



Odd Sock Psalms
Goffs Oak
Easter Cross
Ponders End
Walk of Witness
Ordnance
Funday Mural
Edmonton
Circuit Choir
Bush Hill



June 2019

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



Dear sisters and brothers

By now you will all know that I will be leaving the circuit at the end of December this year. The Methodist stationing committee has asked me to take up the superintendency of the Vale of Stour circuit (West of Birmingham) following the very sad loss of the Reverend Peter Knight. This decision was not taken lightly as the Connexion seeks to balance local and national needs. I am sorry to be leaving you earlier than planned and grateful to the Connexion for enabling us to stay until the end of the year to help manage the transition process.

We are blessed with a faithful, prayerful circuit leadership team and following the recent circuit meeting it was agreed that Reverend Papa will be taking pastoral charge of Goffs Oak, Ponders End and Ordnance Road from January 2020. In due course I am sure you will welcome him, his family and ministry with great warmth and encouragement.

And so for a little while we return to the normal cycle and patterns of the Christian year remembering that the Christian journey is one of pilgrimage, accepting that in this context nothing ever stays the same for long and rejoicing that God is with us every step of the way.

I am reminded of the wonderful story in Luke 10 when Jesus sends out the 70 on a journey of mission:

Luke 10:2-9 abridged (NRSV) ² [Jesus] said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers... ³ Go on your way... ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag... ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!.. ⁷ Remain... eating and drinking whatever they provide... Do not move about from house to house... and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near...'

Trey Hall the new Methodist director of evangelism encourages us to learn from this pilgrimage example of Christian life and mission. Jesus calls us to go in obedience, eat what is offered, engage with respect with the people and cultures that we meet, be bold in saying something about the Kingdom of God and see what happens!

Methodists tend to be very ordered, we like plans, reports and processes but here we have an incredibly free and liberating model of mission - Jesus says: go without a plan! Instead of saying “no, but Lord what about this?” Try saying “yes God and what else...?”

I wonder what hinders us from doing this, from simply going and sharing something of the Kingdom of God? Of course there is always the chance that someone might actually asked us what it means for us? So reflecting on that is key. Mission isn't just about how we share our knowledge and theology of God. Christ's example is that it's rooted in daily life, healing and well-being. So we ask - what difference has God made in my life, what does Jesus mean to me? And how do I express that in a language that people around me can understand?

it's natural for us to be afraid of failure but Christ reminds us that this is part of the journey for if we want to save our lives first we must lose them. I wonder what I or Methodism or our churches might be like if we were to trust God more, if we were to go with the flow, if we were to talk of God rather than about God, if we were to simply say what it means to us to be in a relationship with Jesus Christ?

Nothing stays the same for long... but rather than lament this, perhaps we may see that it is in the very process of stepping out into a changing world that we might find, know and trust in God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May God bless you and keep you.

Rev Alan Combes

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Events for Your Diary

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 June - Ordnance Summer Fete • 16 June - Ponders Church Anniversary with– Rev Phil Horner • 23 June – Goffs Sunday Club Celebration Service – 10.15am • 26 June – Ponders Grace Years Tea - 3.30pm • 30 June – Goffs Oak Village United Summer Praise – 6.30pm at St James 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 July – Ponders End International Evening – 6.15pm • 14 July – Sunday Funday Summer Party - 1.30pm at St John • 14 July – Circuit Service at St John - 4.30pm • 21 July – EN3 United Summer Praise – 6.30pm at St James Brimsdown <p>Holiday Clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edmonton 29th July - 2nd August • Goff Oak 19th August - 23rd August
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News from the Churches & Circuit

Much of our news today comes from the circuit. I always find it so encouraging when we work together and I am reminded that Methodism sees the circuit as the enabler of mission and that is certainly true for us. By the time you read this we will have celebrated Pentecost together!

Grace Years Group and Methodist Homes for the Aged - We are delighted to welcome Toni Fielding to our team - funded by MHA she is taking a lead in exploring key social issues such as loneliness across Enfield. Watch out for seated exercise classes, craft afternoons and much more... and of course please get involved (the next meeting of the group is 19 June at Grange Park) and look for opportunities around your church.

St John SPACE project - The planned rebuilding of the St John site on the Elsing estate into a community centre is building momentum. The circuit is very excited about this and we pray hard for partners and funding for this visionary project.

Edmonton Rebuild - following many twists we are once again moving forward and we pray that planning permission may finally be achieved.

Circuit Youth Work - under Isata's guidance our youth and children's work continues to grow. The last Sunday Funday at Edmonton was the largest we have ever done and we are grateful to all those who helped. We are building our community engagement through Transforming Lives for Good and our Knife Crime Initiative and we continue to seek to build connections with our uniformed organisations and local schools.

Winchmore Hill - we bring the sad news that Winchmore Hill will cease to meet in December of this year. We remember all those connected with this church in our prayers.

Finances - we are struggling to balance our circuit budget for next year and so we pray as we seek to give generously and sacrificially to enable church and circuit to continue on a stable footing.

Circuit and United Services - We have enjoyed a range of recent special services including Oddsock Productions presenting 'Psalms' at Goffs Oak, Palm Sunday Breaking Bread Circuit Service at Bush Hill Park complete with band and choir, a United Walk of Witness for Good Friday around Ordnance Road churches and an uplifting Easter Offering Circuit Service at Ordnance Road – thank you for hosting us.