

Enfield **Methodist** Circuit



Summer
Newsletter
2020

Message from Revd Dan Haylett, Superintendent Minister



Dear friends,

It feels to me like we have learnt so much in these last few months. We have learnt about what is of most importance and what is not. We have learnt, or perhaps have been reminded, of the reality of Christian hope for us in the midst of troubled times.

We have celebrated Easter and we have had an enforced enacted illustration that the “holy habits” of discipleship are not confined to any particular building or location. We are learning that our love for one another continues to inspire caring and serving. We are finding ways to help and support and receive care and generosity from others. We may or may not have learned how to “Zoom”!

We are learning to trust in God. We are learning of the Risen Jesus in our midst. We are finding God’s Spirit at work in so many ways.

One of our own Supernumerary Ministers, Revd. Reg Hancock, reflecting on the experience of celebrating Easter in lockdown, put it like this to me: “Maybe we are learning to grow up”.

We are all well practiced now in naming the things and people we miss in these times of increased isolation. Some of us and those we know and love well have real cause to grieve. Whether we are merely inconvenienced or are struggling with very real fears or pain, or whether we are finding new space and time for a gentler pace of life; perhaps we can trace the ways we have grown in these times.

We have the resources of faith we need; the “means of grace” that sustain and nurture our growth. We can pray and know others praying for us and with us. We can worship, in varied ways and wherever we are. We can read and listen and find ways to offer generosity and care; and in turn to receive from others. Through it all, God helps us to grow.

As I write this newsletter, it is still not clear how long the restrictions upon us will last. There is much that we would like to do in this coming quarter that we will need to do differently. Firstly, we would want to express our heartfelt thanks to Revd. Julia Wiktorska as well of course to Edna as they prepare to leave the Enfield Circuit in August to begin a new chapter in their life. We will miss them greatly and offer our love and prayers to them as they make the move to the South coast. We will of course find a time to recognise and celebrate their time with us in Circuit, even if we have to drag them back to Enfield for a later date!

Secondly, we also want to express our thanks to Rebekah Gaylard whose time as Project Manager at the SPACE comes to an end over the summer. Rebekah has contributed so much to the work and to the Staff team and we offer her our prayers and support for the next part of her adventure.

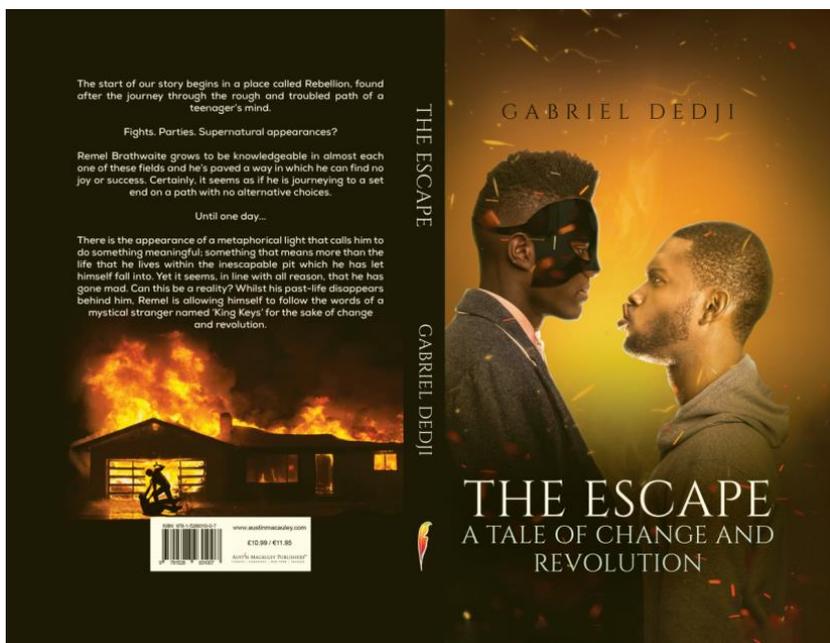
For us all, may we continue to discover the ways that God is helping us to “grow up”. “He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:8-9)

Peace


Greetings all!

I am Gabriel Dedji, the chairman of the Enfield Methodist Circuit Youth Ministry and the Enfield youth cabinet representative for community safety and cohesion. Many of you may also know me as the son of Revd. Valentin Dedji of Edmonton Methodist Church.

Recently, I published my debut novel, 'The Escape: A Tale of Change and Revolution' which is available at Amazon, Waterstones, WHSmith and all major online book retailers. So, hopefully, I can share some of the experiences I've had so far as a 17-year-old author.



Where should I begin?

On the 30th October 2019, I became a fully published author. After keeping my book a secret for over a year, I was keen to let everyone know that 'The Escape' was officially out. The story

follows a young delinquent named Remel Brathwaite and his escape from a life of trouble with the help of a mystical masked stranger named King Keys, The Perpetually Pensive Poet. Upon hearing the news, some of my friends began to cry tears of joy, some felt inspired to write their own books and others went online to buy it straight away, which gladdened me immensely. Once their copies had come, it was exciting to see them engulfed in the story as it went along, asking me questions about the characters and rushing to get to the end: sparked with interest. Similarly, the support from church was also amazing. Once I had announced it to them, they were all filled with absolute joy, waiting excitedly for my book launch, which I held there.

News of 'The Escape' spread like wildfire on New Year's Eve. I had an interview with a journalist named Abbianca Makoni from the Press Association during December concerning the pertinent themes surrounding the book. Pairing the interview (available on her youtube channel) with a written article, the story had been picked up within a couple hours by over 50 news sources!

The increased exposure since that day has been fantastic, not just for the book, but for me to talk about mentorship and how positive mentors can help to solve many of the issues we face today. This orientated my discussions on BBC Radio London with Clair Hermet and Duncan Golestani on ITV. Both of which, I must add, were amazing interviews. They're both available on my Instagram (gabriededji) and will soon be available on YouTube.

To conclude, all I can say is that the journey I am currently on has really been a joy. On one hand, the most exciting part has been seeing all my friends and family, supporting, reading and, quite importantly, enjoying the novel. Yet, I feel that the key part of the journey has been the platform that the novel has given me to push others to do more in their lives, use their gifts and talents and to follow positive examples. It is this idea that has shaped all of my interviews and I hope that it is an idea that people will understand more and more as time goes on.

Circuit Website: www.enfieldmethodistcircuit.co.uk

Please see our Circuit website for a whole host of updated resources for all ages: See our weekly recorded services, and the weekly edition of our "Extra" podcast. Click on "Our online worship" to access updated and archived editions.

Thanks to Rebekah Gaylard

When Rebekah was appointed by the Methodist Connexion to take up an internship position in the Enfield Circuit, we had high hopes that during her time here she would be involved in the building of the new intergenerational community centre and the creation of a thriving community on the Elsinge estate. Plans had been made and architects appointed and in the summer holidays of 2019 we had attracted around 80 families through our summer opening of the premises for food and activities.

It did not turn out quite as planned. The delay in implementing building plans for the new centre, the restrictions on space and then the total closure of premises due to the Coronavirus have meant that we are still in the planning process. But in all this, Rebekah has been working hard making relationships with families, developing a database for contacts, doing further research into community development and allowing us to use her skills and insight into making further plans. We are grateful to her for giving this year of her life to walking with us as we seek to fulfil the vision of a church serving the community and we hope the year has provided a space for her to perceive God at work in her own development.

In normal circumstances we would be planning a farewell service – but not much is normal in these days.

So, we say thank you in these pages – for your hard work, your smiling face, your friendship, your patience and your creativity. We wish you well in wherever God leads you next year and we look forward to following your future work. We will pray for you. And please look out for the invitation to the grand opening of The Space in due course.

Kathleen

Here at MHA Enfield Live at Home we've been adapting under the new circumstances, to focus on how we can best help the older community during this time and support them through the day to day changes we are all encountering.



Our daily routine may have been temporarily paused and we may not meet in person now, but we are bringing people together through a variety of different streams and working out what the “new normal” will look like for our members and friends through both the lockdown and life after.

Through telephone befriending, virtual pub quizzes and baking sessions, zoom calls and doorstep deliveries we are trying to offer a friendly hand where we can bring home the message that although we are isolating, we do not need to be isolated. We are fundraising to create different activity packs full of crosswords, crafts, puzzles, baking kits and much more, that will bring a bit of the Live at Home magic to our members' doorsteps and a small slice of normality. We are growing strawberry plants that will also be given out to our members which will carry on blooming throughout the summer and we also home baked 80 VE Day afternoon teas, to help mark the 75th anniversary until we can meet again and have the big party as planned. Kingsmead secondary school have also been instrumental in our battle against loneliness, making their own cards that we have delivered to our members which has sparked a group of pen pals across the generations, each having a story to share.

At this current moment in time we are supporting 100 older people living in the Borough, all with a variety of needs. We enrich our weekly calls talking about our wishes for life after lockdown, what we are learning about ourselves during this time and although we have moments where we yearn for our old lives, we are learning to embrace the gift of time and all it has to offer.

None of us know when this will end, but we know that it shall pass and there will be a day where we can be together again. I would like to extend my gratitude to all those that are volunteering with us at the moment and helping to make a difference in the lives of our

older community. Without your help, none of this could be made possible.

We carry a heavy heart for those who have experienced loss during this time and have you in our thoughts, as you grieve for those who are no longer with us.

Keep safe, keep well and keep smiling.

Toni and all the team at MHA Enfield Live at Home.



Dial-a-Prayer



FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon

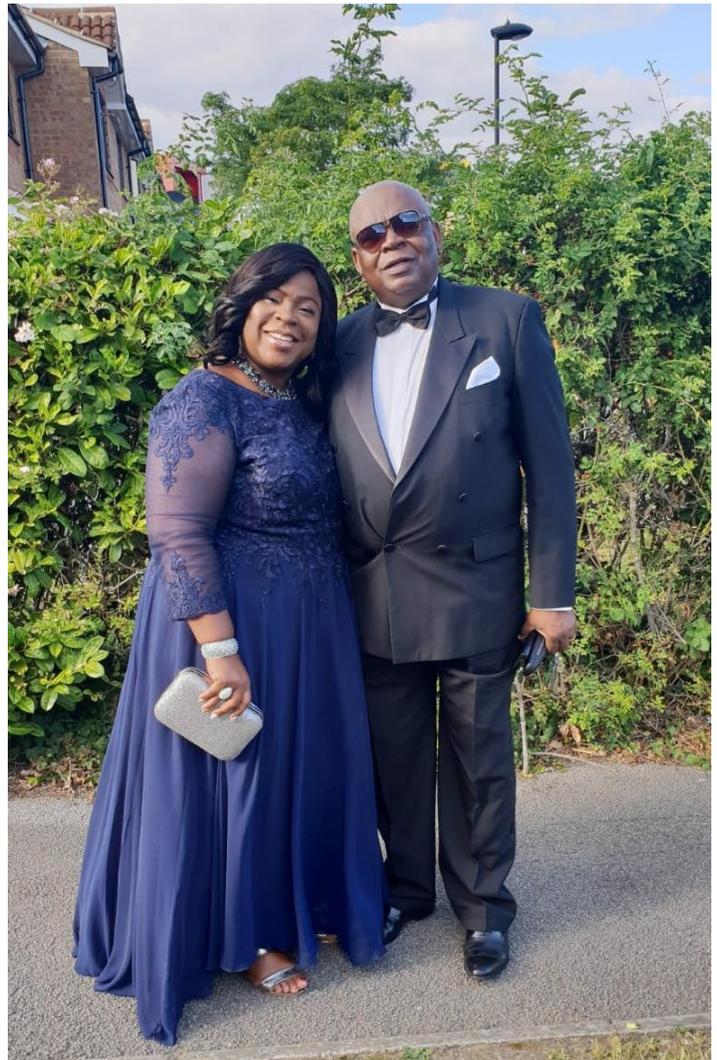
*“This is my story; this is my song.
Praising my Saviour all the day long”*

As a Health and Social care provider, I was busy organising my teams ensuring they had enough PPE and support for the impending lockdown, as all back office teams would be working remotely.

On Tuesday, 24th March I started feeling fatigue with high temperature, so I stayed in bed. This continued for a week with additional symptoms such as coughing, bodily pains, loss of appetite and general flu-like symptoms. I was self-medicating with home remedies, including steam inhalation, lemon ginger and honey and Albas oil massages; I had some good days and bad days.

Then on 30th March, the symptoms became worse. I was not able to eat or sleep and also became very breathless. I contacted the GP and they advised me to call 999. Admittedly, I was hesitant to call the emergency service, as I did not want to be admitted due to all the negative publicity relating to the ‘deadly Covid-19’. I was hopeful that all my home remedies would be enough to cure me.

On 1st April, my breathlessness became so severe that I called 999; however, with the pressures of the ambulance service, it took them



over 11 hours to get a vehicle to me. By the Grace of God, the ambulance men were very attentive and compassionate. They took my history, did my observation on arrival and immediately put me on oxygen and took to me to North Middlesex Hospital where I tested positive for Covid-19. I was put on a non-invasive ventilator, oxygen and IV antibiotics. I was so poorly that the consultant called my husband later in the afternoon and advised that I was so critical, they only expected me to survive for 48 hours, as my oxygen saturation level was so low, it was life threatening.

I was so frightened and alone, due to risk of infection my family and any visitors were prohibited, the ward staff tried to avoid contact as much as possible, with no one willing to stay with me longer than necessary; it was a very daunting experience. With only my thoughts to keep me company, I held onto Psalm 91 and my faith in God gave me solace.

I can testify that the blood of Jesus still saves; after 5 long days, I had surpassed the doctor's prognosis and started responding to treatment. I was able to sit up in my chair, my reliance on the oxygen machine had reduced and I was moved to another Covid-19 ward to fully recover. I gradually continued to improve on reduced oxygen until I was breathing independently. Suddenly on Easter Sunday, my consultant came to deliver the exciting and surprising news that I would be discharged earlier than planned, as I had made great progress. I was discharged on the day of Resurrection to come home and isolate for a week. I have to give Glory to God and also send a special thank you to the Doctors and Nurses on T5 and S2 wards of the hospital, who really did all they could to save my life.

My family got in touch with Revd Dedji and Revd Owusu; they both got in touch and prayed with me which encouraged me. I was

fortunate to have been inundated with messages and videos of prayers, well wishes, love and support from family, friends, colleagues and association/church members.

When I was discharged on 12th April, I met my husband Isaac also recovering from Covid-19. He was still so weak and coughing, with a poor appetite. I was told whilst in hospital that he was being cared for at home by our eldest daughter.

Today, I'm happy to say we are both well and out of isolation at home, taking life easy by the Grace of God. The scripture in Psalm 23:4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will feel no evil for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" has new meaning.

Coronavirus is real, a deadly disease; please stay at home and keep social and physical distance. When you have symptoms, seek help early and ask questions when on admission about your condition. God bless you.

Josephine Ababio, member of Edmonton Methodist Church.



If you are concerned about the situation you are in, or have concerns about someone you know:

Call the National Domestic Abuse Helpline for free and confidential advice, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247.

Lockdown – Behind closed doors

Many of the Circuit priorities continue to move forward during the lockdown. Thank you to everyone involved in conference calls and for those continuing to work from home.

Winchmore Hill

Following the conversation at the last Circuit Meeting, the Circuit-appointed Trustees for Winchmore Hill have requested and received a Qualified Surveyors Report. This report is a requirement by the Charity Commission for any church which might be sold.

The report's conclusions were.

1. If the Church/Building were sold with ongoing use either by another religious organisation or a group wishing to use the existing building in some way, the valuation would be in the region of £2,250,000. It was noted that money would need to be spent to refurbish the building to make it fit for purpose and safe throughout.
2. If the Building/site was sold to a developer looking to change its use e.g. flats/retail/community services, then the valuation would be in the region of £1,785,000. When you factor in what would have to be spent in the scenario above, this is very similar.

The report recommends that the site is marketed for sale at offers in excess of £2,250,000 and that marketing should commence as soon as lockdown is finished. This has been agreed so expect to see a notice board going up outside the church, adverts in estates gazettes and targeted calls to potential buyers. Once interest has been collected, we will give the Circuit a further update.

Please note that the report mentioned that it is difficult to predict what impact COVID19 will have on the property market. Also, no decision will be made without the consent of the Circuit Meeting, the District, and the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) who are the ultimate governing Trustees.



There has been some exciting activity surrounding this project. First, we are delighted to announce that we have been

successful in obtaining the return of the Connexional levy we paid upon the sale of Oakwood. It was agreed at the last Circuit Meeting that this money, £1.3 million, would be put towards The Space (St John) project.

The architects have also been busy finalising the information required by Enfield Planning department. We are now able to apply for planning permission and the Planners have indicated that permission will be granted without the need to go to a full Council Planning Panel. There will be conditions applied to the approval but getting this will open several doors.

We now have £1,300,000 committed alongside the Circuit capital approved by the Circuit Meeting of £750,000 (£450,000 of this was used to buy the property next door in Yews Avenue to secure a much larger garden space).

With both planning permission and over 50% of the project funding already in place we can now apply for grants from external bodies. We will be looking to raise between £500,000 to £1m from these grants and the applications process is underway.

In the meantime, Rebekah is busy preparing to hopefully open the doors during the Summer Holidays for similar activities and food provisions as arranged in 2019. Volunteer sheets will be circulated once we know when the lockdown will be lifted and what the rules around social distancing and gatherings are clear.

Edmonton

At long last we have almost addressed all the Council Planners' concerns about this redevelopment. We need to update a few surveys based on the finalised design, but all comments from the

Planners are now positive. We hope to be in position to submit our planning application soon and that it will be supported by the Planning Officers when it goes to the Council Planning Panel.



The updated costs are higher than the original plan, largely because the first variation included 10 more flats (34 rather than 24). Other factors are that building costs have

increased slightly whereas the value of the property market has decreased. The viability study shows that total building costs will be in region of £9 million. After the building is complete the 24 flats can be sold or rented to recoup money. If sold however, they will not raise enough to cover the whole of the building costs so we will need to put money into the project to make up the difference. We have known this, and presented this to the Circuit Meeting, for the last 2 years. The difference we will have to find will depend on the number (if any) of affordable housing is included. For example, if we do not include any affordable housing, we would need to find approximately £3.5 million. If we included 38% affordable housing (9 out of 24 flats) then we would need to find approximately £4.2 million.

We have several options open to us, one obvious one is the sale proceeds from Winchmore Hill. However, as with The Space project, we will still need to apply for external grants of at least £1 million. Once planning permission has been received and we have more clarity on how we will pay for the whole project we will commence the grant applications process.

This may seem small progress but for people who have been following this painful journey for the last 4 year, this is a significant step forward and one we have prayed for extremely hard.

Ponders End

As many of you will know, prior to the lockdown the refurbishment work at Ponders End had already received planning permission. The Circuit Meeting had pledged £400,000 towards the



costs and will also cover the £60,000 pledged by Ponders End through fund raising over the next 3 years. Building tenders were received just prior to lockdown and we have been comparing these to find the most suitable builder and a reasonable price. It would appear, based on the tenders, that the building work will cost in the region of £700,000.

In the meantime, external grant bodies have been identified and we are applying for grants to bridge the gap between funds and costs. We pray for success in these applications as we hope to be able to start this building work before the end of 2020.

Deacon's manse

And finally, because Revd Alan Combes has already left us and Deacon Jacqueline Esama-John is not joining until September, the manse has been empty. This has allowed us to continue preparation work in a COVID safe environment. Painting has been completed along with some outside work. The carpenter, electrician, carpet fitter and cleaner will be able to come one after another so hopefully we will be ready in time to welcome Jacqueline and family.

Reminder: good practice for Churches during lockdown

We would like to take this opportunity to remind churches that a walk around once a week (in a COVID safe way) is advisable to check safety and identify any problems. Turning each tap on and letting it run for about a minute will risk of legionnaires disease. If you encounter any problems and cannot find tradesmen willing to come out, please contact the Circuit office and we will endeavour to help.

Anne Fairchild, CEO

Enfield Methodist Circuit



Isaiah 41:10 (NRSV)

“Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand”.

If you are self-isolating or need our help, we are ready to help in the following ways:

Picking up shopping Posting mail A phone conversation
Urgent supplies Delivering a weekly service sheet

Please contact the Circuit office on: 020 8367 1338

or email enfieldcircuit@yahoo.com

or call MHA on: 07714 074080

or email enfield.liveathome@mha.org.uk

A short act of worship is prepared each week by Circuit Staff and if you have access to the internet, the printed order of service and recorded message is available on the Circuit website

www.enfieldmethodistcircuit.co.uk together with other resources.

If you are not already receiving a copy of the order of service by post or email and would like to, please contact the Circuit Office.

www.enfieldmethodistcircuit.co.uk

Online you can find:

- *Information about our Churches and our Circuit priorities
- *Our weekly recorded service
- *Other worship resources, hymns/songs
- *Material and ideas for young people
- *Our weekly Podcast, “Extra” where members of the staff team share in conversation about some Bible passages.

As we are all aware, Covid19 has had huge impacts in so many ways. Alongside the obvious human cost, we are all aware of the economic implications for many in so many ways as well. With lockdown set to continue for some time, your local Church income has dropped off substantially, and for obvious reasons – none of us have been there to put our cash or envelopes in the offertory bag week by week!



Some members across the Circuit have recently set up monthly Standing Orders with their bank, and this has helped Churches enormously. Several Churches have had one off donations too.

Please remember the cost of ministry across the Circuit continues, and your church needs more members and friends to help to close the gap between expenditure and income to continue our mission and ministry. We know this might not be the right time for some to consider their giving, but for those who are able to do so and willing to help, please help your Church and Circuit in one of those two ways by contacting your local Church Treasurer. Many thanks.

ToCS (Together our Community Survives)

Although Edmonton Church is closed, we were approached by a group called ToCS (Together our Community Survives) at the end of April to see if we would be willing to open on a Saturday afternoon. This is to enable their food distribution service to continue to operate to the elderly and vulnerable across our community. ToCS are affiliated with the Enfield Caribbean Association and started to distribute food at the start of the lockdown. Their service was reaching over 100 people and could no longer operate from someone's home.

On Saturday 9th May, with the permission of Revd Dedji, Edmonton Church was used for the first time. Anne Fairchild and Sam Agyei were on site to supervise and were both impressed with the organisation of the operation. There were about 10 volunteers picking the food bags and 20 volunteers driving the food to the elderly and vulnerable as well as someone from the Council checking that social distancing procedures were in place. Fresh fruit and vegetables, tinned food, bread/rice/pasta is largely donated along with small cooked food. Anything not donated must be purchased so the group are also working hard to raise funds.

Although the group was established purely to meet a need during lockdown, it has identified a real need for foodbank help. They hope to continue the service post lockdown and grow the service as a growing need is identified. We have put the organiser of ToCS as well as a Trustee of the Enfield Caribbean Association in touch with Toni Fielding from our MHA Live at Home Scheme as there is likely to be great deal of overlap of services which the elderly and vulnerable could benefit from.

Currently they deliver to about 125 people in and around Enfield. Most of the food is donated but some has to be bought.

There are 3 ways you could help if you'd like to:

- 1) donate food or money
- 2) help on Saturday at Edmonton Church making up the food parcels
- 3) delivery of the food parcels (doorstep delivery – no contact)

Food required is quite specific, as the parcels are all the same where possible: tinned – corned beef, sardines, kidney beans, black eyed peas, gungo peas, soup. Pasta and rice are also welcome.

We should stress this is not a Circuit or Church project, but it is in line with our mission and priorities, so it is a privilege to help.

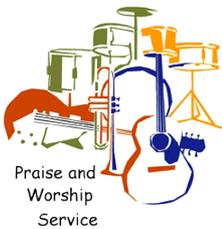
Saturday between 2pm and 4pm is where it all happens - at Edmonton Methodist Church 300 Fore Street N9 0PN.

The link below allows you to sign up as a volunteer. The organiser's name is Dionne and if you'd like more information before volunteering please call her on 07958 230923. If you have food or money to donate, please contact Anne Fairchild on 07983 557657.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_B-4_Jj485C0J9j8521C_cK7sxi_BiSGQSbWxwNfq0FC_KQ/viewform

Worship opportunities across the circuit

As well as the usual Sunday services, why not try some of these different opportunities for prayer, worship and fellowship across the Circuit?



Ponders Praise: praise and worship on the first Sunday evening of each month at 6.30pm.

Grange Park: "Words & Worship" on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 6.30pm



Prayers from 10.30am to 11am every Tuesday in the Octagon Room at Trinity Church, Enfield: Quiet, reflective prayers for our world and us.

'Second Tuesday Prayers', at 11.30am on the second Tuesday each month at Goffs Oak



Oasis Fellowship at Edmonton every Wednesday 10am-11am



Soup and conversation at Grange Park
Every Wednesday 12 noon – 2pm.

[R]E:[F]R[E]S[H]

"Re:refresh": an act of worship to refresh you at Trinity Church, 1st Thursday of each month from 7.30 8.30pm.



Tea service at BHP on the 1st Sunday of each month at 3pm