



**Southville
Methodist Church**



**Edinburgh Drive &
Clarendon Road**



**Ashford Common
Methodist Church**



**St. Dunstan's
Church, Feltham**



**ChristChurch
Feltham**

**December 2022 -
January 2023
Edition 31**

**Welcome to
The Eastern End News
31st Edition**

CIRCUIT MINISTER

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THE NEXT EDITION

Deadline for items to reach us is Sunday 15th January for
publication on Sunday 29th January.

Please put the deadline date in your diary!!

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The full version is available in PDF format by e-mailing on request from the editors and an edited version – if necessary

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Many thanks to all those who contribute; new contributors always welcome, remember to include photos if possible.

Front Cover: Andrew Griffiths and the late Alan Cuthbert

FROM THE EDITORS:



The only comments we received back was that people didn't want us to change this publication with the changes of pastoral charge in the circuit. So the Eastern End News will continue.

NEW COVER FOR NEW PHASE OF THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCHES

Considering that the current cover design dates back nearly 6 years ago it is felt that it is time for a change to coincidentally 2 of those that were involved in its design are no-longer with us – Joyce Griffiths and Alan Cuthbert having passed on.

The design should include:

The Title 'The Eastern End News'

The Churches

The Edition Date and Number

Please get your designs to your church contact
(Southville – Marilyn, Ashford Common – Justin
Woodthorpe – Verna & Graham, Christ Church – Claire
St Dunstan's – Anne)

have your designs on an A4 page by the 10th January

It is also nice to know the reason behind your design

We would like if we could have a number of ideas that we could share in the next edition and allow our readers to select the 1 they want.

WE EAGERLY AWAIT YOUR DESIGNS

Email: editors@easternendnews.org.uk or your local contact.

An Interview with our new Minister Rev Dr Kofi Tekyi-Ansah

When somebody new joins our family at Staines, we're always intrigued to find out a little bit about their background. Roz caught up with Kofi for a quick interview on Zoom one Saturday morning recently....

Q: Can you tell me about your early life, please. Kofi? Where were you born?

A: I was born in a place called Saltpond, which is in the central region of Ghana. My late father was a Methodist Minister, and bishop of the Cape Coast and northern Ghana districts and my mother was a Local Preacher, so I had a good Methodist upbringing.



Q: That's interesting because I've had an e-mail from Brian Hoare, past President of the Methodist Conference, who worshipped at Staines when he was based in London, saying that he thinks that when he travelled to Ghana many years ago, he met your father, and probably you yourself as a small boy.

A: Yes, that would be right. My father, Rt Rev Joseph Tekyi-Ansah, was the Secretary of conference at the time, and I do remember Brian well. Small world!

Q: What about your family?

A: I am part of a big family – there are 8 of us children (3 boys and 5 girls) and I was the second born after my older brother. Now there are 5 of us living in the UK and the rest are spread

around the world. I'm not married myself, but I have a daughter and she's married, and I've got over 20 nieces and nephews. In fact, there's so many of them that I've quite lost count!

Q: What sort of student were you at school?

A: I'd say that I was average – not the top and not the bottom in the class. I loved music – that was my favourite thing - and especially singing. I've been in lots of choirs over the years, but I've never learned to read music, I sang by ear. As a family, we were like one big choir at home, with there being so many of us, we sang all the time for amusement. The other thing I really enjoyed at school was athletics – in fact any kind of sports. I liked football too, and I've played for a few different football teams. I still enjoy cycling and walking as hobbies.

Q: Do you support a specific football team, if you're into football?

A: As I was studying in Manchester, I supported Man United, but I wouldn't say that I'm an over-zealous supporter. I have been to a few games, though.

Q: How did you come to live in England?

A: That was because of my studies. I came to Cliff College in 1989, when I was 23, on a half scholarship. For the other half I was supported by Rev Alec Jones. He was an English Missionary in Ghana and a friend of my dad's. He'd trained at Cliff College himself and he recommended it. I originally came for a year, but while I was there Rev Peter Willis, a Methodist minister came to the college and talked about a new Lay Order that he was setting up which was to be called OASIS (the Order After Stephen in Service). The idea was to support the poor and

needy by acts of service. I applied and was accepted. I served Oasis from 1990-1993.

Q: That sounds fascinating. Please tell me more...

A: I worked at a drop-in centre in Moss Side, Manchester, where people could come and get a hot meal at a reduced price, or get clothes to wear which local churches and people would donate, or receive counselling, or just play pool or have a chat. The centre was community-focussed; reaching out to people on the fringes of the church who were in need. I did everything – cooking breakfasts and lunches and whatever else was needed. I found it very fulfilling, but sadly, the order has since closed.

Q: What led you to train for the Ministry?

A: I think that growing up in a faith-filled family was an early influence; it moulded me. We prayed regularly with our parents, and memorised scripture Verses , but I first gave my life to the Lord at a Scripture Union camp when I was 13. When I was about 21, I went to church one day. My father was preaching, and in the course of the service, it felt like the heavens were opened and the presence of God started descending on me. I heard what sounded like a thousand voices, “ You can preach like your Dad”. This experience became my marching orders into the ministry. Next was a stop-over at Cliff College, and of course my experiences at OASIS, and I candidated for the Ministry from there, and went to Bristol to train.

Q: Have you served the Church in many different places?

A: I started in the Ormskirk Circuit and I was there for 5 years, then 5 years in Oldham, then 5 years in Stockport. After that I moved to London to the Wembley Circuit and I’ve been there for 10 years now.

Q: And I believe that you have a Doctorate?

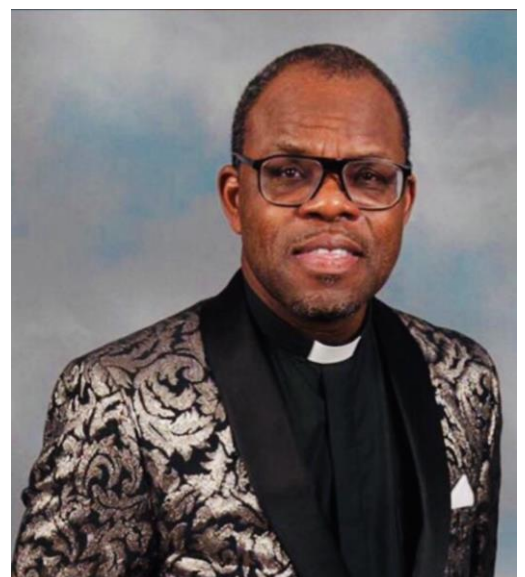
A: That's right, and it's one of the reasons I stayed in the Wembley Circuit for 10yrs. I studied at Wesley House in Cambridge in partnership with the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC USA. I really enjoyed the experience of Cambridge . It was a Doctorate in Ministry, and the emphasis was on leadership in ministry.

Q: What have you taken away from your experience on the course – apart from learning how to punt, of course!

A: Yes, I did do quite a bit of punting! But seriously, I think that any study increases your skill sets in so many different directions. It has certainly expanded my knowledge, and I think it's improved my writing. I've written a couple of books, but I'd like to do more. One of my books sold out after it had had two print runs, but now I'm thinking about getting it onto a digital platform of some kind. The course also had a practical dimension to it, so I feel that I have something to offer in leadership, and maybe in the future I could do some part-time lecturing.

Q: Now you're about to move to the Staines & Feltham Circuit, what would you like to say about your vision for the future as Minister with Pastoral Charge of Southville, Ashford Common and Staines?

A: The first thing is that I think the role of a Minister is to be an encourager and a promotor of all things good. I want to give support and encouragement to the different



initiatives going on because I believe that once you make the effort, God will always meet you half way. We have a problem in all our churches in the UK because so many people in our society are not coming to church any more. My vision is about revival. If things are diminishing, how can we jack them up again? So my questions are: 'How do you pioneer new ministries for people who don't usually come to churches?' And 'What type of churches will thrive in the world we now live in?'

But that doesn't mean throwing out the baby with the bathwater. There are traditional things in our churches which are serving the people, and they have to continue. It's about looking beyond our four walls and doing different things that will draw people closer to God. Messy Church is a good example. Church doesn't always have to be on Sundays. Since Covid, people have had to move with the times; lots of older people have embraced the new technology, and in Wembley we now use YouTube, WhatsApp and Facebook for different groups. I'm looking forward to us working together in Staines on the new challenges that lie ahead.

Thank you, Kofi, and we're looking forward to it too.

PRINTING SERVICES

We can produce documents of many sizes, on white or coloured paper and with colour print if required so if we can help whether it be for a church event or family event please do get in touch and we will happily give you a quote.

printingservices@rjjagriff.me

From the Circuit Office and Beyond PART 1

(September / October)

Dear Friends

Welcome to the first letter from the Circuit Office for this new Connexional Year. August is quite a quiet month in the Church calendar, but this has not been the case this year. Sue and I managed to get the new Plan out on time and have already started work on the next one. We have also been looking after and supporting Churches with local projects and have been assisting the Circuit Stewards with the preparations for the Welcome Service on the 4th September for Red. Dr. Kofi Tekyi-Ansah. I am very pleased that both Rev. David Hinchliffe and Rev. Sam Funnell will be joining us for this very special occasion which is being held at Southville Methodist Church at 3:00pm. I do hope that you will be able to come along to share this occasion with us.

Perhaps the busiest people on this side of the Circuit are Jonathan and Roger Griffiths, who along with the other Circuit Stewards have performed an amazing task in overseeing the transformation of the Manse in Feltham. In the end we did not have as much time as we would have liked to carry out the task but as I write today (23rd August 2022), I have been over to visit the premises which have been completely re-decorated and the kitchen, bathroom, garden and the hard standing at the front of the house are all that remains to be done. I have seen the charts that Jonathan has drawn up in order to manage this project. They are complex and I am really grateful that he has been able to do this for us.



Elsewhere I know that local Churches are looking at significant work to be done on their sites. Paperwork is being prepared and people who attend the Circuit Meeting will be informed of the exciting work that is in the pipeline. Of course, there has to be a reason for carrying out this work other than the simple maintenance of buildings. We need to ensure that our places of worship are safe and that they are inviting so that members of our community will want to come and visit us. However, we should perhaps think of this from a different angle in that we should be reaching out to folk and inviting them to join us and get to know the God we worship and adore.

Most people are aware of the fact that Staines Methodist Church has been closed over the summer for the installation of a lift and a general upgrade to lighting and facilities. During this time they have used "Zoom" for their Services and I am grateful to everyone who has enabled this to happen. I know that folk from around the Circuit have joined them occasionally. When the building closed back in July Sue and I made the move to Woodthorpe (Clarendon Road) Methodist Church and this is intended to be a permanent arrangement. Details of the office address and telephone number can be found elsewhere in this magazine. The email address has not changed. The move went well and we are now up and running, if you are over in the Ashford area during office hours you are always welcome to drop in for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

I hope that as we start this new Connexional Year we will be aware that God is working out His purpose here in the Staines and Feltham Circuit.

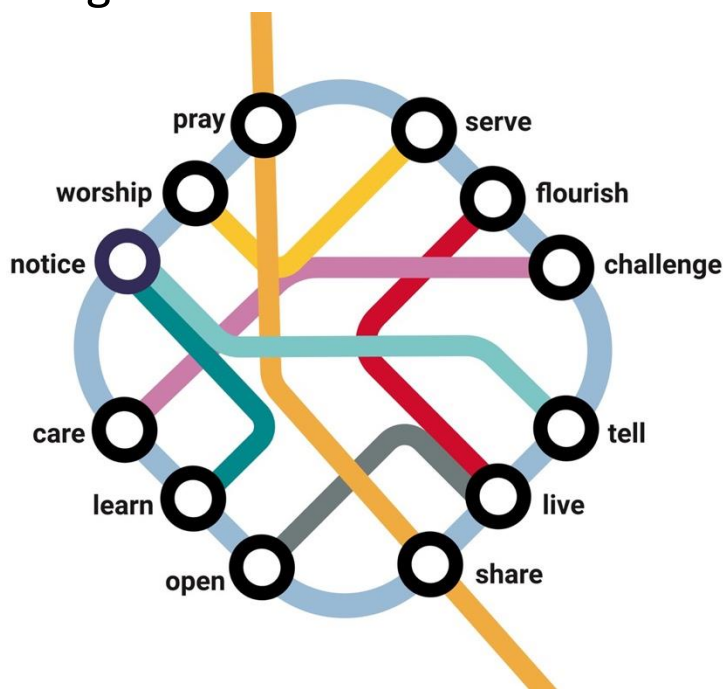
God bless.

Andrew

From the Circuit Office and Beyond PART 2 (December / January)

I thought that this month I would share some reflections from the South East Autumn District Synod which was held at Trinity Methodist Church, Woking which is a neighbouring Circuit of Wey Valley. Members of Synod travelled from as far away as the south coast and from the far reaches of Kent. The day started with Holy Communion which was led by Rev. David Hinchliffe.

The theme for the day was, “Living on the Map”. Each participant was given a coaster which looked like this.



Each of the twelve core practices of “A Methodist Way of Life” are depicted as stations. Each is seen as a way for new people to be drawn into a life of discipleship. We were asked to decide which “station(s)” were attractive to us as opposed to those which were more of a challenge. It was interesting to discover that all of the stations were represented at Synod and each person went away with a badge representing their station. Rev. Andy Fishburne who led the presentation asked each of us to think about those stations that we pass through without stopping.

The process of **discipleship** aligns our lives to keep following Jesus, and becoming more like him. We do this as individuals and a community by shared spiritual practices and reflecting together. Discipleship is a dynamic process. The path is not normally linear, but more like travelling on a train network.

- Each station is a place where disciples **grow** in maturity, and **step out** in mission and action.
- We learn as we **reflect** together on what happens at each station.
- The **Holy Spirit** should be driving! We go where the train takes us.

[A Methodist Way Of Life](#) expands the Methodist Church's core [Our Calling](#) statement, and provides a rhythm to live life.

If you would like to find out more about this initiative you could go to:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/discipleship-pathways-travelling-together/>

for more information.

Please let me know if you would like to explore this in more detail in the Circuit.

After the lunch break Jez DuPuy from All We can encouraged members of Synod to work with them with the aim of ending world poverty within our lifetime with their project, "The Harvest Initiative". Our Circuit was invited to update the District on the Partnership that we have set up at ChristChurch in Feltham. We also celebrated the granting of an authorisation to the Rev. Andy Watkins.

The Rev. Hazel Forecast reported on as District Networking Day in May which enabled people involved in

supporting refugees, displaced persons and migrants to share information, insights and needs and to pray together.

We were also informed about the Conference decision to change the candidating process for those exploring a call ministry in the Methodist Church. At the other end of the process two newly ordained Ministers shared their stories with us and in particular the impact that the Ordination had had on them.

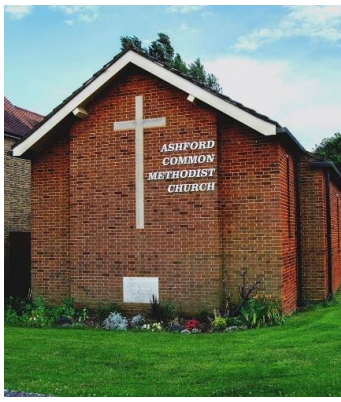
Two people who had been at the annual Conference earlier in the year gave us their comments on important conversations and some of the decisions that had taken place.

At the end of a long, busy and inspiring day the Chair led an act of worship and benediction.

Synod is an important part of the life of the Methodist Church and there is no doubt that decisions that are taken at our Synod do have an impact on the life of our Circuit. Please pray for those who participate in our Synod and for the decisions that have been taken.

God bless.

Andrew



ASHFORD COMMON METHODIST CHURCH

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We send Birthday greetings to friends who are celebrating birthdays in December

Sheila Marsden and Ben Foley and in

January Doreen Mellish, Christine Fisher and Hannah Camis all have birthdays. We send greetings to them all.

After what feels like a lifetime associated with Ashford Common, David and June Mitchell moved to Somerset at the beginning of August to be closer to family.

In October 1960 our fellowship moved from the tin chapel in Alexandra Road to the building we use today, David preached the final service in the old Church and the first in this one.



It's been difficult to find a photograph of David and June together. What we have been able to discover is from when they volunteered to join the BB Camp in 1988 at Haytor in Devon when David took on the role of Padre.

We share here some thoughts from friends around the Circuit when they heard David and June would be moving.

David and June are so steadfast in their support for whatever they do, we will dearly miss them.

We would like to thank you both for all your dedicated work in the circuit over so many years.

While June may have appeared to be often in the background, we recognise and thank her for such valuable support.

As a Local Preacher, thank you for a faithful ministry in this Circuit and beyond over a period of 60 years, always inspiring and challenging.

In training and nurturing Local Preachers thanks were expressed for approaching and suggesting to individuals, God may be calling them and, when that call was responded to, for training and mentoring with kind and encouraging words to preachers over the years, words that have meant a great deal to so many who were very nervous at the time.

So much dedication from you both for our Lord's work.

Too soon after their move, we were saddened to hear of David's passing at the end of October.

Around twenty friends from around the Circuit made the journey to Wells on 18 November for David's funeral. After a family committal a Service was held at Wells Methodist Church led by Rev Ruth Midcalf with contributions from Rev John Young and Graham Wells. It was good to be able to move into the Church hall after the service and continue to remember David with friends over hearty refreshments.

We send our prayers to June, Helen & Julie, and their wider family.

Message received by the Editors:

June Mitchell would like to thank all those that were able to attend the funeral – and said that she was sorry that she didn't get to speak to all those who attended.



We were saddened to hear of the passing of our friend Lily Darvill on 15 July having had her illness diagnosed just a few weeks previously. Her funeral took place on 8 August – the date would have been her 89th birthday.

Lily has been a regular face in our congregation since she first brought her oldest granddaughter along to Sunday School in 1990 although she was no stranger to the Church as both her sons had been members of our Boys' Brigade.

As the years progressed, Lily brought 5 of her granddaughters along regularly with 4 of them being with us for a significant period of time. In true Methodist style, she always had the same seat in the back row from where she would sit and keep an eye on everything that was happening, everyone had to walk past her as they came into church.

There were particular services during the year Lily enjoyed and her list of favourite hymns grew as new ones were learned.

As granddaughters moved away from Sunday School Lily continued and didn't miss unless there was a family event going on - or she was ill. Family was always important and the church was seen as a branch of her family.

Lily was always very supportive of events going on at church and was a regular at our coffee mornings (which Covid stopped!) always buying cakes to take home with her and supporting the charity by buying items from the sales table.

When she was unable to walk all the way to or from church she would put her phone on and ring to be picked up - after she had had a good chat with everyone.

As the church re-opened after lockdown, one of the first people back was Lily.

Her sense of humour never left her, shortly after her diagnosis Lily was heard to say, "I thought I'd die of old age, mind you I am old!"

Gifts in Lily's memory have been shared between Princess Alice Hospice and our Church, these have been very generous and we are very grateful to be the recipients of them.

No one who knew Lily will ever forget her, she will be missed by many.



The Boys' Brigade 7th North Surrey Company

For many years, it's been a privilege for our Company to join the Remembrance Parade in Ashford.

While we are no longer able to lead the parade with our band, or offer a bugler, we continue to take our place at the front with our Company Colour standing alongside that of the Royal British Legion.

Following the inevitable break for Covid, this year saw everything back in place for a full Parade. While Ashford is just a small town, the traders association which organises the event does a fantastic job.

Many hundreds of young people from all manner of youth groups are represented, and supported by what is probably a couple of thousand members of the public. Road closures are put in place with the congregation gathering on the junction of Church Road and Fordbridge Road at the War Memorial.



SERVICES @ ASHFORD COMMON METHODIST CHURCH

at 10:30 & 18:00

Please watch our Church and the Circuit Website and Social Media for details of what is happening

In a change to normal arrangements this year, our Carol Service will take place on the morning of Sunday 18 December – there will be no afternoon or evening service on this day as a result of a high profile football match.

On Christmas morning, Rev Dr Kofi Tekyi-Ansah will lead our worship at 9:15.

Oberammergau – Some Reflections on a Unique and Unforgettable Experience

This piece by Roz Sendorek is being published in both the Staines Newsletter and the Eastern End News



The Oberammergau Passion Play dates back to 1633, when a plague was sweeping across Europe which would eventually reach England in 1665 and be ended by the Great Fire of London in 1666. A far cry from the speed at which the Coronavirus pandemic spread across our modern inter-connected world in 2020, leading inevitably to the cancellation of the 2020 Passion Play. But for the people of Oberammergau, a

small village in Bavaria, their vow of 1633 remains as fervent as ever, so cancellation of the Passion Play was never an option, and postponement until 2022 was announced immediately, almost alongside the 2020 cancellation.

So what was this vow? In 1633, after several people had died from the plague, the villagers met in the graveyard and prayed earnestly to God that if they could be spared, they would perform a Passion Play every 10 years from that time onwards. From that day on, there were no more plague deaths in the village, so they kept their vow and in 1634 the first play was performed, initially actually in the graveyard on the graves of those who had died. In 1680, they moved the performance year to the '0' year, where it has been ever since with just two exceptions: in 1940 it was not performed due to the second world war, and the 1920 performance was moved to 1922 because of the Spanish Flu pandemic – coincidentally exactly

100 years ago. There have been a few additional performances along the way in the years ending 34 and 84, so the 2020 performance, delayed until 2022, was the 42nd.

Oberammergau is only a very small village, and the Passion Play season now extends from May to October with 5 performances a week and 5,000 audience for each performance, so if you're going to see the play, you can only spend up to two nights in Oberammergau because of pressure on the accommodation. This means that most organised tours include a few nights elsewhere in the area, and ours, organised by the Christian pilgrimage company McCabe, included a really wonderful five nights in Austria among the lakes and mountains of the Salzkammergut, close to Salzburg, before moving on to Oberammergau itself, but that's a story for another time. The culmination of our trip was, of course, the Passion Play, and our play tickets included accommodation in Oberammergau itself, where our party of 36 was split between two beautiful hotels central to the village and very close to the Passion Play Theatre.



The structure of the Passion Play is an interesting one which I'd never seen before but was apparently a common format in the early days. The story of Holy Week, which forms the action, is intercut with tableaux vivants (literally living tableaux) which parallel the story with episodes from the Old Testament.

Christian Stückl, the writer and Director, says that he decided not to change, but rather to carefully modernise, this format, because the tableaux vivants are designed to help us reflect on specific elements of the Passion story with a deepened understanding gained from looking at their precursors in the Old Testament.

There are 12 of these tableaux in the play, and while the actors in each tableau remain totally static, the Choir sings words which explain the relevance of the tableau to the Holy Week story.



Here's an example: This tableau, which appears as Jesus is about to be crucified, shows Moses lifting up the snake in the desert (Numbers 21: 4-9). You will know the story: The people have been ignoring God, and instead complaining to Moses about their lot in the wilderness. They are attacked by snakes and many die. The people recognise their sin and beg Moses to ask God to take the snakes away. God tells Moses to make a bronze snake and put it on a pole. If those who have been bitten lift their eyes to the snake, they will be saved. Meanwhile the choir sings these words:

'Nailed to the cross now he is raised the Son of Man. See, with Moses' serpent here, the model that the cross does follow: From the poisonous bite of the serpent came liberation to the people, and so from the cross will flow salvation and bliss upon us.'

In this way, the tableau helps us understand God's purpose in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. It is to save our sins.

You could not come away from the play without reflecting on, and possibly re-evaluating, so many elements of a story which to us as Christians is so familiar, that perhaps we take it for granted and don't give ourselves time to look deeply enough into it. One thing which made many of us think, and possibly reconsider, was the role of Judas. Typical comments from our group were, 'I surprised myself because I really felt sympathy for Judas.' And, 'Judas seemed to have been tricked into doing something that he didn't mean to and he was out of his depth.' And, 'Judas was acted so well, it really made me think again about him.' This was certainly intentional on the part of the organisers. I quote from Pastor Professor Dr Ludwig Mödl, theological advisor to the plays since 2000, speaking of developments in the 2022 play:

'The tragedy surrounding the figure of Judas is also made clearer. He is a betrayed traitor. Caiaphas deceives him about the consequences of handing over Jesus. Judas wants to force a meeting of Jesus with the High Council so that Jesus' messages on the Kingdom of God can be pushed forward more politically; by no means does he seek his death. He regrets his actions and throws the money he was given into the temple. He hadn't expected a reward. It was only given to him as a bonus after the betrayal.'

Mödl contrasts Judas' lack of belief in God's forgiveness with that of Peter, who also bitterly regrets having betrayed Jesus, but who recognises that true repentance leads to forgiveness. As a result, their stories end very differently – for Judas with hanging, for Peter leaving the stage with his head held high.

We were extremely fortunate to have a talk from Christian Stückl himself on the morning of the play. Of all the things he shared with us, the one which many of our group found most affecting, was about the dangers of anti-Semitism in our modern world, and how to deal with the treatment of Judaism in the play. Stückl explained that Hitler himself had watched the play in 1930 and declared it 'an instructional work' and particularly the words from Matthew 27 verses 4 and 5 when Pilate washes his hands and proclaims his innocence of Jesus' blood, and the people reply: *"His blood is on us and on our children!"* In 1934, conveniently the 300th anniversary year, Hitler ordered a special performance year, which all Nazis had to attend as it was 'important to the Reich'. As Stückl explained, this tainted the play, and ever since taking over as Director in 1990 he has been working to distance it from anti-Semitism. The 2020 script deliberately portrays Jesus within his Jewish heritage. Jesus and all his disciples are shown wearing the Jewish Kippah (for example, as shown here on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem), and in his re-written text, Stückl has included fierce debate among the Jews about Jesus, with, for example, Nicodemus strongly speaking up for him against the Jewish leaders. Thus, when the crowd before Pilate is crying 'Crucify him! Crucify him!', half of them are actually calling out 'Release him! Release him!'



There is so much more that I could say about this amazing play. The quality of the music and the acting is superb, and it's hard

to believe that everyone involved has actually been born in Oberammergau or lived there for at least 20 years. For each performance there is a choir of 64 singers, and an orchestra of 57 drawn from a pool of 1,500 local musicians – all residents of Oberammergau – some born there and now living elsewhere but returned for the Passion season, some born elsewhere but moved to the village and now meeting the residence qualification of a minimum of 20 years residence, and others born, bred and never moved away. As a musician myself, I wondered how such excellence could be produced from within such a relatively small group of people. The answer is that from the earliest age, every child receives a thorough musical education in school, both in singing and playing instruments, so that, as Christian Stückl put it, ‘People can’t help becoming musical’. And of course, the whole Passion tradition is so strongly embedded in the village that many of the residents do go on to read music or drama at University, as Christian Stückl himself did.

In some ways the play itself wasn’t quite the ‘Mountain Top Experience’ that we had expected it to be, but I think this was because after such a long period of anticipation (remember – we booked in 2018), and then such an intense day of performance (2 ½ hours in the afternoon, a 3 hour dinner



break and then 2 ½ hours in the evening), we needed time to process it. For many of us, for example, the final scene – the Resurrection – was very underplayed. After the drama of the trial and the crucifixion, the play ends on a surprisingly visual low note. But Stückl explains that this is biblical. The crucifixion was a public spectacle – the

scene in the garden at the resurrection was not; it was a fleeting encounter with a few followers who didn't even recognise him, and that's how it's shown on stage – a quick glimpse of Jesus, and then Mary left with the angel (see above). And he's right. But the solemnity of burial, followed by the joy of Resurrection is expressed in the music.

The Oberammergau Passion Play is certainly hugely impressive in its staging - the sheer choreography of moving between 600 and 1,000 performers, including animals and small children, seamlessly on and off stage is simply breath-taking, particularly for anyone who has ever personally directed a play, and the whole thing is deeply moving for its history. It has taken me time since our return to fully digest, reading the text in English and studying the commentaries by the director, the director of music and the staging designer. But one thing is for certain: nobody can have come away untouched by the power of the whole experience of our wonderful pilgrimage week. Several of us are already planning a return trip to Oberammergau to see how the play has further developed in 2030 – just eight years to wait. Will you be joining us?



SOUTHVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

Tachbrook Road (off Bedfont Lane),
Feltham, Middlesex TW14 9NX

Church Contact:

Mrs Maggie Netto 07956 553974



Happy Birthday to those with birthdays in
December: Barbara Meekins

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY IN CHURCH



Our Service on remembrance Sunday was led by Rev Kofi Tekyi-Ansah the Service included our act of remembrance as well as Holy Communion.

Church ready for Remembrance Sunday. Robina sporting her Christmas present from her sister

AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

Many of you will attend services at your Church or at the Memorial erected in your local area containing records of local residents who died while defending our homeland during major wars.

This year I was able to attend two such events locally. In the morning at the Hanworth memorial, the attendance was remarkable with a large parade of local youth organisations and a number of other groups. The parade had a marching band playing as it led the various groups from their meeting point.

Most of these people gathered in their groups around the low hedge and see what was happening. This area also had local British Legion and other representing local bodies. A small local choir were also assisting with the singing of the hymns.

The surrounding closed roads allowed the safe movement and the gathering other family group much in excess of the marching parade.

Parts of the service being held at the same time at the Cenotaph in London, with the silence signals being made was sounded at the gathering. This was followed by local service led by local clergy.

After the placing of wreaths at the end of the service the parade reassembled and marched back to the base with a salute to the senior officer on the way.

In the afternoon I attended another service at the Feltham centre memorial. Again there was a parade march though much shorter and smaller in number. Other attenders gathered around while the service was conducted by local clergy including Rev Anne Dollery & Rev Kofi Tekyi-Ansah and wreaths were laid including ours brought from our morning service was laid by John Howliston and a list of names on the memorial read out. On the return march a salute was given again and the march ended along the road.



Both service were similar in content, but the numbers attending were very different.



Edinburgh Drive,
Laleham.
Middlesex. TW18 1PH



Church Contact:
Mr Graham Wells
01784 258785



Clarendon Road,
Ashford.
Middlesex. TW15 2QR

EDINBURGH DRIVE



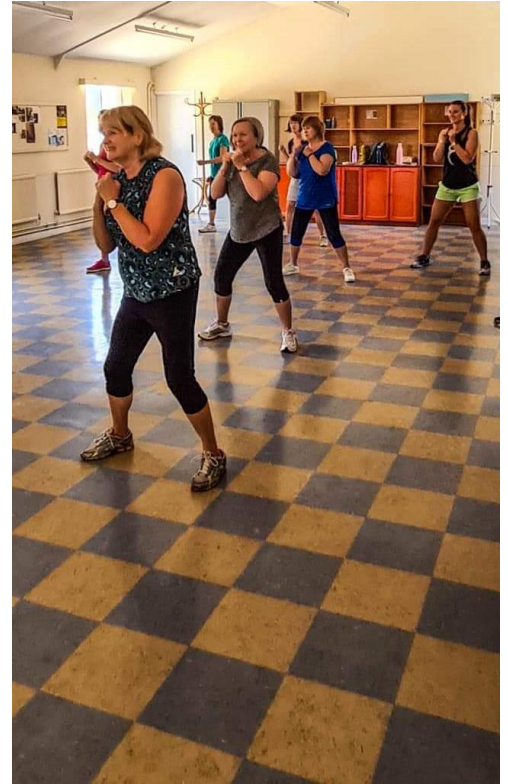
1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. We are not sufficiently organised yet to give you a programme of events, but each meeting has a different speaker or activity, everyone is welcome, and there is tea and cake afterwards.



Wednesday Morning
at Edinburgh Drive run by Kingdom Living Church
9.30 am – 12 noon, **EVERY** Wednesday

HOOPING FOR AKOKOA!

On Saturday 6th August, around a dozen people joined our fitness fundraiser for the Karen Slowe Junior High School in Akokoa, Ghana at Woodthorpe Methodist Church, Edinburgh Drive. We had Piloxing and Powerhoop classes led by Rachel Tuckett-Loderio. Most of us had no idea what we were doing, but Rachel made it great fun so it really didn't matter how often we went left instead of right or dropped the hoop! In the break between classes, Sheila Luke from Projects Abroad Foundation (who administer the school) came to give us an overview of the work being done in Akokoa, and we watched a video (challenge - spot Jill in the video - <https://www.projectsabroadfoundation.org.uk/ghana>). Together with additional donations, we raised just over £300 which will be doubled by Projects Abroad Foundation.



SERVICES @ WOODTHORPE METHODIST CHURCH

Please watch our Local Church and Circuit Website and Social Media for details of what is happening

Services : 1st Sunday of each month at Edinburgh Drive
all other Sundays at Clarendon Road

PRAYER IN THE CHURCHES



If you know of anyone or of any circumstance requiring our prayers, phone Bobby (from Woodthorpe) 01784 251944 or
Email: prayer@easternendnews.org.uk

If you would like to be added to the prayer chain please phone or email

The Furnace

Worship together and pray for Feltham

Every Wednesday at 19:45

Everyone is welcome at Christchurch Feltham

Please see our website <https://www.christchurchfeltham.org/>

SOUTHVILLE CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

First Saturday of the Month at 09:30 – 10:30

Bible Study



Tuesday at 20:00 alternate weeks

Please contact Jill Britton to join
and

Thursdays at 10:00 weekly.

All are welcome!!!

Please contact Graham Wells to join

What we are doing in our local community?

THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS

MANNA
the Food Bank in Staines



List of our current shortages:

Long-life Semi-Skimmed Milk (Green)
Long-life Juice
Small Tomato Ketchup
Instant Mashed Potato (Smash-type)
Crackers

Tinned: Rice Pudding, Custard
Vegetables (we have plenty of
sweetcorn thank you!) & Baked Beans
Children's Toothbrushes/Toothpaste,
Toilet Rolls & Liquid Soap

From all the volunteers at Manna

WARMER SPACES

<p>WOODTHORPE* (Edinburgh Drive) Wednesday: 09.30 to 12.00</p>	<p>St Dunstan's Feltham** 39 St Dustan's Road, Feltham, TW13 4JY Wednesday: 09.00 – 12.00</p>
<p>St Paul's Egham Hythe** Thorpe Rd, Staines-upon-Thames, Staines TW18 3HJ Thursdays: 09:30 - 11:00 for pre-school plus carers 11:30 - 14:00 for Adults</p>	<p>The Salvation Army** 166 Bedfont Lane, Feltham, TW14 8AQ Monday: 10.30 – 13.00 Tuesday: 18:00 – 19:00 Wednesday: 10:00 – 12:00 Thursday: 10:00 – 12:00</p>
<p>Riverside Vineyard** Air Park Way, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 7LX Monday - Sunday: 09:00 – 14:30</p>	<p>Bedfont Lane Community Centre** 9 Proctors Close, Feltham, TW14 9NB Mondays: 13.00 – 17.00 Thursdays: 12.00 – 16.00</p>
<p>The Southville Centre** Southville Rd, Bedfont, TW14 8AP Mondays: 10.00 – 13.00 Wednesdays 13.00 – 16.00</p>	<p>Ashford Library** Church Rd, Ashford TW15 2XB Tuesday - Saturday 09:30–17:00</p>

<p>LBH Bedfont Library** Bedfont Library, Staines Road, Bedfont. TW14 8DB Monday: 09.30 – 20.00 Tuesday: 09.30 – 17.30 Thursday: 09.30 – 17.30 Saturday: 09.30 – 17.30</p>	<p>LBH Feltham Library** The Centre, High Street, Feltham. TW13 4GU Monday: 09.00 – 20.00 Tuesday: 09.00 – 17.30 Wednesday: 09.00 – 17.30 Thursday: 09.00 – 20.00 Friday: 09.00 – 17.30 Saturday: 09.30 – 17.30</p>
<p>LBH Hanworth Library** Hanworth Air Park Leisure Centre & Library, Uxbridge Road, Hanworth. TW13 5EG Monday: 09.30 – 20.00 Tuesday: 09.30 – 17.30 Thursday: 09.30 – 20.00 Saturday: 09.30 - 17.30</p>	<p>Staines Library** Friends Walk, Staines TW18 4PG Monday: 09:30–17:30 Tuesday: 09:30–19:00 Wednesday: 09:30–17:30 Thursday: 09:30–17:30 Friday: 09:30–17:30 Saturday: 09:30–17:00</p>
<p>Talking Tree** 91 High Street, Staines TW18 4PQ Tuesday: 13:00 - 16:00 Thursday: 12:30 - 15:30</p>	

* Data supplied by the Venue

** Data from:

Warm hubs in Surrey - Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk)
or

Warm Spaces | London Borough of Hounslow
This information is constantly being updated.

If you need assistance finding Warm Hub / Space
resources please contact the Circuit Ministers or Office
See inside front page for contact details

CHURCH CONTACTS AND ACTIVITIES

ASHFORD COMMON METHODIST CHURCH Feltham Hill Road, Ashford Common, TW15 1LW

Mrs. Kait Sanger - 07941 540214 ashfordcommon@sfmc.org.uk

MONDAY	Term Time	Boys' Brigade Anchor Section / Junior Section	17:30 / 18:30
THURSDAY	Term Time	Boys' Brigade Company Section	19:00
SUNDAY	Weekly	Morning Worship & Sunday School	10:30
		Evening Worship	18:30

CHRIST CHURCH FELTHAM Christ Church, Hanworth Road, Feltham. TW13 5AE

Rev Andy Watkins hello@christchurchfeltham.org www.christchurchfeltham.org

TUESDAY	1 st Tuesday	Feltham History Group	19:45
WEDNESDAY	Weekly	The Furnace - worship together and pray for Feltham	19:45
SUNDAY	Weekly	Informal Service with Kids Groups	Door Open 10:00
	3 rd Sunday	Community Lunch everyone is welcome, bring some food to share!	After Church

SOUTHVILLE METHODIST CHURCH Tachbrook Road, Feltham, Middlesex. TW14 9NX

Mrs. Maggie Netto – 07956 553974 contact-us@southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk

www.southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk

TUESDAY	1 st & 3 rd	House Group / Bible Study	19:45
	2 nd	TALC (Tuesday Adult Leisure Club)	14:00 – 16:00
WEDNESDAY	Weekly	Bible Study	10:00
SATURDAY	1 st	Private Prayer	09:30 – 10:30
SUNDAY	Weekly	Morning Worship	10:30

ST DUNSTAN'S FELTHAM St Dunstons Road, Feltham, Middlesex. TW13 4JY

Rev Anne Dollery - 020-8890 2011

admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk www.stdunstansfeltham.org.uk

MONDAY	Weekly	Drop-in	10:00–12:00	See Weekly Notices for Details
	Fortnightly	Bible study on Zoom	20:00	
WEDNESDAY	Weekly	Holy Communion	10:00	
THURSDAY	Monthly	WOT (Women on Thursdays)	14:00-16:00	
SUNDAY	Weekly	Parish Communion in church	09:45	
		Morning prayer on Zoom	09:30	

WOODTHORPE METHODIST CHURCH

Clarendon Road, Ashford. TW15 2QR and Edinburgh Drive, Laleham. TW18 1PH

Mr Graham Wells - 01784 258785 woodthorpe@sfmc.org.uk

MONDAY	Clarendon Road	Term Time	Rainbows (Aged 5 – 7) Brownies (Aged 7 – 10) Guides (Aged 10 – 15)	16:30 – 17:30 17:50 - 19:30 19:00 - 21:00
TUESDAY	Zoom	Alternate weeks	Bible Study	20:00
WEDNESDAY	Clarendon Road	2 nd Wednesday	Clarendon Ladies Group	12:00
	Edinburgh Drive	Weekly	Coffee Morning (KLC)	09:30 -12:00
THURSDAY	Zoom	Weekly	Bible Study	10:00
	Edinburgh Drive	Weekly	Fellowship	14:30
SUNDAY	Edinburgh Drive	1 st Week	Morning Worship	10:00
	Clarendon Rd	Other Weeks		10:30

REMOVE THIS PAGE
AND
PUT IT SOMEWHERE YOU WILL SEE IT DAILY



For those that have passed away recently, families & friends including since the last publication:

David Mitchell
Lily Darvill
Anne Hebenton

All the school staff as they work with the children in our communities.

All the Children and Young People in our communities

All those who work in our Emergency Services, Hospitals, Community Health Care and Social Care and those training for these fields

Those running Warm Space locations in our local area

Those who are running services for those from the Ukraine

Chaplaincy Teams:

Airport, Hospital, Education

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders and those in Training



prayer@easternendnews.org.uk