


The Methodist Church
in Hackney and Stoke Newington

NEWSLETTER

September 2023

CIRCUIT MINISTERS

Revd Paulo Bessa da Silva (Superintendent) Day off: Monday

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CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATOR/PA to the SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs Helen Cornick Day off: Thursday

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CIRCUIT PASTORAL and COMMUNITY OUTREACH WORKER

Miss Abena Adofo (Due to start in September)

CHURCH ADDRESSES

Clapton: Downs Road (adj. 105 Downs Rd)
Lower Clapton E5 8DS

Clapton Park: 99 Chatsworth Road E5 0LH

Dalston: 11-13 Richmond Road E8 3HY

Hackney Mare Street: 219 Mare Street E8 3QE

Stoke Newington: 106a High Street N16 7NY

Green Lanes: 132a Green Lanes N16 9BN

CIRCUIT WEBSITE

<https://hackneymethodist.org>

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Summer 2023

Dear members of the Hackney and Stoke Newington Methodist Church Circuit,

As we approach the end of summer, we find ourselves reflecting on the past few years with gratitude and anticipation for the future. In this edition of our quarterly newsletter, we have some significant news to share, express heartfelt thanks, and extend a warm welcome to a new member of our community.

First and foremost, we would like to take a moment to express our deep gratitude to Rev. Andrew Letby for his unwavering commitment and dedication over the past four years. Under his leadership, our circuit has experienced a sense of unity especially during the pandemic as we had services on Zoom gathering the six churches on Sunday morning. Rev. Letby's sermons and genuine love for the community have left a lasting impact on all of us. As he moves on to new adventures in his life, we extend our best wishes and prayers for continued success in his future endeavours.

With the departure of Rev. Andrew, we also have the privilege of welcoming Abena as our new Circuit Pastoral and Community Outreach Worker. Abena brings a wealth of experience and a heart full of compassion for the people of our community. Her dedication to serving others and her desire to spread God's love align perfectly with the values we hold dear. Let us embrace her with open arms and support her in her new role as she continues to nurture and strengthen the bonds within our Circuit Methodist Church family.

As the summer draws to a close and the new church year approaches, we are reminded of the importance of working together for the Kingdom of God. Let us enter this upcoming year with renewed enthusiasm and a commitment to serve others with love and compassion. There are countless ways we can contribute to the growth of our community and the spread of Jesus' message:

1. Volunteer Opportunities: We encourage everyone to actively participate in the Listening Place at Stoke Newington Methodist Church

- High Street, on Tuesday mornings, and Green Lanes, on Wednesday mornings - and community outreach initiatives like the Caribbean Lunch Club at Clapton Park - Chatsworth Road, on Thursday afternoons. Your time, skills, and dedication can make a significant difference in the lives of others.

2. Building Relationships: Take the time to connect with others, both within the church and beyond. Cultivate an inclusive and welcoming environment where all can feel loved and accepted.

3. Prayer and Worship: Regular attendance at worship services and a committed prayer life can strengthen our faith and deepen our relationship with God. Remember we have a weekly prayer meeting in person at Stoke Newington High Street on Tuesdays, 1 pm, and an online Coffee Morning and Prayers on Wednesdays, at 10am on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82977408302> or 0203 481 5237 – Meeting ID: 829 7740 8302. Let us know if you are willing to attend the online Prayer Meeting, but don't know how to get connected. We will find a way to help you with that.

4. Supporting Abena: As our new Circuit Pastoral and Community Outreach Worker, Abena will greatly benefit from our support and encouragement. Let us make her transition as smooth as possible and work together to achieve our shared vision for the church.

5. Engaging with the Community: Look for opportunities to engage with the wider community and share God's love through acts of kindness and generosity.

I rely on your prayers and support this year as I take on the role of Circuit Superintendent until a new Superintendent is appointed, as decided in the Circuit Meeting on 28th June. I also would like to express my gratitude to all those who came to Birmingham on 25th June to attend the Conference service where I was officially received into Full Connexion to the Methodist Church in Britain. As we embark on this new chapter together, let us be reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:58: **"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."**

May God bless each one of us as we continue to work for His Kingdom in the coming church year.

Yours in Christ,

Revd Dr Paulo Bessa da Silva

What next for the Hackney and Stoke Newington Circuit?

The Circuit Invitation Committee have started the process of writing a profile to seek another minister in the circuit from September 2024. The suggested profile will be brought to the Circuit Meeting on 12th September, before being put forward to the district.

In the meantime Rev Paulo will be the Superintendent minister and the minister in pastoral charge of all of the churches in the circuit.

We are pleased that we have appointed Abena Adofo as the Circuit Pastoral and Community Outreach Worker. She will work across all the churches in the circuit, in particular at The Listening Place, and with the Lunch Club at Clapton Park, as well as carrying out visiting of church members.

Both will need the support of everyone in the circuit.

Circuit WhatsApp group

The circuit has a WhatsApp group which sends out messages to members and friends. If you would like to be included in this group, so that you find out information about what is happening, please contact Helen Cornick, the Circuit Administrator, who will add your details to the group.

CIRCUIT NEWS AND EVENTS

Sunday Worship

Each of the churches in the circuit usually have a service every week. The plan for September to November is on page 13.

If you are not able to come to our church buildings for worship, you can join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89083382040> or you can phone from any telephone – dial 0203 481 5237. The meeting ID is 890 8338 2040 followed by # - and then you will need to press # again. To unmute, press *6 and to mute press *6 again. The services are available on YouTube afterwards – details are on the website.

Virtual Coffee and Prayers

Every Wednesday at 10am we have Virtual Coffee and Prayers on Zoom. Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82977408302> or you can phone from any telephone – dial 0203 481 5237. The meeting ID is 829 7740 8302 followed by # - then you will need to press # again. To unmute, press *6 and to mute press *6 again.

Baptism, Confirmation and Church Membership

Please speak to Rev Paulo if you would like to find out more about baptism or confirmation.

Bible Study

Please speak to Rev Paulo or Abena if you wish to attend a Bible Study group. Currently we do not have any Bible Study groups arranged, but if members would like to meet regularly in this way, it might be possible to arrange something.

Meetings in the Circuit – Dates for your diary

Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) Meetings

We have CLT Meetings on Tuesdays 5th September, 17th October and 14th November.

The CLT includes the Ministers, Circuit Stewards, Circuit Meeting Secretary, Circuit Safeguarding Officer and the Pastoral and

Community Outreach Worker and Circuit Administrator (as non-voting members).

Our Circuit Stewards are:

Sue Millman (Senior Steward), Kwaku Anyemedu (Treasurer), Catherine Hogan, Eric Ayoola and Eunice Whyte.

The Circuit Meeting Secretary is Mandy Baafi.

The Circuit Safeguarding Officer is Cecilia Eze.

Circuit Meetings

We have a Circuit Meeting on Tuesday 12th September and Tuesday 12th December at 7pm. The venues are to be confirmed. The representatives to the Circuit Meeting from each of our churches and role holders form the trustee body of the Circuit with the Charity Commission.

Leaders of Worship and Local Preachers Meeting

Saturday 23rd September at 11am at Dalston Methodist Church, Richmond Road.

There will also be a meeting in December – the date is yet to be confirmed.

Circuit Invitation Committee Meetings

The CIC will arrange meetings as necessary in order to prepare for the Stationing Process for September 2024.

Methodist Women in Britain

Group meetings at Dalston Methodist Church are currently not taking place, as there is no one who is willing to help to coordinate the group. We thank in particular Mathilda Small-Byam who has for a number of years, co-ordinated the MWiB group in the circuit, arranged speakers, and led many of the meetings.

There will be Sector B and District MWiB events taking place, and you will be made aware of these nearer the time.

The MWiB District Day will be on Saturday 14th October at Hinde Street Methodist Church, to which you are invited. More details to follow.

Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship in Hackney (GMF)

The Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship (GMF) is an Association of Ghanaian Methodist residents in Britain. We have most of our members worship at local Methodist Churches across Britain. The fellowship is part of Methodist Church Ghana and Britain.

At the centre of our fellowship is the desire to express our faith in many Ghanaian languages and cultures while making every conscious effort to learn and adapt to the British culture. Our worship, events and meetings are usually expressed in English, Fante, Ga and Twi languages.

The fellowship organise variety of events aimed at deepening our Christian faith and discipleship.

Apart from our spiritual life, social and cultural needs are also taken care of.

At the local level we meet once every month ie. 1st Sunday of the Month from 1pm to 2pm at Mare Street Methodist Church.

Our membership is open to all Ghanaians within the Hackney and Stoke Newington Methodist Churches.

Sunday 3rd September

Sunday 1st October

Sunday 5th November

Sunday 3rd December

For more information please contact Mina Aidoo via Helen Cornick.

The Listening Place

The Listening Place is open every Tuesday 11am – 1pm at Stoke Newington High Street Church, and every Wednesday 11am – 1pm at Stoke Newington Green Lanes Church. You are welcome to drop in to one of these, and meet and chat with local people. Abena Adofo will be working with the volunteers at The Listening Place to welcome anyone coming in. We are advertising as a Warm Space during the opening hours of The Listening Place, offering a warm welcome to those in our community who value this opportunity.

Jumble Sale – Saturday 28th October 11am – 2pm

Volunteers of the Listening Place invite you to a Jumble Sale at the Methodist Church, High Street, Stoke Newington.

Donations welcome: plants, bric a brac, unwanted presents, and **good quality used clothes & bedding**.

Come and join us for and also enjoy a cup of tea and a cake.

Prayers at Stoke Newington High Street

Every Tuesday at 1pm we meet for prayers at High Street Church. It usually lasts for half an hour. You are welcome to share in this time of prayer and fellowship together.

Looking Back...Reception into Full Connexion

Almost 40 people travelled to Birmingham, to witness Rev Paulo being received into full connexion of the Methodist Church in Great Britain on Sunday 25th June.

It was a joyous occasion with the service led by the new President of Conference, Rev Gill Newton, including the reception into full connexion, both of presbyters and deacons who went on to Coventry for ordination, and other ministers like Rev Paulo who have come from other Methodist Conferences and denominations and who were received into the Methodist Church in Great Britain.

The live music was inspiring, and it was good to support Rev Paulo on this occasion. We presented Rev Paulo with a communion chalice and paten – which we hope will remind him of the day in Birmingham, and of our circuit.

Rev Andrew's Leaving Event

Many of us joined at Mare Street for the leaving service for Rev Andrew on 8th July. The service was led by our senior circuit steward, Sue Millman, and the preacher was Rev Paulo. A member from each of the church congregations gave a parting message to Rev Andrew. After the service, we enjoyed the sharing of food.

We are grateful to Rev Andrew for the 4 years that he spent as the superintendent minister in the Hackney and Stoke Newington Circuit, and we wish him and Belinda God's blessing in their future years in Scarborough.

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns regarding the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults, or if you believe someone is behaving in a way that causes you concern, please speak in confidence to your church or circuit safeguarding officer, or Rev Paulo.

It is very important that the correct people are informed of any concerns you might have. We have a duty of care to safeguard everyone who comes onto our premises.

Cecilia Eze from Mare Street is the Safeguarding Officer for the Circuit. We are still seeking Safeguarding Officers for some of our churches. If you have safeguarding experience, and would be willing to discuss this further, please speak to Rev Paulo, Cecilia, or to Helen Cornick the circuit administrator.

The Circuit Safeguarding Officer is: Cecilia Eze

The Church Safeguarding Officers are:

Clapton (Downs Road): vacant – please contact Rev Paulo Bessa Da Silva

Clapton Park: Okwuchi Etti-Williams

Dalston: vacant – please contact Rev Andrew Letby

Hackney (Mare Street): Cecilia Eze

Stoke Newington: Rose Lall and Esther Adekunle

The superintendent minister is Rev Paulo Bessa da Silva 07736 955808

The District Safeguarding Officer is Clare De Stefano 07960 877740. The District Assistant Safeguarding Officer is Rachael Pielow 07949 325531. Please contact anyone listed above, or the Circuit Administrator, Helen Cornick 07736 972202, if you have a safeguarding concern.

The safeguarding training, Creating Safer Space needs to be completed by various role holders, including pastoral visitors within the Hackney and Stoke Newington Circuit. If you have already completed the course, please let Helen Cornick know when this was done. There is a Foundation and Advanced module of the course. The training needs to be completed every 4 years.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) training

Local Preachers and some other office holders within the Methodist Church will also need to carry out EDI training in the next few months. Information will be given about this training which is predominantly based online. Assistance can be given to facilitate this training.

Digital Inclusion Project

A digital inclusion project is starting in September at Clapton Park Church, first with members of the Lunch Club, but it is expected that this will be opening up to include other members and friends from the circuit. If you feel that you would like to discover more about the internet, using computers, accessing information from websites etc, please let us know, and we will hopefully be able to facilitate you learning more and feeling more confident.

GDPR

Please be aware that we should not be holding – or passing on – contact details of people within our church congregations unless we have a legitimate reason to do so (Pastoral Visitors/Group leaders/Stewards/Ministers). If you have the details of anyone within the church, please let the Circuit Administrator know. Thank you.

Warm Spaces

**WE ARE A
WARM
WELCOME
SPACE**



The Listening Place

ADDRESS:

106A Stoke Newington
High Street, N16 7NY

132A Green Lanes, N16
9BN

OPENING HOURS:

Tuesdays 11a.m. to 1p.m.

Wednesdays 11a.m. to
1p.m.



The Listening Place

11am – 1pm

Tuesdays

SN High Street

Wednesdays

SN Green Lanes

Warm Space

11am – 3pm

Tuesdays and Wednesdays

**Clapton Park Church,
Chatsworth Road**



FREE ENTRY

**WARM
Space**

Space for people to chat, socialise, support, physical activities and play some games. Tea, coffee and refreshments provided.

**Every Tuesday and Wednesday
From 7th December**

Between 11am and 3pm

office.nationalparentsforum@gmail.com
07583 165 389

Clapton Park Methodist Church
89 Chatsworth Road
Hackney London E5 0LH

Shepherd Fold Ministry in collaboration
Hackney Methodist Church

Hackney The Methodist Church



Plan for Sept – Nov 2023 services at 11am

3rd September

Clapton Downs Road: Pastor Ian Rathbone

Clapton Park: Pastor David Gyamfi

Dalston: Rev Kofi Amissah including Holy Communion – Harvest Festival

Hackney Mare Street: Local Arrangement

Stoke Newington Green Lanes: will join the congregation at High Street

Stoke Newington High Street: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva – including Holy Communion joined by the congregation from Green Lanes

Zoom Service preacher: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva*

10th September

Clapton Downs Road: will join the congregation at Clapton Park

Clapton Park: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva including Holy Communion and Baptism joined by the congregation from Clapton Downs Road

Dalston: Local Arrangement

Hackney Mare Street: Rev John Sakutombo - including Holy Communion – Harvest Festival

Stoke Newington Green Lanes: Ernell Watson

Stoke Newington High Street: Sue Millman

Zoom Service preacher: Sue Millman*

17th September

Clapton Downs Road: Pastor Joycelyn Dankwa

Clapton Park: Rev Shaun Sanders – Harvest Festival

Dalston: Mathilda Small-Byam

Hackney Mare Street: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva – including Kofi and Ama offering (and possibly a Baptism)

Stoke Newington Green Lanes: Mary Campbell joined by the congregation from High Street

Stoke Newington High Street: will join the congregation at Green Lanes

Zoom Service preacher: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva*

24th September

Clapton Downs Road: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva – including Holy Communion – Harvest Festival

Clapton Park: Local Arrangement

Dalston: Pastor David Gyamfi including Kofi and Ama offering

Hackney Mare Street: **10.30am** will join the congregation at St Michaels and All Angels, London Fields, for their Patronal Festival

Stoke Newington Green Lanes: Pastor Ian Rathbone

Stoke Newington High Street: Icilda Lynch

Zoom Service preacher: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva*

1st October

Clapton Downs Road: Sue Millman joined by the congregation from Clapton Park

Clapton Park: will join the congregation at Clapton Downs Road

Dalston: will join the congregation at Mare Street

Hackney Mare Street: Helen Cornick joined by the congregation from Dalston

Stoke Newington Green Lanes: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva – including Holy Communion – Harvest Festival joined by the congregation from High Street

Stoke Newington High Street: will join the congregation at Green Lanes

Zoom Service preacher: Sue Millman*

8th October

Clapton Downs Road: Local Arrangement

Clapton Park: Pastor Ian Rathbone

Dalston: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva – including Holy Communion joined by the congregation from Hackney Mare Street

Hackney Mare Street: will join the congregation at Dalston

Stoke Newington Green Lanes: Pastor Joycelyn Dankwa

Stoke Newington High Street: Rev John Sakutombo

Zoom Service preacher: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva*

15th October

Clapton Downs Road: Ernell Watson

Clapton Park: Icilda Lynch

Dalston: Local Arrangement

Hackney Mare Street: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva – including Kofi and Ama offering (and possibly a Baptism)

Stoke Newington Green Lanes: Sue Millman

Stoke Newington High Street: Pastor David Gyamfi

Zoom Service preacher: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva*

22nd October

Clapton Downs Road: Helen Cornick

Clapton Park: Mary Campbell

Dalston: Pastor Joycelyn Dankwa – including Kofi and Ama offering

Hackney Mare Street: Mathilda Small-Byam

Stoke Newington Green Lanes: Local Arrangement

Stoke Newington High Street: Local Arrangement

Zoom Service preacher: Helen Cornick*

29th October

Clapton Downs Road: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva – including Holy Communion joined by the congregation from Clapton Park

Clapton Park: will join the congregation at Clapton Downs Road

Dalston: Rev Jongi Zihle

Hackney Mare Street: Local Arrangement
Stoke Newington Green Lanes: Pastor David Gyamfi
Stoke Newington High Street: Pastor Ian Rathbone
Zoom Service preacher: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva*

5th November

Clapton Downs Road: Rev John Sakutombo
Clapton Park: Local Arrangement
Dalston: will join the congregation at Hackney Mare Street
Hackney Mare Street: Rev Hazel Forecast - including Holy Communion joined by the congregation from Dalston
Stoke Newington Green Lanes: will join the congregation at High Street
Stoke Newington High Street: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva – including Holy Communion joined by the congregation from Green Lanes
Zoom Service preacher: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva*

12th November – Remembrance Sunday

Clapton Downs Road: Pastor David Gyamfi
Clapton Park: Helen Cornick
Dalston: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva
Hackney Mare Street: Ernell Watson
Stoke Newington Green Lanes: Local Arrangement
Stoke Newington High Street: Pastor Joycelyn Dankwa
Zoom Service preacher: Helen Cornick*

19th November

Clapton Downs Road: Local Arrangement
Clapton Park: Mathilda Small-Byam
Dalston: Rev John Sakutombo
Hackney Mare Street: Mary Campbell – including Kofi and Ama offering
Stoke Newington Green Lanes: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva
Stoke Newington High Street: Local Arrangement
Zoom Service preacher: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva*

26th November

Clapton Downs Road: will join the congregation at Clapton Park
Clapton Park: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva – including Holy Communion joined by the congregation from Clapton Downs Road
Dalston: Pastor Ian Rathbone – including Kofi and Ama offering
Hackney Mare Street: Sue Millman
Stoke Newington Green Lanes: Icilda Lynch
Stoke Newington High Street: Pastor Joycelyn Dankwa
Zoom Service preacher: Sue Millman*

*Please note, the arrangements for Zoom Services may change

Lectionary Readings

The readings listed first (and in the plan) are the Related set from the Lectionary. If the Continuous set are different, they have been shown below.

Sunday 3rd Sept – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-11; Matthew 16:21-28
Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

Sunday 10th Sept – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149

Sunday 17th Sept – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:(1-7) 8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21

Sunday 24th Sept – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16
Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Sunday 1st Oct – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32
Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Sunday 8th Oct – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19

Sunday 15th Oct – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Sunday 22nd Oct – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13); 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99

Sunday 29th Oct – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46
Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Sunday 5th Nov – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time: Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12
Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

Sunday 12th Nov – Remembrance Sunday – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Amos 5:18-24 or Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16; Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 or Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7

Remembrance Sunday: Isaiah 25:1-9 or Isaiah 52:7-12 or Micah 4:1-8; Psalm 9:9-20 or Psalm 46; Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 or Revelation 22:1-5; Matthew 5:1-12 or Matthew 5:43-48 or John 15:9-17

Sunday 19th Nov – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8(9-11)12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123

Sunday 26th Nov – Sunday before Advent: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a or Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

Worship Resources for People at Home

Rev Paulo has been preparing material for private prayers – especially for people who are not able to attend worship in our churches on Sundays. If you are housebound and unable to get to church, and would appreciate a copy of these resources to be posted to you, please let either Rev Paulo or Helen Cornick know. Since postage costs are fairly high, please let us know if you don't need to receive this any more. Thank you.

Prayers for Black History Month

A Collect for Black History Month - The Church of England

Compassionate God,

who sent Jesus Christ

to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,

to see the image of God in every person

irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.

May we be generous in our love of others

as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and
injustice; creating communities of human flourishing,

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Spirit of the Living God,
we remember the struggles of our people, black people,
people of African descent,
your people and thank you for your grace,
your love, and your mercy.

We thank you for leaders that you continue to place in high places and ordinary places.

Inspire each of us to work more faithfully for justice and dignity of life everywhere.

Lord God, we remember the hurts of exclusion and prejudice,
but we know that you can raise our vision above all barriers and give us wisdom and courage to make this a better world.

As you give us yourself in the Bread of Hope and the Cup of Mercy -
show us how to give ourselves to those who are without hope and to those who cry for mercy.

Lord God, rule over our spirit in this hour that we will live with the freedom of those who trust in you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

(adapted from www.prayerist.com/prayer/blackhistorymonth)

Black History Quiz – Saturday 7th October 2023 at 7pm

Yvette Thomas is arranging a Black History Quiz at the Methodist Church, High Street, Stoke Newington at 7pm on Saturday 7th October.

Donation: Minimum £10.00

Light Refreshments or fish & chips

So, get your teams together & test your knowledge:

1. Who was the first Black Woman in space?
2. What did Rosa Parks refuse to do in 1955?
3. Whose iconic speech included the words 'I have a dream'?
4. Which island in the Caribbean was known as Alliouagana 'land of the Prickly Bush'?
5. Who is the first female Black President of the Methodist Church in the UK?

Come and support this event marking Black History Month at the church – and have fun as well!

CHURCH INFORMATION

It is now possible to make your offering to the church at our services. However, if you would prefer to make direct payments to the bank, the details are below. Please use your name as a reference and make a note of the date and amount paid into the account so that this can be allocated to your envelope number. Please contact your church treasurer or Helen Cornick handsnmethodist@gmail.com or 07736 972202 if you need further information about giving to the church.

CLAPTON (Downs Road & Chatsworth Road)

Minister: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva

Please contact Charlotte Morgan or Eunice Whyte for bank details

Copyright numbers: Downs Road: 1948191 Clapton Park: 1160113

DALSTON (Richmond Road) Minister: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva

Bank details: Sort Code: 60-12-18 Account Number: 61808849

Copyright CCLi number: 2303319

HACKNEY (Mare Street) Minister: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva

Bank details: Sort Code: 40-02-06 Account Number: 40015350

Copyright CCLi number: 1277824

STOKE NEWINGTON (High Street and Green Lanes)

Minister: Rev Dr Paulo Bessa Da Silva

Bank details: Sort Code: 40-52-40 Account Number: 00032056

Copyright numbers: High Street: 1305631 Green Lanes: 1305648

Gift Aid

If you pay tax, and you give money to the church, you could probably gift aid your offering at no additional cost to yourself. The church would benefit by getting an additional 25% of what you give. You would need to complete a gift aid declaration form. Speak to your church treasurer or Helen Cornick about this if you are a tax payer. Please consider this additional way of financially supporting the church.

Churches working Together in Hackney

We made a significant new step forward in church relations in Hackney on July 8, 2023, in a consultation meeting of churches, at Mare Street Salvation Army Church, organised by the Hackney Borough Deans Group, which Rev Paulo is a member of. He attended the meeting with me.

We agreed to look at starting ‘Churches Together in Hackney’, but need further discussion to see how that would work out moving forward. Churches have been considerably weakened by the pandemic and generally. Joining together can strengthen us all.

It was the first time in a long time, any attempt to bring churches together across the borough of Hackney had been made.

We invited Doral Hayes, Principal Officer for Ecumenical Development and Relations, Churches Together in England, to give an introduction where she mentioned that everything is an ecumenical matter.

She pointed out that the diversity of churches working together is generally growing. Churches have different view of how things should work but the important thing is that people are feeling the Spirit of God moving.

We looked at John 15: 1-4. *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”*

First and foremost we need to remain in Christ. Being connected is central to ecumenical thinking. It’s worth noting the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have a deeper connection, remaining with each other, just as we do in Christ.

Relationships are what makes things work, always remembering John 17: 21 – *‘that all of them may be one’*.

In the workshop session discussion focussed on how we can work in relationships. Moving forward in Hackney, we need to structure things around relationships and time together, and praying together. Praying together would make us community together.

Worshipping together was agreed an important element. To get together regularly to build relationship through worship. And music may be the way we reach out young people on the street.

It was agreed worship on the street is so important – music with a public message for the public. Something to aim for would be Contemporary Carols on the town hall steps.

The Good Friday ‘Walk of Witness’ could be a time to be joining together on the street.

The meeting ended with prayer from Mare Street Salvation Army Church minister, Gav Dunn:

“... Please give them the passion to love people in Your Name, please give them the bravery to do something different to what they are used to doing in this community...”

“Help us to see each other in Your eyes, as we see each other, as we see our community through Your eyes, that we may love them the way we need to love them ...”

“Challenge us, change us, how we show You individually, to treat people as You would have us treat them.

“We pray, bind us together, Lord ... Amen.”

Pastor Ian Rathbone, Convenor, Hackney Borough Ecumenical Deans Group

Other upcoming interchurch events

* **The Civic Carol service** organised by Hackney Churches is on Monday December 4, 5pm at the Plaza, bottom of the Narroway (Mare St). Some schools will be singing carols, and we hope to have a Salvation Army brass band, so not to be missed! Please come and support.

* **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** will take place between January 18 and January 25, 2024, marked by churches in Hackney. The theme is *“You shall love the Lord your God ...and your neighbour as yourself.”* (Luke 10:27). More news on the detail will come in due course. Mare Street Methodist will be a venue on January 20 at 6pm.

OTHER NEWS

Getting to know you – Eunice Whyte

Hi everyone – my name is Eunice Whyte. I am a member of the Methodist Church at Clapton Park. I was brought up in the Pentecostal faith. My mother is an ordained minister and my father is a deacon. When I got married, I left the church – only going back sometimes.

I moved to London in 1975, but could not find a church I felt happy in. I then asked my friend where she worships and she told me that it's the Methodist Church at Clapton Park. I attended on Sunday and was very welcome so went back.

I became a member. As time goes by I stopped going because of work. I went when I was not working. They asked if I would like to become a steward. I was nominated. When the senior steward became unwell I was asked by the minister to take the position. I became a Circuit Steward and I am also on the Circuit Invitation Committee. I have learned a lot from being in the positions in the Methodist Church and am still learning.

I worked for the NHS for 43 years. While bringing up my family have acquired 3 diplomas and also have some counselling skills which I had to put in practice during the pandemic.

I have 3 grown up children, 6 grand and 4 great-grandchildren. I go to the gym twice a week so I am kept very busy after retiring last March. But for the word of the almighty and his loving care and tender mercies and my faith in him, I would not be here today. I praise him.

Methodist Prayer Handbook and Diaries – order them now

Helen Cornick is ordering copies of the Methodist Prayer Handbook in the first week of September. If you wish to buy a copy for £4.50, please let Helen know. Copies of the standard size (A5) will be bought unless you specify that you would prefer a large print (A4) copy.

It is also possible to buy a Methodist Diary in either red or purple for £11. Again, please let Helen know if you would like one – and which colour.

Prayer for Ukraine from Pastor Ian Rathbone

As people know, I have been lighting a candle in our church services, since February last year, for peace and justice in the Ukraine War situation. We have seen many ups and downs in that situation. The nuclear power station has been protected internationally, and the route for grain to the poorer parts of the world somehow is still working.

Please also pray for the 300 or so people from Ukraine currently in Hackney as they begin to find new lives here, particularly learning the English language which helps in obtaining work. And for the new asylum seeker and refugee unit that has been formed at Hackney Council – we also have refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, Iran, North Africa and other places.

Many asylum seekers and their families are in hotels around the borough, particularly in Shoreditch, and we are trying to help them as churches by providing food.

Charity Concert – 7pm on Saturday 11th November 2023

A concert in aid of Lemuel Findley Saturday & Dickson Methodist School in St Vincent & The Grenadines

LFSS is a Saturday School which caters for students aged 5 – 16 years old. A registered charity which has been in existence for over 49 years.

Date: Saturday 11th November 2023

Venue: Methodist Church, High Street, Stoke Newington

Donation: £10.00 (includes light refreshments)

Time: 7pm

Thank You

And last but not least... Yvette Thomas says 'Thank You' to everyone who generously supported her by donating things to the Dickson Methodist School in St Vincent and The Grenadines.

Useful Websites

You may be interested to have a look at these websites:

www.methodist.org.uk

www.methodistlondon.org.uk

www.allwecan.org.uk

www.jointpublicissues.org.uk

www.hackney.gov.uk

Please let Helen have all notices for the December newsletter by Friday 1st December 2023. Our newsletters are no longer coming out every month. We expect to produce one for the start of the Methodist year in September, one at Christmas, and one at Easter.