



The Magazine *of* the South Essex Circuit Methodist Churches



©Henri Martin, *Summer*

Summer & Harvest Edition 2025

The South Essex Circuit is committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in word and action.

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Circuit Policy

The Circuit's role is to ensure the effective use of its resources to further the four dimensions of 'Our Calling' as Methodists.

Worship

to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love;

Service

to be good neighbours to people in need and to challenge injustice;

Evangelism

to make more followers of Jesus;

Learning and Caring

to help people to learn and grow in faith through mutual support and care.

Where will you get on board?



A Prayer of Pope Francis from his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si*

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
Amen.

Laudato Si', p. 115



Dear friends,

In just a few days' time, summer will draw to a close. This latest edition of our circuit magazine draws together the end of summer, the bounty of harvest, and the season of creationtide.

In the life of our circuit, perhaps the biggest highlight for us was the ordination of the Revd Fiona Smith. Ordination marks the ending and formal recognition of the Conference of a very long process of discernment and initial ministerial formation in the life of those called to public representative ministry, a ministry of presence which the ordained shares in concrete ways with the whole people of God. In this sense, ordination is not only about being set apart for the work of God; it is also about being set in relation to a people and a place. In this magazine, you will read Revd Fiona's reflections on her ordination journey.

The season of Summer also completes the liturgical season of Harvest and Creationtide. In the Harvest celebration, we give thanks with gratitude for God's bounty and abundance we have graciously received and, in the same token, take the time to reflect on our responsibilities towards those in a food crisis, how we share the earth's resources with everyone, both locally and internationally. We give thanks for all the celebrations of Harvest across the Circuit and the support and generosity given to charitable causes both locally and internationally.

Creationtide is marked in the church from 1st September to 4th October; it focuses on our proper role and responsibility to the environment. This year's theme for the Season of Creation was called 'Peace with the Earth'. It is based on the prophet Isaiah's vision of the healing and the restoration of all things in God, and our part in bringing about that renewal (<https://seasonofcreation.org>).

So, it is fitting that, alongside the various reflections, news, poems, celebrations, and prayers, the magazine ends with an extract from our Circuit Environmental Policy. The policy offers us a common vision of our responsibilities towards the care of God's creation, our common home.

As we now move into November, the season of remembrance and All Souls', we think of all across our Circuit, remembering in particular Rev Felicity and Anna, who continue to grieve their loved ones. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

The peace of the Lord be with us all,

Rev Moses.



My Ordination Journey

This summer, I had the privilege of being 'Welcomed into Full Connexion' with the Methodist Church, alongside 31 colleagues, many of whom I trained with, and a few of whom I met that day, before being ordained into presbyteral ministry in the afternoon. It was a day full of celebration, where smiles came easily, not just for myself and the journey I had been on, but to see so many of my friends, people I had journeyed alongside in hard times and good, reach this milestone on their journey too. As we sung the hymn words, *'We will walk the path that will cost us much, and embrace the pain and sorrow. We will trust in One who entrusts to us the disciples of tomorrow.'* I knew that I was singing alongside people who had lived the words wholeheartedly, and it was both humbling, and a joy, be standing alongside them.



It was also a day full of waiting: waiting in side rooms, waiting in lines, waiting for instruction, waiting for people to arrive, waiting on God, and waiting for us to be allowed to leave when everything was done. The journey to ordination contained its fair share of waiting: waiting for God to make his will clear, waiting to hear the feedback of various committees, waiting for terms to begin, waiting for essays back, waiting to find out where we would be sent, waiting for the big day to arrive. It therefore seems apt that the President of Conference's sermon spoke of patience, the time it takes for the mustard seed to grow into the tree, and how God walks slowly because he travels at the speed of love.

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And, it was a day of profound moments. During our ordination retreat the week before, we had a hymn practice where we were also given a history of some of the hymns that we would sing at our ordinations. The leaders spoke about the 'bright succession' of those called to follow Jesus going all the way back to the Early Church. Kneeling in front of icons of St Aidan and St Chad, in a building consecrated 200 years

before I was born to a saint who lived in the 7th Century, singing lyrics that were first written over a thousand years ago, which have been sung at ordinations for hundreds of years. I had a profound sense of entering into that history and being part of something bigger. I knew I was where I was meant to be and felt ready to face whatever would come next. I was not alone.

This day was both the start, and the end, of a journey. It was the start of my life as an ordained minister, but it was also the end of my probation, the end of my training for ministry, the end of a period of discernment that had lasted nearly 12 years. In my Testimony Service in April, I had the opportunity to share some of the story of that journey, surrounded by people who had shared in it. My local preaching tutor and mentor, Lois Emm, preached, Felicity and Moses led the prayers, Suzanne read, David Chapman led the service, and family and friends I trained with attended, along with many from this circuit. I spoke of my growing sense of call and the people who had helped me realise that God was calling me to ministry. I spoke too of the transition from college to probation and my need to



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face my fears, as well as my sense of being supported on the journey, by God and by those around me. It was a real joy to be able to speak about my journey and share in fellowship afterwards over food.

As to where the next part of my journey will take me, ordination and a new Methodist year inevitably bring new responsibilities and new joys, as well as new challenges. I hope that I will face them with joy, patience, love, humility, courage, and a confidence that I am where I am meant to be. I *am* confident that, whatever comes, it is not a journey that I will make alone.

Rev Fiona Smith

Links to recordings of the services mentioned above are included below:

Testimony Service:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VpoC1hr2EoPdZnNyCurZphtMnYk41Bsl/view?usp=drive_link

Welcome into Full Connexion:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHbOYg8kdEU&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.methodist.org.uk%2F&source_ve_path=OTY3MTQ

Ordination Service: https://www.youtube.com/live/mRgDL_blfdw.





Billericay Painting for Pleasure Art Exhibition May 2025

For over twenty years, the Painting for Pleasure Art Group has run at the Queens Park site of Billerica Methodist Church. In the summer of 2024, the founders decided to retire, leaving the group facing closure, for lack of anyone to fill their shoes. On hearing this, I sensed a "God Opportunity" and offered to take it on, despite having never attended up to that point!!



During lockdown, I lost my brother to leukemia, he lived in the north, and I down south. We couldn't meet, but for months I rang him daily. These calls were particularly painful; "How are you doing?" I would ask, his response was always the same "I'm dying". He was a talented artist so I decided to paint (having not done so for years), then send photos to him, which we could discuss, providing an alternative focus to the calls. Eventually Will died, but having "stirred up the gift that was within me" I carried on painting and wanted to use my art to serve God. Taking on the group gave that opportunity, and I picked up the reins in September 2024.



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With 25 on the books, there are around 18 regulars, a mix of men and women from varying walks of life and mostly unchurched. The common love of painting (and other art forms) is the glue that holds us together, but the group additionally provides social interaction and support, pastoral care, reduces loneliness and isolation for some. Also, it keeps hands moving and brains ticking over!

Soon the group asked to hold an exhibition! (This was way out of my comfort zone and terrifying!) Before covid they had held occasional Saturday morning exhibitions for friends and family to view. This seemed an awful lot of work, to be seen by so few. Therefore, I proposed a travelling exhibition, starting at Queens Park church site, then moving to Billericay library for a week before moving to Western Road Church for the second weekend culminating with a "Creativity Service" on the Sunday morning. The group were initially daunted, but soon



rallied, embracing the challenge and the exhibition launched in May 2025. This resulted in 50+ paintings being displayed, over 300 people visiting the exhibition, and £300+ raised for Guide Dogs. Three brave souls even agreed to hold live art demonstrations at the library, who in turn provided the venue for free!

The culmination of the exhibition was a service celebrating creativity at Western Rd. Surrounded by all the wonderful works of art, the service compared creator God in Genesis 1 looking at the blank canvas of an empty world and wanting to fill it. He created light and darkness layering up shading. He created land and sea, vegetation, sky and planets, living



creatures and finally mankind. He created the earth and everything in it, in the same way as most artists work, by building up a picture until they are satisfied that the result matches up with what they visualized in their mind.

The amount of work was huge, but the subsequent benefits were even bigger. The group pulled together, forming even closer bonds. The group and individuals achieved more than they had previously thought possible. There was marked interaction between the church, the group and the local community, each cooperating with the other, providing transport, refreshments and handling the exhibits. This raised the profile of the group and set the town talking! Four months on, I'm still being approached in the supermarket with total strangers wanting to talk about it. The question on everyone's lips is "When will there be another exhibition?" My reply is "Watch this space!"

Barbara Almond
Member of Billericay Methodist Church

Worship Academy 2025/2026
Benfleet Methodist Church SS75LH
Usually, the first Wednesday of the month
from 7pm – 9.15ish

We are in our twelfth year of Worship Academy, and we need to evolve. This evolution means an opening up of Worship Academy to EVERYBODY in this circuit and neighbouring circuits.

Originally, Worship academy was set up for Ministers, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders to learn and share ideas about enhancing worship for all. This meant thinking about:
What types of hymns and why?
What types of prayers and why?

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What types of sermons, reflections, dramatizations and why?
What sorts of different services could we offer and why?

We have learnt much but overtime we have realised that many of our stewards and members of the congregations may like to come along. This is your INVITATION, look at the programme below and decide if anything or everything interests you.

The bonus is a MEAL before the workshop/talk – a fellowship of interesting Christians. The meal is prepared by excellent cooks Doreen, Shelagh and John. Some people have been known to ask for second helpings!

To book you have three possibilities.

Contact

The circuit office by email on southendandleighcircuit@gmail.com and ask for the direct Eventbrite link

To go straight to the Eventbrite site

To contact me on fulford.family@btinternet.com

Do hope to see you there

God Bless
Jane

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FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH EXCEPT AUGUST,
SEPTEMBER & JANUARY

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH SS7 5LH

7 PM FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

8 PM WORSHIP & LEARNING

Autumn

1st October – Language in Worship
HEATHER SIMMONS

5th November – Activities in Worship
SUE HOCKETT, STEVE HOCKETT & ANNE BRIANT

3rd December – Planning a Lectionary Service
RICHARD ARMIGER

Spring

4th February – Prayer & Healing
BOB BRIANT

4th March – Poetry & Drama in Worship
ANNA TURNER

1st April – Planning a Lectionary Service
PETER MOORHOUSE

Summer

6th May – All Age Worship | Senses in Worship
COLIN AND CATHY TURNER

3rd June – Small Group Devotions
MAUREEN SPINKS

1st July – Food, Fellowship, Feedback, A new approach
STAFF TEAM



Introducing Keith Hogben, Our New Property Officer

We welcome Keith Hogben as our new Property Officer. He will oversee and manage Circuit premises, including churches without their own Property Steward. Keith plans to visit all Circuit churches in the coming weeks and meet those of you who are either property stewards or have property maintenance roles. Once settled, Keith will be your contact for property advice. His details are in the Circuit Directory



I am Keith the new Property Officer for the circuit, and I genuinely look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

I live in Basildon with my wife 'Karen' and our two cats 'Samurai' and 'Shinobi' and I play guitar and bass in the worship team at 'The Church @ Swanmead, also in Basildon. I came to faith at Trinity Methodist Church thirty-eight years ago and have been a youth leader and worship leader in the intervening years.

My main interests outside of church include Motorcycles, stringed instruments of all kinds, DIY, painting and writing.

In my new role I hope to help make the buildings of the circuit more safe, comfortable and inviting for all users and especially new ones.

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St Paul's Church Harvest Celebration

St Paul's Church celebrated Harvest this year by getting creative! We looked to nature to appreciate God's gift of our world and the harvest.



A coffee morning was held on Saturday, with displays presented in the worship area for people to browse



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was followed by a Ploughman's lunch, which has become a Harvest favourite with us.



The collected produce was given to the Food Bank operated by the Salvation Army in Basildon.



A total of £368.00 was raised through the coffee morning and Sunday's offerings for All We Can



Poems by Rachel Gallehawk

Why do the trees weep?

Why do the trees weep?
Their tears fall oh so softly
Beneath their bare canopies,
Soft patterings of released distress
Shower gently upon me below,
I, their witness to their tears of woe,
They echo my own aching, troubled heart,
For I weep with them, not apart.

Separation

I cry, my tears like the autumn leaves
Awaiting their time,
Gently snapped from their life support system,
Falling, fluttering, spiralling,
A ceaseless soft pattering,
Released, separated,
I, the unnoticed intruder
A wanderer off the path,
Stand amidst it all,
Watch and feel each small spark of life,
Flicker briefly in the gold autumnal light
A letting go of all, their burden released

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The Return

Return
And the blackbird still sings,
Her lone song dancing
Delicately swooping
On invisible streams
Of crisp morning air,
Stripping my soul bare.
Questioning, sighing, uplifting,
Her prayer-song to an unseen God
We humans fail to translate
Such intricate invisible weaving,
But it touches the heart,
And spirit too,
With a soft loving caress.
In this harsh wintry land of death
She is sign of watchful waiting,
Of hope, in an ever-shifting landscape.

Where Do You Find Hope?

GREENBELT
HOPE IN THE MAKING
21-24 AUGUST 2025 BOUGHTON HOUSE

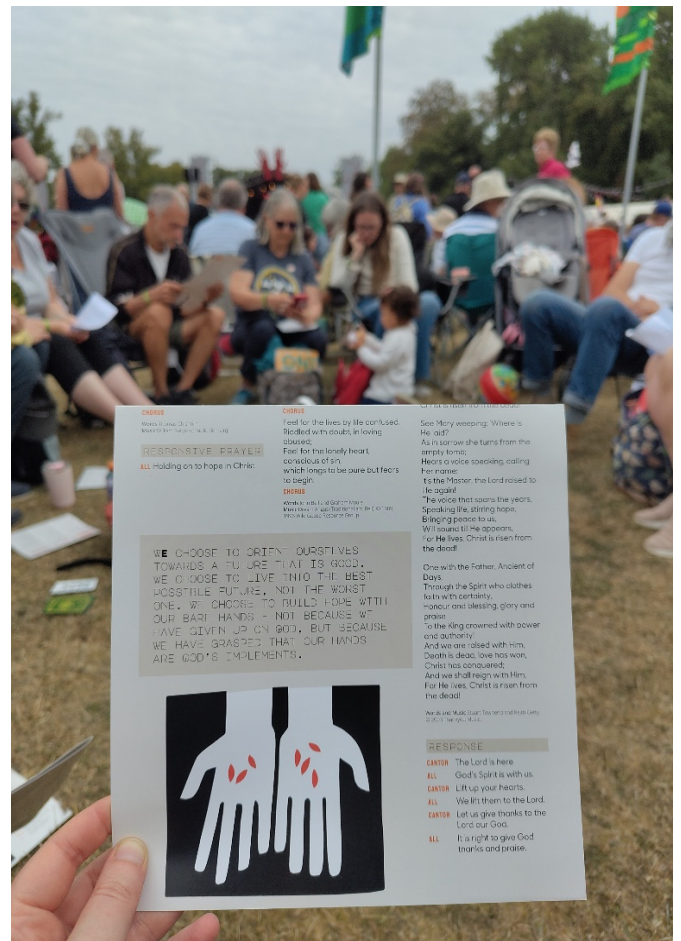
This year I spent my August Bank Holiday at Greenbelt Festival reflecting on Hope.

The theme was chosen after Daoud Nassar from the Tent of Nations, just outside Bethlehem in the West Bank, was asked during the Festival Communion last year, what he does when things seem hopeless – surrounded as his family farm is on all sides by illegal Israeli settlements.

“I go out and I plant a tree,” he said.

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This year Daoud Nassar was back, alongside Sally Azar, the first Palestinian woman to be ordained a pastor in the Holy Land, once again sharing the reality of living under occupation as the situation in the West Bank continues to deteriorate. They spoke about being stubborn in hope, being active in hope, planting seeds of hope; of how they make the choice to refuse to be enemies, how they refuse to take on the mentality of victims in spite of all they suffer, and how they refuse to hate, as while the Israeli government can enforce all kinds of other restrictions on them, no one can force them to do that. All of this rooted in the belief that in the middle of the crucifixion comes resurrection, the faith that gives us hope.



But the weekend was not all about Palestine and the hope that can be found there. I also found hope in a field of over 1000 Christians singing 'Amazing Grace' with enough conviction to bring people to tears, in seeing artists from around the world, black, white, old and young, disabled and non-disabled, straight and LGBTQ+ sharing a stage, in having a child and an 82 year old activist priest lead communion in a field, in honest conversations, challenging biblical reflection and the sharing of stories, in the existence of vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free food trucks, and in a place where you could leave a bag on a chair and come back later and find them both still there untouched. Hope that Christianity still has something to say in a broken and divided world, hope that division isn't inevitable – we can choose to come together, hope that people are fundamentally good and kind and generous when given the chance, and that they want to see a better world.

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Through all the talks and worship and music and art, the answer to the question 'what do you do when things seem hopeless?' seemed to resonate, 'we do something, and we don't do it alone.' Even if it's just the choice to approach the world with a hopeful and loving attitude, we do something, and we celebrate that here. I left Greenbelt more hopeful and determined to do my 'something'. I hope you can find your 'something' too.



Rev Fiona Smith.

A Poem by George Hopper

"My soul thrills to the sound of your Name,
To the works of your hands,
To your sacrifice made.
Let the earth sing abroad,
Of our Saviour who came,
Whose death has brought life to the world!

Christian multiplication;
Sin divides
Unbelief Subtracts
Faith adds but
Love multiplies

George Hopper, a local preacher

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Jehovah Jireh- the Lord will provide!

Provision and sustenance is a theme that runs through the Bible from the beginning to the end. I see God as the main provider of our needs, and He does so in various situations and circumstances. **Jehovah Jireh- the 'Lord will provide'**, originally is the name given by Abraham to the site where he found the ram to be offered in place of his son Isaac.

I use the following verses to discuss the theme:

- The Pentateuch **Genesis 1v 29**
- The Prophets **1 Kings 19 v 5-8**
- The Gospels **John 6:35**
- The New Testament Letters **Romans 14 v 17**



Genesis 1 v 29 The nature of God, of provision and sustenance for his people begins in **Genesis**, the first chapter in the Bible. In **Genesis Chapter 1v 29 God says** "I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat." The **Garden of Eden** is not only a symbol of God's provision at its best, but also the setting of God's provision. God has created the Earth and all its abundance.

He created abundance before he could put man (Adam and Eve) in it because he loved mankind and wanted man to be happy and comfortable. He gave them comfort with food, fruit and drink for nourishment.

However, God did make it clear that if they were going to continue to enjoy themselves in the Garden, they were to remain obedient and not eat the fruit in the middle of the Garden, from the tree of life. So the forbidden fruit was deemed not part of God's provision.

This was not done and Genesis ends on a sad note with God pronouncing punishment on Adam and Eve and consequently chasing them off Eden. He also told them that from then on they were going to fend for

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themselves. Moreover, the ground was now cursed and difficult to till and grow food for themselves. The abundance was no longer a part of their lives which seemed to contradict the nature of God as a provider of the bounty. God seemed to be more distant from the joy of his creation, mankind. He does 'not mention to them, however, that He already has Plan B in place which will redeem man from this situation, in the form of a new covenant that will bring in a new kind of providence from the Almighty, hence restoring man to his former glory.

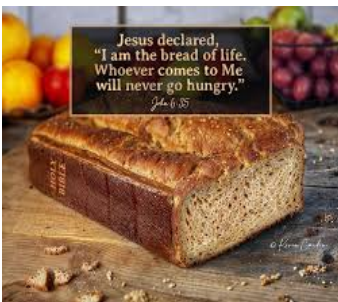
1 Kings 19 v 5-8 Get up and eat!! The Book of Kings continues the history of the Israelites in the land, and King Ahab (married to Jezebel) is reigning. Elijah, a prophet of the Lord, existed this time, and there was a lot of worshipping of other Gods, the false prophets of Baal. To prove the power of God of Israel, prophet Elijah, in a contest, eliminated the false prophets of Baal at Mt Carmel. Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab was not happy about it and declared death on Elijah. Elijah was now on the run to the mountain of Sinai to seek refuge with God. In this chapter, we meet Elijah, exhausted with his spirit worn out, lying under a tree, very weary, thirsty and hungry from travelling. He is then woken up by an Angel of the Lord who tells him that he has to eat for he needs nourishment if he was going to make it to the top of Mount Sinai. He looked around and saw a loaf of bread and a jar of water beside him, to which he helped himself. He was woken up a second time by the angel to 'get up and eat'. After a second helping Elijah had enough strength to continue his journey. Jehovah Jireh had provided him with the much needed nourishment to sustain him on his journey. He is Jehovah Jireh, the provider of our food and nourishment for our Christian journey.



John 6:35 "I am the bread of life" The setting changes with the coming of Christ. Christ becomes the main character and God's generosity, and providence continues through Jesus Christ. Where there was hunger and scarcity God stepped in with his hand of provision and sustenance. Israel existed under Roman rule and struggled under Emperor

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Caesar's reign. During this time, Jesus performed miracles and healed the sick and crowds tended to follow him wherever he went. As the crowds continued to follow Jesus, he began to preach to them a deeper meaning of the significance of the bread. He reminded them that whilst God sustained them with their physical needs, they also needed to be fed spiritually if they were to reach eternal life. By declaring that he is the bread of life, Jesus implied that he is now the source of that much needed sustenance. With the coming of Jesus, God's provision of bread and water assumed a new significance. **The last supper** with his disciples is the perfect setting for the fulfillment of this statement, when he broke the bread and lifted the cup of wine, telling the disciples that it was his body was being broken down for food and drink, thereby instituting the Holy Communion that we have today. Christians by continuously partaking in the Holy Communion, receive the nourishment and sustenance needed for the pilgrim journey to eternal life.



In Romans 14 v 17 Paul says, "for the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.." The emphasis on spiritual matters continues with Paul's writings. Paul, a servant of Christ in his letter to the Romans discusses the power of God's spirit in the believer. This implies that the setting of God's

provision has drastically changed, and it anchors on the Holy Spirit as opposed to the physical bread and water/wine. Although it is now spiritual it still serves the same purpose as the physical, to give God's people strength. Jesus described the Holy Spirit as the comforter, strengthener and healer, the spiritual provision from Jehovah Jireh. The Holy Spirit takes a central role as providing a new kind of sustenance in the Lord, through the experience of joy, peace and love and ultimate righteousness as they abide in the spirit. Even in troubled times, the Holy Spirit is there to sustain God's people with his comforting healing nature. It is no longer a matter of just eating and drinking but spiritual sustenance in the Lord.

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All the passages I have chosen depicts the theme of sustenance and provision from an all-caring God. They reflect a God who steps in for his people especially in times of need. It begins with the bounty from the Garden of Eden as the epitome of his provision and sustenance. Even if they were forbidden one fruit they still had plenty to help themselves from fruit, animals and vegetables until their disobedience.



Then it becomes specific with bread and water as food to feed Elijah when he was hungry and weary. In the Gospels, Jesus uses bread and water as imagery for spiritual nourishment. He becomes the symbol of bread of life, and his nourishment assumes more significance as it is everlasting and can take one to the next stage of life. The nature of providence shifts to a spiritual nature. The writings of Paul continue with this shift in emphasis- on the nature of God's provision as spiritual rather than physical.

In the Old Testament, God's provision is of a physical nature but as we move to the Gospels and Paul's letters, a new definition emerges which is contrary to the physical nature of provision that God had always done. The kingdom is no longer just about eating; there is life in the Holy Spirit. The physical nature of God's provision as source of sustenance is now regarded as secondary to the spiritual nature of his provision through the Holy Spirit, and emphasis is on the fruits of the holy spirits joy, peace, love etc. as the results of nourishment from the spirit. A reminder to us Christians that the fruits of the Holy Spirit come from being submissive and obedient to God's expectations of us.

In the Gospels, Jesus was now preaching the good news; that by believing in him, we have found the source of strength to lead to salvation. I believe that as Christians we too, need to feed on this life-giving bread (the word) because it is salvation. In Matthew 4 v 4 Jesus emphasizes this point, "that man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God!" It is not enough to be

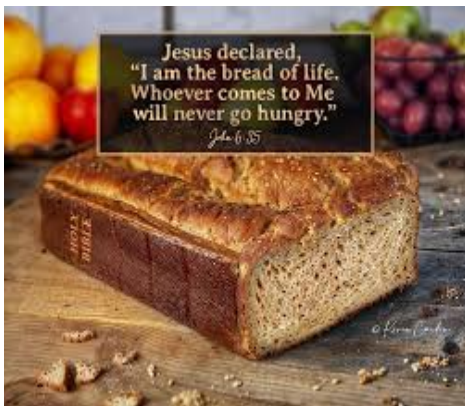
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nourished by the physical bread alone; we also need the spiritual bread-the word.

This is the good news for mankind, that by accepting Jesus Christ as the Messiah, you are guaranteed of the bread of life that you need for your journey of salvation. As a Christian, I need to continue taking the bread of life through the Holy Communion as the Lord himself suggested at the last supper. This is the new kind of sustenance under the New Testament, the new covenant in Christ that I should strive for as a Christian, and with the continued partaking of the Holy Communion I am always replenishing my spiritual strength in the Lord.

In Kings, Elijah's journey is paralleled to our pilgrimage on earth as we sojourn to the promised land of eternal life. The God of providence shall continuously provide for our nourishment here on earth, especially during the times when we, like Elijah, might be exhausted or depressed with what is going on around us. We too, as Christians, need the stamina from food and drink for our Christian journey if we are going to make it on our journey of salvation. Get up and eat!

The Lord will provide -Jehovah Jireh, through the Holy Spirit. It is no



longer just about food and drink, but experiencing the love, joy and peace of the kingdom, the fruits of the spirit (**Galatians 5 v 22-23**). As I continue to abide in the spirit, I will gain sustenance in the Lord, and the fruits of the spirit shall be seen as evidence of a good life in Christ- the ultimate message of God's provision and sustenance is finally revealed!

Matilda Kawazda, local Preacher in training



South Essex Methodist Circuit Environmental and Creation Care Policy (An Extract)

The South Essex Methodist Circuit affirms the 2019 Conference's recognition of a Climate Emergency and its call for the UK to achieve net zero emissions well before 2050.

To promote greater awareness of environmental issues the Circuit will: -

Encourage churches to include creation care and climate justice in their mission statements and plans.

Encourage churches, from time to time, to hold special services that focus on creation care and climate justice.

Encourage churches to switch to an affordable renewable energy supplier.

Encourage Churches to reduce the use of single use plastics

Encourage the use of public transport or car sharing to attend Circuit / District meetings.

Seek to make use of conferencing facilities (Zoom etc) for meetings, where appropriate and feasible, to minimise carbon emissions and use electronic communication in preference to paper.

Encourage the use of LOAF refreshments (L O A F = locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly, Fairly traded).



Encourage the use of environmentally friendly cleaning materials and the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle for catering.

Discourage the use of chemical pesticides and weedkillers on Circuit property. Their use should be limited to situations where no alternative method is available.

Across the Circuit we want to see churches: -

Recognising that as Christians we are responsible for the good stewardship and care of God's earth, embedding sustainability in all our activities and reflecting on the environmental consequences of our decision making.

Making care for the environment integral to our worship of God and teaching.

Registering with A Rocha Eco Church scheme

Reducing the impact of their buildings and church activities on the environment

Using any land surrounding the buildings in ways that benefit the environment and the community

Encouraging individuals to engage with wider aspects of creation care, including increased provision of natural habitats for creatures and plants.

Engaging with local and global agencies in seeking a fairer, more environmentally friendly world, and with political process to generate action to protect and restore the planet.

Encouraging lifestyles which reflect these aims.

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