

## **AROUND THE CIRCUIT: MAY 2016**

### **CIRCUIT NEWS**

#### **From the Superintendent**

Next time you pick up a copy of the Circuit Plan take a look at the list of ministers on the front. Officially we have 3 ministers stationed in our Circuit (falling to 2.5 next year), but we actually list 13 colleagues on our plan! There are retired ministers living in the Circuit, but there are also ministers who work in specialist posts, or who are engaged in study, or who are colleagues from partner churches. We have colleagues who hail from Africa, from Korea from China and from the UK. We are a mixed bunch in every way.

The ministers are not the Circuit! But I draw your attention to that list because I think it says something very important – the Kingston on Thames Methodist Circuit is a very diverse community. We have ministers from different cultures and with very different ministries because our circuit is diverse and different, and because across London the Methodist Churches and Circuits which are growing are the ones which are welcoming diversity. As we explore the future to which God is calling us part of that future must surely be to see new and different things grow alongside the old and familiar ones.

God bless

Rev Stan Brown

#### **Circuit Service: Pentecost Sunday 15th May 6.30pm Surbiton Hill**

This promises to be a great celebration – Jilly Bridges will be admitted as a fully accredited Local Preacher, we will thank Dennis Doe for 40years of service as a preacher, and our Easter Offering will be dedicated. All of this, and music from our new worship band at SHMC!

#### **Ordination Service at SHMC 4.30pm July 3rd**

SHMC have once again been asked to host one of the ordination services which take place as part of the Methodist Conference, which will be meeting at Central Hall Westminster. The ordination services are all ticket events. Please apply for a ticket on line at the Methodist Church website: <http://www.methodist.org.uk/conference/conference-2016/ordinations/book-tickets>

We have been given only 40 general tickets for the local church, and these services are generally over-subscribed.

#### **Farewell to Rev Elizabeth Osei**

Elizabeth formally finishes in our Circuit at the end of July, and a Farewell Service has been arranged for her on the evening of 31st July at Chessington. Please come along to celebrate Elizabeth's ministry with us and pray for her as she moves on to the Newham Circuit.

#### **And... Welcome to Rev Andrew Clark**

Andy Clark will be welcomed as our new minister working with Chessington Methodist Church in a service at CMC at 6.30pm on Sunday 4th September. Rev Micky Youngson, our Chair of District, will be joining us to share in our welcome to Andy.

#### **News from the Circuit Meeting**

##### **Planning Ahead**

The Circuit Leadership Team has arranged an Away Day at the end of April to plan ahead. With membership static or declining in all our congregations, pressure on finance, and difficulties in finding enough volunteers for all our key roles in the life of the churches, there are real challenges ahead. The Leadership Team will look at hopes, dreams and visions for our Circuit. They will think and pray about our priorities and ways to release resources for mission.

## Finance

Last year (2014-15) our ministerial staffing was 3.2 full time equivalent (fte) ministers and a part time circuit administrator. This has led to a considerable deficit. This year (2015-16) the ministerial staffing has been reduced to 3.0 fte ministers, but there is still a significant deficit. Next year, however, with the staffing reduced to 2.5 fte ministers, our budget will balance, and we can begin to plan ahead more positively.

Several years of deficit budgeting have gradually eroded our reserves and the Circuit will now develop a policy on reserves (how much money we need to hold) and on grants (what are our mission priorities for using this money). The Circuit Meeting expressed gratitude for the enormous amount of work undertaken by Festus Mensah, our Circuit Treasurer.

## Korean Christian Fellowship

Following our fascinating conversation with members of the Korean Christian Fellowship in the January Circuit meeting we have now committed to a prayerful process of exploring the relationship of KCF to Chessington Methodist Church and to the Circuit.

## **CHURCH EVENTS**

### **Kingston**

Saturday 7 May: KMC invites you to our annual Plant and Produce Sale, now in its 40th year! Stalls include wonderful cakes and preserves, handicrafts, cards, toiletries and gifts, books and toys, and of course plants, plants, plants! Proceeds go to the Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness.

### **Surbiton Hill**

The next Quiet Day at the House of Prayer, Seymour Road, East Molesey will take place on 7 May, and will be led by Steven Talbot. The theme is '*Going Gently Amid the Noise*' and will explore the idea of finding sanctuary, using approaches from a range of spiritual and religious sources. This is a great opportunity to spend a day in quiet fellowship with others. It is open to everyone in the Church family and friends around the Circuit, and you are warmly invited to join us. The day will run from 10.00am to 3.30pm. Hot drinks and light snacks will be available, but you are asked to bring a packed lunch. There is plenty of parking on site. Although it is fine to just arrive on the day, it is helpful to have an idea of numbers expected as resources are prepared in advance. Please sign up on attendance lists on the noticeboards in the church vestibule or rear corridor and indicate if transport is required. For more information contact Jeannette Barwick: [jbarwick313@btinternet.com](mailto:jbarwick313@btinternet.com); 0208 941 8551

A reminder that Monthly Prayer Fellowship takes place on the first Saturday of each month at Surbiton Hill, from 10 am to 11am, led by Daniel Masillamani.

## **OTHER NEWS**

The Prudential Ride London Festival of Cycling will take place on Saturday 30 July in London and Sunday 31 July in London and Surrey, and this is likely to impact on some Church services on 31 July. The precise routes for the 2016 events will be confirmed soon.

## **NEXT EDITION**

If your church has any news or a forthcoming event you would like to share with the Circuit, please forward details to Michael Axton at the Circuit Office so that it can be included in each Church's newsletter/magazine.

Please send your contributions by Friday 10 June to: [circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@kingstoncircuit.org.uk)