

Methodist reporter

**JULY/AUGUST
2020**

***E-News from the St Albans and
Welwyn Methodist circuit***

ISSUE 155

The Circuit has been studying the Book of Ruth for Bible month. We don't usually read all of it in church. Vince Gilbert has been thinking about one of the less well known chapters, and finding some interesting echoes.

In this issue we have circuit and church news, a report from a Sierra Leone hospital, and a book review. There are articles on Ruth and 2 Corinthians, and links to articles on racism and the Black Lives Matter campaign. We hope you enjoy reading this—please give us your views.

The more I think about the book of Ruth, the more I think chapter 2 is about the struggles of poor people. And foreigners. And women. And refugees. Anyone who's looked down on. Anyone whose voice isn't heard.



Swanson, John August. 1991 Story of Ruth, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**

You might not think so to hear me speak, but I grew up poor and powerless. We only ate because we had a garden to grow things. When I got to 16, my mother lost benefits because the state expected all children of poor widows to leave school and work for their keep. I can still hear the cut-glass accents of the charity panel that questioned her about her affairs and offered her £40 a year so that I could stay on in the top class at school.

At the beginning of chapter 2, Naomi has come home as a refugee, with Ruth, who is a despised foreigner with no rights. They are destitute: if they are getting charity, it isn't enough to live on. They have to resort to desperate measures, measures that put them at risk, because the alternative is worse.

When Ruth suggests going gleaning, she actually implies she'll have to flatter somebody's masculine ego and flutter her eyes. After all, that's what people expect of poor migrants. They'll do anything for money. "So we can make them do what we want," say too many folk.

And even then she's going to be picking up the individual grains that have been dropped by the harvesters. Anyone fancy dinner? It's grain that's been trodden into the ground - it's Boaz who allows her to collect better grain. She has no right to the water the harvesters have - Boaz has to give it her. She can expect the harassment that any unattached woman can expect - Boaz has to recognise her as a woman with honour, and forbid it. She can expect not to have a name - the overseer refers to her as "that foreigner". She can expect to be told to sit away from the locals - it's Boaz who invites her over. And, at the end, it's Boaz who sends her home with enough and to spare.

We recognise Boaz as such a good guy. He deserves all the praise he gets. But I listen, and I hear Ruth speaking from my childhood: my proud mother saying whatever she had to say, trying not to upset the charitable committee, to get that sixteen shillings a week extra that would help our family survive. Because the people with power, even the charitable people with power, are not people you can ever risk upsetting.

Have we learned anything in three thousand years? The stories from street protests say not. The tales that people of colour tell, even with our equality laws in place, those tales say not. The need for a #MeToo movement says not. The survival rates from COVID-19, and even mortality rates in normal times, say not. The lives of many of the children our churches have contact with say not. The witnesses we have in our own churches say not.

But at the very end of the book of Ruth, the storyteller says that this generous, honourable, wealthy, just, kind man, and this marginalised, threatened, desperate, destitute, foreign woman are the great-grandparents of King David. Are therefore the ancestors of the Jesus who we name as Lord and Saviour. What does that mean for his people? For us, with both Ruths and Boazes in our fellowship?

CIRCUIT NEWS

OPENING OUR CHURCHES—COVID-19 GUIDANCE

All Churches will have received regular updates about the re-opening of their buildings, and the steps they need to take in advance to safeguard ministers and congregations. The Government has said that places of worship can open for public worship from 4th July, with the proper measures in place. Rosemary writes “the very earliest I think that our Methodist buildings can contemplate being open for public worship is July 26th but the Circuit Staff met recently and felt August 2nd to be more realistic.”

It is acknowledged that all our churches are different, and will have different issues to deal with. Rosemary has asked that each church appoints a sub-committee to plan the process. Each set of Managing Trustees must make their own decisions. A number of churches are already open for private prayer.

Perhaps by the time you read this, things will have improved, but the safety and well-being of all our people will of course be the most important thing, even where it means delaying opening. It has been wonderful to see how well received the printed services have been each week, and for those on-line, Zoom, What's App and You Tube have all become a regular and valued part of life.

It will be interesting to see how this lockdown situation will affect how we do church in the future, and Rosemary has sent out a questionnaire about this very topic—see below.

REVD ALI FACEY

Ali returned to work part time/phased return on 8th June, and will increase her hours slowly in line with medical advice, and with Rosemary's supervision. Rosemary remains in charge of St John's Potters Bar until such time as Ali is well enough to take this on. We continue to remember Ali, Chris, Luke and Bethan in our prayers.

REVD BRUCE ANDERSON

Bruce continues to be shielding, and is allowed out of his house and garden for a brief period of exercise. He is well but is of course vulnerable. He has continued to organise and take part in online services.

REVD SUE STILWELL

Sue is very busy with her work as MHA Chaplain at Letchworth, and her circuit services have been much appreciated.

REVD ROSEMARY FLETCHER

Rosemary has kept well but continues to be hampered by voice issues—her voice has never fully recovered from her severe laryngitis of last summer. Her arm also has not fully recovered, and she is receiving physio by land line!

REVD ANDREW PROUT and DEACON LINDA KINCHENTON were both unwell in March, but are now recovered and working hard.

REVD SELINA EVANS

Selina is Curate in the Parish of Digswell, of which DVC is a part, having been ordained as a Deacon at St Albans Abbey last year. She was to have been ordained as Priest there in June, but of course this could not happen. It has now been agreed that – instead of waiting until there can be a large ceremony in the Abbey – small groups of Deacons will be ordained in selected churches across the Diocese. To everyone's delight, St John's, Digswell, has been chosen as a venue, so Selina will be ordained there on Sunday 27th September. An exciting event to look forward to!

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

As Rosemary has pointed out, even when we are ready to open for worship, we are not going back to life as it was on March 15th. For some, that might be a cause of lament, and we need to allow time for that. For others, this is an exciting opportunity to re-create something new. Our Circuit wants to consult with each one of us, and listen to what we have to say. We have, as it were, a blank canvas, and a **chance to re-imagine Church as we would like it to be.**

Every member will receive from their Minister, either by email or post, a copy of a questionnaire – we are all encouraged to complete this, and urge others to do the same. Completed questionnaires should be returned by 10th July.

....AND ANOTHER SURVEY FROM YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

The Revd Canon Professor Leslie J Frances, Visiting Professor at the University, invites us to take part in a national survey which will enable us to record our experience of the pandemic, the ministry we have given or received, and what we think will happen to churches in a post-pandemic world. This has been developed over the last few weeks in discussion with bishops, clergy and lay people. In an article to launch the survey in the Church Times, the Bishop of Manchester, David Walker, wrote: “This survey is an attempt to go beyond anecdote... It will capture evidence of both excitement and fears for the future, of where stress levels have changed, and whether personal faith has weakened or grown.” You can find the survey at <https://tinyurl.com/ycsq9fy2>

Worship Opportunities in the Circuit

BY CHRIS HANCOCK · PUBLISHED JUNE 12, 2020 · UPDATED JUNE 19, 2020

There are now a number of opportunities to worship together in the Circuit.

Digswell Village Church have a YouTube service each week. Their YouTube channel can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpct7x1zgoy3-kMx_N60dkA Please visit

www.digswellvillagechurch.org.uk for further details.

The Welwyn and Hatfield Churches have also started a YouTube service. Their YouTube channel can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBm9sbgYCuYJlwdUJHBY6rQ>

St John's Potters Bar have an online version of the Circuit service on their website which can be accessed here: <https://www.stjohnspb.org.uk/this-week>

Hatfield Road, St Albans produce their own service which is available on their website it can be found here: <http://www.hatfieldroadmethodist.org/?cat=78>

These are in addition to the printed Circuit Service produced each week which is posted or emailed to members of the Circuit. If you do not receive the service and would like to please speak to your Minister or Pastoral Visitor who will be able to arrange for you to be added to the distribution for your own church.

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

The circuit stewards each have a church allocated to them to aid communication between church and circuit. The current allocation is as follows:

Angela Andrews: St John's Potters Bar

Peter Wallace: De Havilland, Birchwood, Oxlease and Ludwick Way

John Scott: Panshanger and Digswell

Guy Fenner: Radlett and Shenley

Peter Barlow and Becky Apampa: Marlborough Road and Hatfield Road

Several circuit stewards have come to the end of their term of office, and we have not been able to replace them. We need more circuit stewards, and would ask you to consider whether this is something you can offer to the circuit. Please feel free to talk to Rosemary or Peter Barlow about this.

NEWS, ARTICLES AND ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE METHODIST REPORTER

All copy for the Methodist Reporter should be sent via email to: news@methodistreporter.org.uk

Copy must be received by the 20th of the month, for the following month's issue.

Copy is only acceptable in the following file formats:

Documents containing text: Microsoft Word (.doc/docx). **Pictures:** Jpeg (Documents sent as Jpeg or other graphic files will not be included). **Please ensure you have permission from people (or young people's parents) for their picture to be published in Reporter.**

Please do not send PDF files as we are not able to edit them and therefore may reject as unusable. No scans of documents are acceptable, only the originals, please. Please keep article to a half page maximum. (Max 350 words)

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editor@methodistreporter.org.uk Printed versions of Reporter can be supplied to Churches:

email Chris at: admin@midhertsmethodists.org.uk

SHENLEY MESSY CHURCH

Shenley Messy Church is online! It's taking place in the homes of all our families, in fact it is now reaching the homes of many more people.

Virtual Messy Church has kept us connected when we have been unable to meet together. Our first Messy Church 'at home' was shared by our team from St Martin's and the Methodist Church presenting songs, crafts and the Easter message.

Last month we took Messy Church out and about. Families participated in a rainbow hand trail, searching for rainbow coloured hands with clues that had been hidden around the village. The collected hands were placed on our special Messy Church tree, creating an impressive colourful display which has drawn the attention of many passers-by. The answers to the final clues were found by watching our second online presentation. Children who completed the trail and answered the last questions were rewarded with a rainbow bag of treats - we all love a prize!



Feel free to take a look at the videos on our YouTube channel (Shenley Messy Church) and become a part of our growing Messy Church family.



Radlett United Free Church 40th Anniversary Celebrations and News

Radlett United Free Church is a joint Methodist and United Reformed Local Ecumenical Partnership formed in 1980 when two local congregations, Radlett Methodist Church (Founded 1903) and Radlett Congregational / URC Church (Founded 1905) joined together. Today the congregation, though small, remains committed to sharing the gospel message in word and in action. In March, just before the lockdown began, a special service and celebration took place to mark 40 years of united work and witness. Sally Hockaday, organist and a Church member throughout this period, writes ...

"JUST IN TIME!"

Two weeks before church buildings were closed as a result of the lockdown we celebrated our Ruby Anniversary. "We believe it is a positive way forward and in response to the prayer of Jesus -- that they all may be one" were words written in 1980 as the Methodist Church and URC became the UFC in Radlett. We shook hands, tied the knot and became one - a loving, friendly congregation.

On March 8th 2020 Rev. Andrew Prout led a wonderful service with an inspiring address from Rev. Dr. David Cornick, one of our first ministers. The organ was played by Rev. Nick Young and the singing from a full church was really heart-warming. This was followed by a tea party with birthday cake. Past members travelled to be with us and we were joined by friends from local churches and the circuit. From David Cornick's address. "He named the place BETHEL (Gen 29 v 19) and we have rested on God's promise that He will always be with us". In our Bethel!"



We were also joined by our friends from 'Bethany Radlett' a Tamil speaking congregation who use our Church premises on a Sunday afternoon. When proceedings concluded, after a wonderful time of worship and fellowship, we all departed strengthened and encouraged to continue the work that God is calling us to do. This includes supporting the Church's chosen charity 'Self Help Africa', and working with the other four Churches in the parish both to deliver food hampers to families in need through the school holidays, and to host a weekly

lunch for about 20 local elderly residents.

Little did any of us know that within less than a fortnight of our celebrations the national lockdown would begin as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Through the lockdown the congregation have been keeping in contact with one another, offering pastoral support, and have also assisted a small number of people in the local community who have contacted the Church seeking help. This was the result of the Churches in Radlett and Aldenham making an offer through the parish notice board and web-site.

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On the last Sunday in May the congregation held its first fortnightly zoom coffee chat. Members of the congregation are utilising both the Circuit Service and linking into various streamed services. Those not with an internet connection are receiving the Circuit Service through hand delivery. We do not know what lies ahead but the experience of the last 40 years teaches us to journey hand in hand both with God and each other. In such fellowship the Lord will lead us on.

Sally Hockaday / Rev Andrew Prout
(July 2020)



Action for Children Sunday

Action for Children is the children's charity of the Methodist Church

Action for Children Sunday is held on the second Sunday of July. It is the anniversary of the opening of the first children's home and a chance to celebrate the work of Action for Children and its partnership with the Church at services and activities throughout the country

Materials are available to view and download from the Action for Children website:

www.actionforchildren.org.uk/resources-and-publications/promotional-materials/resources-for-methodist-fundraisers

LEARNING AT ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL

NEW ONLINE COURSES –

COME TOGETHER AND LEARN
SOMETHING NEW FROM THE
COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME!

There are some interesting courses and events coming up – for details please visit www.stalbanscathedral.org or ring 01727 890205



A letter from Mary Groves, who reports on the Nixon Memorial Hospital in Sierra Leone

Dear Editor,

Colin and I have just read this month's Reporter and found it particularly inspiring. Many congratulations to all those who have contributed and of course to all those whose work has really demonstrated the love of God at work during these difficult days

We have been very glad to read the attached report from the Nixon Memorial Hospital which has been supported by the Circuit churches in years gone by - a hospital where I worked, was destroyed in the civil war and has been restored to some degree by the www.friendsofnixon.org.uk If there is room please include it in the next edition of the Reporter . Colin and I remain honorary presidents

Again very many thanks - somehow much that is so very worthwhile is being seen to arise within the horrors of these days

BEST WISHES

Mary

www.friendsofnixon.org



Charity no. 1145455

Friends of Nixon Covid-19 Response

Sierra Leone, and more specifically Kailahun district in which the Nixon memorial Hospital is sited, has not escaped the impact of the global coronavirus pandemic. Patients and staff have had to face consequences of both the disease itself and of lockdown measures put in place to combat its spread. In Segbwema where many people live day to day, restrictions in movement can increase the prevalence of food poverty. In response to a request from the hospital, Friends of Nixon has funded a Covid-19 support project to provide additional hand sanitizer and liquid soap for the hospital. We have also funded a package of food aid to ensure patients, vulnerable individuals and staff have access to appropriate nutrition during this time. Thankfully, the hospital has a level of surplus PPE equipment following the Ebola crisis. Currently this is being used together with procedures relating to infection prevention and control learnt during the Ebola epidemic. During this time, we will also continue our existing commitments to essential medicine funding, community health and staff training in order that the hospital maintains its vital role within Segbwema and the wider community.



Food Aid being distributed to patients



100 bags of 25kg rice, 10 containers of cooking oil and 3 cartons of Maggi were distributed



Nixon Staff



Dr Missa with some of the hand sanitizer and soap

The Circuit Staff and Supernumeraries Book Group

When Rosemary came to the Circuit in September 2013, she tried to get a time of sharing of a book or a film into the Staff Meeting but business took over and so she set up the Circuit Staff and Supernumeraries Book Group. This review by David Mullins is of one of their recent reads.....

Mike Berners-Lee, *There Is No Planet B: A Handbook for the Make or Break Years*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019 (paperback, £9.99).

If the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us anything it is that we are more vulnerable than we ever imagined, and that, faced with a global threat, urgent action is needed if we are to survive. It is not that scientists and epidemiologists failed to predict a pandemic, but that governments across the world failed to take the possibility seriously enough to prepare adequately for it. And now, as the global death rate rises and our way of life is changed forever, we are suffering the consequences of our complacency and inaction. We have been warned.

In *There Is No Planet B: A Handbook for the Make or Break Years*, Mike Berners-Lee (brother of Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web) has written an informative and readily accessible guide to how we may respond to a threat even greater than the Covid-19 pandemic: climate change. And since the rapid rise in global temperatures is now (almost) universally acknowledged to be the result of human activity, the impending threat can only be averted by modifying that activity – that means changing our patterns of behaviour, whether it be at the individual, governmental, or international level.

And time is not on our side. Whereas for millennia it was inconceivable that human beings might destroy the planet, in the last few decades it has become clear that ‘if we don’t try hard enough NOT to we will wreck the whole environment’ (p. 1). We have reached a tipping point beyond which the earth’s restorative powers may no longer be sufficient to undo the damage we have done, threatening the very existence of life on earth itself.

Yet, despite the scale of the challenge, *There Is No Planet B* is a hopeful book. Subtitled *A Handbook for the Make or Break Years*, it is ‘about how we can make the transition into a new mode of living that works for us and fits our new context – a way of operating that won’t smash the place up and will allow us to thrive despite our power’ (p. 5). Explaining the complexities of the problem with amazing clarity, Mike Berners-Lee encourages us to take those seemingly small steps, that when multiplied across our communities and world will make all the difference.

Set out in the form of questions and answers, the book’s chapters cover each of the vital and interrelated issues of food, climate, energy, travel, finance, work, business, technology, and culminate in a discussion of the values, truth, and trust that must underpin them all. In the final chapter we are invited to consider and embrace the new ways of thinking that will be needed in the twenty-first century if we are to meet the challenges we face. Foremost among them are: (1) ‘Big picture perspective. Since the problems we face are global, our thinking needs to be global...’; (2) ‘Global empathy’ because ‘our daily lives affect those of people on the other side of the world who we may never meet,’ and since our influence is global our concern for others must also be global; (3) ‘Future thinking’ – taking the long view about the impact of our actions: ‘None of us want to be looking at a world that is falling apart, knowing that our kids know that we let it happen’ (pp. 186-90).

The eighth and final new way of thinking is having a ‘Joined-up perspective.’ This is necessary, Mike Berners-Lee argues, because the challenges we face cannot be met by ‘technology, or natural science, or sociology, or philosophy, or theology, or politics, or art or literature alone... They have to intertwine, however hard that may seem’ (p. 189). And just as the ‘technical wizards need to understand that science is only one angle on life,’ those of us who may be more comfortable in our religious and theological spheres, are likewise challenged to engage with what science is telling us about the imminent dangers to this loved, precious, and spectacular creation of God – planet earth. That is why this book is a must-read for every Christian, and an urgent call to action to people of goodwill everywhere.

“I don’t want you to listen to me,” Greta Thunberg pleaded with MPs in her speech to Parliament on 23 April 2019, “I want you to listen to the scientists.” It’s time we all did – and as we listen we may indeed hear the still small voice of God calling us once again to embrace the vocation that Genesis (2:27-31) sets before us: to cherish and care for this earth, the home with which we have been wonderfully and generously gifted. For truly, in the mind of God, let alone in the title of this important book, *There Is No Planet B*.

David Mullins

This comes from Bishop Alan (St Albans Diocesan Bishop) and Rosemary heard it “on line” as part of a service in which she was taking part with St Peter’s Church in St Albans, and although he is addressing the Anglican Churches of the Diocese (and as a Circuit we have two Local Ecumenical Partnerships which involve the Anglican Church: Digswell Village Church and Panshanger) what he is saying applies to all Churches.

It is reprinted with his permission.

A Message from Bishop Alan: Living God’s Love

We’ve been praying as a diocese that ‘we might live God’s love with generosity and joy, imagination and courage’.

Well over the past month we’ve had many opportunities to do just that. Who would have thought that within days of the lockdown many of our churches would be providing weekly online worship with hymns, prayers, readings and sermons, often recorded remotely from different houses and spliced together on a home computer?

And in those parishes where the broadband is poor or where lots of people aren’t online, armies of volunteers have distributed – with proper health safety precautions of course – printed materials for the housebound and the self-isolating so they can join in prayer and worship.

Over these past few weeks everyone – ordained and lay - has had to learn new skills and new ways to worship and to care for members of our congregations and parishioners. We’ve had to reach out to the bereaved on the phone or online who are not only grieving the death of a loved one but who in some cases can’t even go to the funeral. Other people have been picking up prescriptions, running parish pantries or shopping for the housebound. There are new foodbanks at Flamstead and Farley Hill. You will know of other local examples in your area.

It’s now becoming clear that life is not going to return to normal for many months, perhaps even years, so we are going to need even more ‘imagination and courage’ as we live out our Christian duty. But we are also going to need more ‘generosity and joy’.

One of the choices that every human being faces in a crisis is whether to give into fear and pull back from others or whether to use it as a new opportunity to reach out to people.

That’s the situation in 2 Corinthians chapter 8 when there was a famine in Jerusalem. St Paul appealed for help. The Christians in Macedonia were themselves facing a ‘severe ordeal of affliction’ and must have been tempted to put themselves and their families first. Yet they responded with generosity and joy. St Paul tells us:

“In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us”.

The inspiration for those first Christians was the conviction that still has the power to inspire today. As St Paul put it “For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich”.

During these challenging times I want to appeal to you to be generous. Generous in giving your time and energy to reach out to neighbours; generous in your giving to charities both here and overseas where many communities are facing far greater challenges than we are.

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I also want to appeal to you to support your local church. Like all charities we are facing huge challenges which will hit us very hard over the coming months.

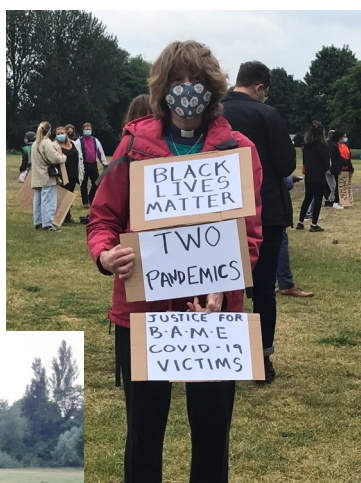
Some of you are not in a position to contribute – perhaps your business is closed or your earnings are very diminished. We all understand that – and indeed we want to try to help and support you in any way we can. However, those of us who are on stable incomes may not be spending as much as we might normally.

Knowing that I cannot go on the holiday I'd planned in June this year, I've pledged to give the money I would have spent to churches in the diocese. If you are able, would you see if you can either begin to give on a regular basis by standing order or direct debit? If you do that already, might you be able to increase how much you give, doing it through Gift Aid so your church treasurer can reclaim the tax.

Whatever your situation, all of us can reach out to do our bit during this crisis, whether it's getting on the phone or doing a good turn. Will you join with me in prayer, that whatever our circumstances we may live God's love 'with generosity and joy, imagination and courage'?

Will you join me in saying the 'Living God's Love' prayer every day?

Living God, draw us deeper into your love;
Jesus our Lord, send us to care and serve;
Holy Spirit, make us heralds of good news.
Stir us, strengthen us, teach and inspire us
to live your love with generosity and joy,
imagination and courage;
for the sake of your world
and in the name of Jesus, Amen.



Rosemary, Andrew and several members of MRMC were among the 1000 people who attended the Black Lives Matter rally in St Albans on 12th June. Rosemary reports “ It was very moving indeed...powerful speeches and we all knelt in silence for 8 minutes 46 seconds”

Reporter has received the following articles on racism, which are too long to be included in our regular edition. However they are published in full at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12IMrKAYw2AVsxhpFbmeozjb6DJr-q3V5/view?usp=sharing>

Black Lives Matter – a statement from the Methodist Church
House on the side of the Hill: Ida reflects on the death of George Floyd
Racism is rife in this country too by Arlington Trotman, Supernumerary Methodist minister (from the Church



STOP PRESS!

01 July 2020 - Rosemary writes: I have just received some wonderful news. The British Methodist Church has just elected its first black woman President! The Reverend Sonia Hicks- see below. Sonia and I overlapped for 2 years at Queen's College (I was there 1987-90) and Sonia and her husband Conrad were there 1988-91. Sonia and Conrad were ordained at the 1993 Derby Conference. Sonia's second appointment was in the then Watford Circuit, so she has a close Hertfordshire connection. My parents (who were in the Watford Circuit all their adults lives) were very fond of Sonia, and they, in the company of heaven, will be thrilled with this good news. Interestingly last evening I attended a webinar and she was one of the key note speakers. She was excellent and I quoted her in a zoom meeting this morning! I had no idea at that time she had been nominated. Sonia has already been a great gift to the Church and she will carry on being a gift! She is currently Superintendent of the Thames Valley Circuit.



The 2020 Methodist Conference has designated:

The Revd Sonia Hicks to be President of the Methodist Conference 2021/2022

The Revd Hicks has served as a Circuit Superintendent in three connexions: Britain, the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas and the Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI), said:

Sonia's commitment to oppose all forms of injustice began when she was a member of the Youth Exchange to Zimbabwe. She has since been Convenor of the World Relief and Development Committee for MCI, and has served as a Trustee for both *All We Can* and *Christian Aid Ireland*.

The Revd Hicks has also served on the South East District Synod Planning Group, on the Methodist Diaconal Order Leadership Group and on the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee.

New volunteers needed

from churches in Watford and the surrounding areas to join our experienced Street Angel / Chaplain team to be a positive, reassuring presence on the streets of Watford town centre as Watford gets back to work.

Please apply to join us if:

- You can volunteer at least 2 hours during the working week, or on Saturday
- You can walk, cycle, or drive into Watford town centre
- You have the support of your church leader and your household

We will provide training and uniform for your safety

Find out more and fill in either application form (Street Angel or Chaplain) at www.watfordtcc.org/volunteer and return it to office@watfordtcc.org

Please apply asap. Thank you.

Frances Novillo, Lead Chaplain 07483 178582 frances@watfordtcc.org

Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy is a registered charity no.1101281

