with St Lukes hosted by them. There have been a further two joint services with shared hosting. We are delighted that our ties are growing stronger as we share more worship together, although the coordination of Church of England and Methodist preaching plans does not always aid the process. We split our Harvest and Parade services this year as the previous night's Brigade sleepover meant that the leaders needed a much-earned rest. Harvest focused on and raised significant donations for the Foodbank, with the church decoration again enjoyed by all concerned. The split did mean that the parade service in late October could concentrate completely on the Brigades and their renewal of promises, such an important part of their year and one we are pleased to be a part of.

United three Chelmsford churches services were held almost every month led by a number of individuals, Moulsham hosting a couple over the twelve months. Our worship at many of these has been enhanced by the formation of a three churches choir. Discussions have continued regarding the proposed restructuring of the three Chelmsford churches, and the outcome will be determined in the coming year.

Christmas as always is busy, some highlights being, joining others to sing carols off site, a three churches advent service at Broomfield, our annual carol service led by Rev Asif and of course our Christmas morning Service led by Clive, one of our own local preachers.

Moving on to March we celebrated our 64th church anniversary and were joined again by the brigades, with a service of thanksgiving led by our Sue Johnson. We celebrated Easter weekend with a reflection on Good Friday afternoon led by Clive Pickett and Elizabeth Hobbs leading worship on Easter Day. Both services were well attended. We are grateful to all the Circuit Local Preachers for taking such an active role in our church worship and especially our own Sue, Clive, Jim and Glenda who at times step in when vacancies arise. We are truly blessed.

We continue to host a range of different activities and groups, some directly connected with the church such as Friendship Club, Coffee Club, A Bible study group, Prayer group and a link with our support of the Baby basics

team. A significant number of our members give of their time and resources not only to support the church here at Moulsham but also to support other organisations beyond our premises locally, such as the Chelmsford Foodbank, the Baby Basics charity, assisting with Messy Church elsewhere in the circuit and in many other quiet ways through donations to organisations both at home and abroad.

A group of our congregation reached a special birthday this year and to celebrate this they held a birthday party cream tea to which everyone was welcome. It was a time of great joy to share in the celebration of the years experienced.

Our premises are available to rent ranging from birthday parties through to our friends from the Zimbabwean church meeting here almost every Sunday lunchtime. Whoever is on our premises we try to ensure they receive a warm welcome, whether known to us or less so.

We always try to focus on providing the best worship experience that we can and to be a welcoming church. All our events are well supported and we are in a relatively strong position but, as stated last year, we are all maturing, (hopefully spiritually as well as physically).

To conclude, it is easy to read this as a report on church activities for the year and to not appreciate that actually it is only through God's grace that the church exists at all and everything that is written above is "God at work" in His church which we are privileged to be called to serve and/or to worship in. So thank you Lord for your guiding presence throughout the past year and we look forward to what You have in store for us in the coming one.

Bob Griffin

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS

Work of God report to Circuit from South Woodham Ferrers August 2026

We have had a busy year at Holy Trinity and are pleased to report our continuing activities that take place to spread and share God's word alongside some new initiatives.

"Open the bible" project run by a group of members in the Church is now well established in the town and regularly goes into 2 local schools. This is a wonderful outreach project for the younger members of our community.

Val is an an Anna Chaplain and The Anna Chaplaincy offers spiritual support to older people who are living in care homes and to their relatives and the staff who look after them. It also promotes the spiritual welfare of older people in the community, particularly those facing challenges living independently in their own homes. Val leads a monthly Memory Worship service at Windle Court and Eastham Care Homes - our local care homes. She also visits Windle Court weekly to speak with residents, family and staff.

Monthly Creative Church with Arts and Crafts activities for local children and their parents continues on the first Saturday of the month in the local Church School Hall. The numbers attending monthly are gradually increasing and those who run the group are particularly encouraged by the interaction with the parents and feel it is a wonderful outreach opportunity to spread the word of God by telling the children and parents of God's love for everyone. Those attending are repeatedly amazed that the morning is free! No charge for the activities or refreshments! In April we had a full house with the town Easter Egg hunt culminating at Holy Trinity church. The children made Easter Garden baskets, and it was encouraging to note how many of them knew the details of the Easter story because they had heard it at school.

It was a most enjoyable morning with lots of new faces, many of whom returned for the May session, which we were able to hold outside because of the sunny morning. (This always attracts lots of passing families plus our

regular attendees). Reverend Jennifer has encouraged many new families to attend Arts and Crafts for which we thank her.

We had a tree of Joy in Church during the Festive season to collect toys and Gifts for children who would not usually receive a gift at Christmas. It was very well supported and people gave generously.

Our annual Town Carol Service was held in the church. It was led by the minister of the Evangelical Church, Rev Adrian Ward. All denominations from the town took part and some of the local schools. It was lovely to have a full church!

World Day of Prayer took place on March 6th in our Church and was attended by people from all the denominations in South Woodham Ferrers. We all enjoyed fellowship and refreshments after the service.

Two exciting new initiatives took place this year. one was the Alpha course which took place from February to June and Cafe Church/Worship which started in May. Rev Jennifer sends two reports to be included in this Work of God report on these events.

Alpha course report – SWF

Back in early February, a group of around 20–25 of us began meeting every Thursday to explore the Alpha Course together. For twelve weeks we gathered — sometimes tired, sometimes curious, sometimes full of questions — but always ready to learn. What made this Alpha particularly special is that, for the first time in South Woodham Ferrers, all **three congregations** and all **three clergy** came together to talk openly about faith and what it means in our lives.

Alpha began in 1977 at Holy Trinity Brompton in London, and since then it has grown far beyond its original home. Today it runs in more than 100 countries and over 100 languages, with millions of people having taken part. It's amazing to think that our little Thursday morning group is part of something so wide and global.

Each week we shared hospitality, watched the Alpha video for that session, and then broke into small groups for discussion. The topics were wide-ranging — from “Why did Jesus die?” to “Why and how do I pray?” to “Does

God heal today?” — and the conversations that followed were honest, thoughtful, and often very moving.

One of the greatest joys has been sharing this journey with our Anglican and Catholic sisters and brothers. Week by week, as we talked, prayed, and listened to one another, it became clear that **what unites us is far, far greater than what divides us**. The friendships formed and the trust built across our churches have been a real gift.

Alpha has been a blessing to all of us who took part, and we look forward to seeing where God leads us next.

Café W

In February 2026 a team of folks from South Woodham Ferrers answered the call and met to decide whether the time was right to start an informal, café-style time of worship. The idea came as a response to conversations at the monthly Arts and Craft Drop-in on Saturday morning, where parents were expressing curiosity about faith and church, but we felt that there wasn't an appropriate service to invite them along to. So, Café W was born.

With a team of people on board, we held our first Café W in May, having decided on the second Sunday of the month. Our theme was “Growing together”. We have used June and July to develop the team and to settle into a rhythm. We have had a mixture of people attending of all ages and from different denominations. Café W welcomes everyone.

We are taking a break in August but plan to return on 13th September at our usual time of 4pm when our theme will be “Wonder and Creation”. All new initiatives take time to embed, and we look forward to welcoming the curious and the seekers in the Autumn.

Something else new this year has been a weekly coffee and discussion meeting. Coffee is served whilst watching an episode of ‘The Chosen’ together followed by a time of questions and discussion.

We continue to support the food bank in the town This is an increasingly successful venture. Volunteers from all churches in the town, including the Methodist, help to make the project the success it has become. As well as supplying food, volunteers are there to listen and we are able to help individuals and families with emotional and spiritual support.

As a church we continue to support a range of Charities throughout the year and try to respond to the needs in the community and support local ventures. We regularly support Action for Children together with donations to Methodist Homes, Christian Aid, MMHS, MSF, All we can, Chess, Easter Offering, Alzheimer's Association, DEC and LWPT. We have had a range of retiring collections for disaster funds during the year as appropriate.

We continue to show and share the love of God to each other by phoning and sending messages to each other. Flowers and cards are sent as appropriate to show that we care.

Regular activities include:

Our Anna Chaplain coffee shop drop-in at Costa Coffee SWF every Monday between 1-3pm continues in its second year. This is an opportunity for anyone on their own or wanting to chat to join us at the table. The conversations are wide ranging from questions about heaven to discussions about grandchildren.

Weekly prayer group

Coffee after the Sunday Service

House group/bible study every fortnight.

I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the life of the church and helps in whatever way in witnessing and spreading God's love. We are also very grateful to Rev Jennifer for her unfailing commitment, enthusiasm and support in her first year of ministry with us.

Tricia Tutin

ST AUGUSTINES

God's hand has been guiding us through another year. He has been close as we have planned events and services with young, mature, new worshippers to the faith, and steady, enthusiastic members. St Augustine's Ecumenical church is still without a permanent leader, but the church council, dedicated church wardens and church members continue to support events. God is with us and we pray at every service that a suitable person might be inspired to answer the advert to lead our church.

We have no vicar, but the church is still available for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Through our Methodist links, Val Carter attends our church council meetings and arranged a beautiful Maundy Thursday service. Rev Jennifer Walters led a Remembrance service and Rev Asif Karam took a special Golden Wedding service for two of our church members. Sally Croft, Church of England, conducted a baptism, and last October, the Arch Deacon Ven Jonathan Croucher led worship with Holy Communion. Rev David from URC has taken a few services.

We have enjoyed well supported fundraising events, fetes, Quiz night and a Murder Mystery evening. Many families attended a Pancake Party and Eco Messy church. We continue to have a regular programme, apart from the Sunday Service, of Mums and Tots, Sunday School, Beer and beverage at the local pub and Craft and Chat twice a month, a lent course and a regularly updated prayer list concerning local needs in the community.

We pray for all the churches in the Chelmsford area that God's Spirit is with them in love and wisdom, and we thank God for helping us with the advice and encouragement from different people during this past year.

Pamela Scammell

TRINITY

The past twelve months have been another inspiring chapter in the life of Trinity Methodist Church, as our congregation has continued to grow in faith, friendship and service. Through worship, celebration and outreach, we have remained true to our mission of proclaiming God's love in Jesus Christ while offering a warm welcome to everyone who walks through our doors.

Testimonial

Indeed, our church is close to Chelmsford city centre, and this has the advantage that we often get folk who are new to Chelmsford or to the UK coming to services. For just over a year, we had a mother and her adult daughter from China regularly attend our services. They had both suffered persecution for their Christian faith and were seeking asylum here. They had very limited use of English when they first joined us but were able to communicate using Google Translate. As a congregation, we were saddened when the Home Office moved them to other accommodation, away from Chelmsford, after a year with us. Their asylum claim has now been accepted, so they have been permitted to remain in the UK for 5 years and can now look for work. It was a great pleasure to have them worship with us for a year and to see the deep faith they have. We keep in touch with them and things are working out well for them now.

Sunday by Sunday, our regular services have remained at the heart of church life. Led by our minister, Rev. Asif Karam, together with local preachers and worship leaders, each service has provided opportunities to reflect on God's word, share in prayer and praise, and support one another in faith. Holy Communion, All Age Worship, Local Arrangement services and United Services with churches across the Chelmsford Methodist Circuit have all enriched our worship throughout the year.

Children and Family support at Services

A section at the back of the Worship Area was created with young children and families in mind with lots of toys and books. We regularly have visitors use this area and it's encouraging to see young families in Church.

The church has marked the seasons of the Christian calendar with joy and thanksgiving. Advent and Christmas brought opportunities to celebrate the birth of Christ through special services, music and fellowship. During Lent and Holy Week, we journeyed together towards Easter, celebrating the resurrection with hope and renewed faith. Harvest, Pentecost and other significant occasions have also provided moments for thanksgiving and celebration within our church family.

One of Trinity's greatest strengths continues to be its welcoming community. After Sunday worship, members and visitors alike have enjoyed time together over tea and coffee, building friendships and offering encouragement. The church has remained a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can find belonging, support and companionship.

Regular Social and Charity Events

We give thanks to our volunteers who have arranged coffee mornings, mid-week meals and Friendship Lunch on some Sundays and Charity Coffee Mornings for McMillan Cancer. In addition, we support a 'Toward One World Project' which is currently supporting our Ministers and their Circuits in Zimbabwe buy purchasing goats for them to rear and sell.

Beyond Sunday worship, Trinity has continued to serve the wider Chelmsford community by providing a home for numerous local organisations and community groups. Our buildings have been used throughout the week by charities, support groups, youth organisations and community activities, demonstrating our commitment to serving others in practical as well as spiritual ways.

These include:

AA Groups – Women's Refuge – Homestart for Families – Bereavement - Scouts – Brownies and Rainbows – Japanese exchange students.

Throughout the year, the Church Notices have kept members informed about worship, pastoral news, forthcoming events, prayer requests and opportunities to volunteer. These publications have helped strengthen the sense of connection across our church family and celebrated the many ways people contribute their gifts and talents to the life of Trinity.

The past year has also seen Trinity continue to work closely with the Chelmsford Methodist Circuit, sharing in United Services and circuit-wide events that remind us we are part of a much larger Methodist family. These occasions have strengthened relationships between neighbouring churches while providing opportunities for shared worship and fellowship.

As we look back, there is much to give thanks for: faithful worship, joyful celebrations, committed volunteers, dedicated leadership and the many acts of kindness that often go unseen but make such a difference. Above all, we thank God for His guidance and faithfulness throughout another year.

Looking ahead, Trinity Methodist Church continues to look forward with confidence and hope. Guided by our mission to be a place of welcome, worship and nurture, we pray that God will continue to bless our congregation as we seek to belong, learn and grow together, serving our community with love and compassion.

We give thanks for all that has been achieved over the past twelve months and look forward with anticipation to all that lies ahead.

TESTIMONIALS

WHITECHAPEL MISSION

Arranged by Keith and Jenne Essam.

We gratefully acknowledge your generous donation of clothing, towels, sleeping bags and rucksacks.

Please accept and pass on our grateful thanks to the members of Trinity Methodist – Chelmsford for their generous donation which will be used for the Mission's work of providing the daily support for those sleeping rough in London or rely upon our support.

We are seeing new faces, with new worries – people who are desperately in need of food, shelter, advice and hope offered at The Whitechapel Mission.

On behalf of everybody here at The Whitechapel Mission, thank you for your support. With your support we can continue delivering life

changing services to vulnerable people of London, drawing on our many years of experience.

We remain open and serving.

Molly Aleksandrov

On behalf of Whitechapel Mission

CHELMSFORD HOMESTART

A wonderful donation for our Chelmsford Family Support Group. We are incredibly grateful to the staff and congregation of Trinity Methodist Church, where our Chelmsford Family Support Group is held, for their generous support of local families.

They have kindly raised £500, which we have used to provide Tesco vouchers to help our families with the ongoing rise in food costs - a hugely practical and much-needed form of support.

Alongside this, they also collected essential items including sanitary products, toothpaste, body wash and shampoo, helping to support families with everyday needs.

Acts of kindness like this make a real difference to families in our community - thank you to everyone involved for your generosity and thoughtfulness

WITHAM

As we reflect on the Church year which has nearly ended it is amazing to see just how much we have done and how God has so wonderfully guided us.

Our year began when we were privileged to host the welcome service for Rev. Jennifer to the circuit and Rev. Asif to his new role. It was good to welcome folk from around the circuit and guests from other Churches and the local community.

Rev. Jennifer's first service at Witham was a joyful Harvest Thanksgiving followed by a delicious 'Bring and Share' Lunch.

The folk at Witham have always been very generous in their giving and this year was no exception with donations of food and money going to the Foodbank which we are proud to host weekly.

In fact, kindness and generosity had been a constant theme throughout the year.

Our fortnightly Coffee Pot group decorated our Church most beautifully for our Remembrance Sunday Service and Christmas.

They also spearheaded our Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal which this year broke our record for the number of boxes filled.

Our Children's Saturday Club continues to thrive and the team, alongside our friends at St Nicolas Parish Church organized a successful Light Party in October, an Easter Holiday Club and a Summer Holiday Club.

A highlight of Christmas was the Pop-up Nativity with the young people producing an amazing play. Special thanks must go to the Saturday Club Team with help from others within the Circuit. This also incorporated a beautiful Christingle Service with real candles! The event passed without incident which just shows how very careful our young people can be when given such responsibility.

Our building has had a bit of a 'Spruce-Up' this year with some internal and external painting, renovation of the large exterior cross and a new sign.

When some work was carried out on the fascias and soffits we had confirmed what we already knew, our 1960's felt roof needs replacing!

One of our congregation has a passion for fund raising and as a result of the great generosity of the congregation and a number of fund raising initiatives, (we have completed a tricky quiz, filled jam jars and Smartie tubes with coins, had a clothing sale, and enjoyed a lunch and Afternoon Strawberry Tea), not only has this raised much needed funds but has been a great opportunity to work together towards a common goal.

The Church as continued to play an active role in Churches Together in Witham with combined services, an outdoor Easter Witness and a service to mark World Day of Prayer which this year was held at one of our neighbouring churches which has not hosted a CTiW service before. We are very mindful of the enormous workload of Rev. Jennifer and so it was our pleasure to host the Advent and Lent Bible Studies which she led and proved very popular.

We now have a Church website thanks to Rev. Jennifer and Michael Polley; if you have not looked at it yet, please do. We look forward to seeing how well it reaches folk outside our Church.

We also continue to use our Church WhatsApp, and this is the platform that we use for our monthly Prayer Meetings.

This summary can only be a small snapshot of what has happened throughout the year, but it is good to sometimes stop and reflect just what God has done in and through us and we give Him all the thanks and praise.

Chris and Jenny Jarvis