

September 2014

### Dear Brothers and Sisters

How good it is to greet you in the name of Jesus our Lord and saviour, our friend and companion along life's way. As the new cycle of Church life begins we will gather on Sunday in our various Churches as the people of God – his Holy, special and chosen people, according to the new covenant, whose task is to increase the awareness of God's saving love shown to us in Jesus, for to know Jesus is to know God.

We may not always feel holy, or special or chosen but I was struck by last week's Old Testament reading - where Moses says; 'who am I that I should go in your name?' God's response was not to focus on Moses' strengths and weaknesses but rather to simply to say; 'I am who I am... and I am with you.'

We should remember and hold onto the fact that God almighty, eternal, creator of the universe, of all creation and of each one of us makes this profound promise: I am who I am... and I am with you.

Our calling and service to the church and the world are not about who we are, how we feel about ourselves or what we do or don't think we can do. Our very lives and all that we accomplish in thought, prayer or action rest on God... and God alone.

In my daily prayer this morning I read Psalm 62:

*Yes, my soul, finds rest in God;  
my hope comes from him.  
Truly he is my rock and my salvation;  
he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.*

May we all rest on God and take joy from doing a few things well in his name. **Amen**

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Since I last wrote there is much **news** to share... The circuit service said goodbye to Bill and Renate Tardy and celebrated Joanne Mead and Syntiche Dedji completing their local preacher training. We pray for them and those still in training.

Within our little sub-group of churches... **At Goffs Oak** the great Window Dedication Service was so well attended that there was standing room only. **Goffs** also held a superb Mega-Makers Holiday Club with 30 children gathering every day to enjoy learning about how the presence of God's love makes everything bigger and deeper and greater.



### At Ordnance Road

before the holidays arrived we held a summer fete, a back breaking gardening day and enjoyed a *Summer Praise* service with a full church including visitors from three other local churches and the circuit young adult group. In true Methodist style we had a great sing and some wonderful testimonies.

At the Circuit Sunday Funday in July - where over 70 gathered - worship was led by the brilliant **Ponders End Youth Worship Group**,

**Looking ahead** – and by the time you read this - we will have welcomed Revd Papa Owusu to the circuit. **At Ponders End** Rev Louise has generously moved house (to allow Papa a better geographic location for his ministry) and she will be balancing a different arrangement of churches so we pray for her and her ministry amongst us.

**Ponders** weekly Bible study has restarted, we aim to re-ignite the youth worship group and we look forward with great excitement to the Nov 29 Songs of Praise which will be a big event by all accounts!

**At Ordnance** we welcome the restart of Junior Church and the launch of a new series of parade services working more closely with the uniformed organisations.

**At Goffs** we are excited about our Harvest Parade being in 'Holiday Club Style' and we pray that this will present out faith in a new way. A Bible study series on Hebrews begins on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and studies are being planned for Ponders and Ordnance Rd.

At all three Churches we pray especially for ongoing building improvements and related projects.

I have missed things and there is already too much going on! I pray for you – please prayer for all those who minister and may God bless us all richly.

### Alan Combes

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