

Autumn 2018

**Letter to the Churches of Ordnance Road,
Ponders End & Goffs Oak**

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Autumn is fast approaching as the temperatures drop but we have still been blessed by many glorious blue skies. I wonder where this year has gone and indeed the last five years... I was moved to realise that if you had not re-invited me to stay then the few weeks before the summer would have seen my last services with you. It is a privilege to share in this faith journey together and I look forward to building upon the foundations of the relationships we have established.



Establishing a Clear Vision

The beginning of the year brings anniversaries at both Ordnance and especially Goffs Oak who are celebrating 150 years of Methodism in the village. This is a unique opportunity to look back with thankfulness and forward with boldness.

In this context of building for the future each church has come together through the last year in General Church Meetings, Church Councils and Vision Workshops as we have sought to find what God is calling us to be in our respective local communities. We have asked the key question: *'what does the Good News look like here in this place?'* All three churches have responded positively. Through our reflections and prayers we have found a few things we can do well and which balance outward and inward across Mission, Service and discipleship growth.

We seek a vision and we plan because this helps us to explore the bridge between God, the church and the world. It provides focus to our prayer and action. We plan because it is our faithful duty to care for and protect the community around us, the church fellowship and our resources.

Yet at the same time - as I step back from the hard work of all this and see in the news stories of natural disaster and human conflict, or as I sit with families who have lost loved ones unexpectedly - I am reminded that we can never know what the future will bring. So our overriding focus must be on this day... making the best of each moment and the people who are around us now, never letting pride lead us into thinking too far ahead. Each day, each moment is precious and Jesus sets us an example because

he had an amazing skill of 'being wholly present' with whoever he met no matter how distracting the surrounding circumstances. He calls us to live in the present, to practice forgiveness, to seek to be at one and to pray each day that we might, by God's grace, bring glory to God in this moment.

The Iona Communion liturgy puts it like this:

*Then just when we think we've got it right
as to where we should go and what we should do;
just when we're ready to take on the world,
you come, like a beggar, to our back door, saying,
This is the way. I am the way...'*

So it is that nothing stays the same, despite us wishing sometimes that it would. In Ordinance over the summer we have seen three families move away to new homes and in the process we have said goodbye to our junior church superintendent, a junior church staff member, a pastoral visitor and our lettings steward. We wish Prince and Peace, Joseph and Freda and Margaret and her husband every blessing. We are thankful for your faithful service and we will miss you. At the same time our treasurer, Rita, is also stepping down and again we thank her and Roy for fulfilling such an important role in the life of the church.

Our plans are good, they are a start, but they will always change especially if we are prepared to let God be in control. I wonder if, at the heart of all our vision statements we should have the words of the covenant service: 'with the help of the Holy Spirit may we accept God's purpose for us...' I wonder if vision is more about surrender than planning?

Meanwhile as a circuit we have begun the discipleship journey of **Holy Habits**. I believe that this will be a wonderful way for God to draw us deeper into our faith, equipping us to fulfil God's purposes and above all to be more bold in proclaiming the uniqueness of Jesus Christ.

May God the creator, saviour and sustainer be with you this day and every day. May you know God's peace and forgiveness made possible in Christ and made known through the Holy Spirit. **God bless you...**

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News

At Ordnance Road – we have completed improved security, re-wiring, rear roofing works, secure private garden space, refurbished toilets, repaired front flat roof, refurbished foyer and plans still progressing slowly but surely to achieve door handles on our new doors! Like other churches we are grateful to the circuit for grants that have enabled this vital work to be done. Plans and fund raising now begin to refurbish the main hall and to get our floors polished. We must begin to look outward now to support the local community which faces many challenges.

At Goffs Oak – it has been a busy year of events, fundraising and special services. The recent Scout 60th Anniversary saw a full church who heard young and old share stories of how much Goffs Scouts has meant to them. A brilliant Summer Holiday club brought children ‘All Aboard’ for the story of Noah, the church raised funds to re-carpet the sanctuary and Tony Millar came to speak about Whitechapel Mission. We now look forward to Oct 21st at 4pm and our anniversary service.

At Ponders End - we have installed data projection and have begun training people to use it. We are in the middle of a new membership class and we are planning special stewards training to establish projects in overseas aid, local mission and service. We have established a new church vision, found a local community partner (Ponders End Community Development Trust) and so we begin the exciting journey of seeking planning permission and funds to refurbish and rebuild our back hall/rooms for church and community life. We ask for your prayers...

Across the Circuit: Soup and conversation is booming at Grange Park, New Planning Officers may finally enable Edmonton to move forward, we have a new circuit administrator – known to us all already: Hilary Luckock and we will soon see the appointment of a MHA Live at Home Scheme coordinator in Enfield. The summer also saw a youth retreat, Children’s Holiday Club at Enfield and the launch of Transforming Lives for Good.

Events for Your Diary

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 13 Oct - Noel and Trisha Richards in concert at Goffs Oak – 7.30pm• 14 Oct – Ordnance Harvest Lunch• 21 Oct – Goffs 150 Service at 4pm• 4 Nov – NEW Ponders Praise 6.30pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 17 Nov – Ponders Stewards Training 9.30am• 17 Nov – Goffs Community Open Afternoon 2pm• 24 Nov – NEW Ordnance Christmas Concert, Tea and Sale 3pm |
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Ordnance Summer Fete



Ordnance new front door canopy



Ponders End New Data Projection



Goffs New Carpet