

The **Methodist** Church



**“At the heart  
of community”**



including the preaching plan

**March 2020**

Ipswich Round is the quarterly newsletter & preaching plan  
of the Ipswich Circuit of Methodist churches

## **“At the heart of Community”**

Dear Friends,

Tom Stuckey, the President of the Methodist Conference in 2005-6 published a book “Beyond the box” and in it he challenges the Church to think missionally, practise theological reflection and respond to the Spirit. As I write this letter, I am thinking about my sermon for Sunday (19<sup>th</sup> January) which is based on the passage from John 1: 29-42. In the reading John the Baptist recognises Jesus and points him out to his disciples, who follow Jesus. Andrew, one of the first disciples, is so excited at meeting the Messiah that he immediately runs and finds his brother Simon and brings him to Jesus.

Last Sunday, four of us from this Circuit were in Derbyshire at the start of a year-long pilot being run by the Evangelism and Growth team at Methodist Church House. Eight groups from around the Connexion have been invited to take part in the project, some representing whole Circuits, like ours, some, sections of Circuits and some individual churches. I thought it was an excellent weekend and I came away excited at the prospect of what lies ahead of us as a Circuit.

One of my reflections as I think back to the weekend is the main question common to most of us, which is **“how do we make this work?”** and if we’re not careful, we overwhelm ourselves, because all we know is what we know and I think that over the fifty odd years of my involvement with the Methodist Church, we have invested heavily in trying to build the Church today to look like it did thirty, forty, fifty and even sixty years ago, when we simply haven’t got the building blocks we had back then, that often leads to feelings of inadequacy and guilt.

Tom Stuckey is right in my opinion; the way forward is to think beyond the box. I would love the Church of the twenty first century to be excited at the possibilities. I’d love to see people, so filled with the Spirit as Andrew was on the day he first met Jesus, that the only response is to go and tell others. Maybe the Church of the twenty twenties will look very different to anything we’ve known before. We will do mission in new and creative ways, push the boundaries, challenge the rule book, change our thinking, but above all else, help people with little or no experience of God to find ways to accept him as their Saviour. I believe we are facing exciting times ahead, please speak to me if you have ideas, no matter how crazy they might sound.

May God bless you all.

***Derek***

# Calling all Pianists!



## **MHA Norwood needs pianists**

for our Sunday and Tuesday services.

No need to play every week –  
just let us know what you are happy to do.

Services are at 4.00pm on Sundays and 10.30am  
on Tuesdays and are about 30 minutes long

**Contact: Ruth Loggie (Norwood Chaplain)**

**[Ruth.Loggie@mha.org.uk](mailto:Ruth.Loggie@mha.org.uk)**

**01473 720973**



# 3Generate Local



For all those churches who have young people in their congregations

The East Anglia district are hosting a 3Generate Local event at **Redhouse Farm in Stowmarket on May 3rd** this year.

This event is aimed at young people between the ages of **8 and 23**.

Full information including booking information can be found at the following address online:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/3-generate-local-tickets-72929551251](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/3-generate-local-tickets-72929551251)

3Generate Local is an action-packed day to hear the voice of children and young people, to worship and enjoy a range of activities together.



## CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICES



**Trinity Methodist Church**  
Hamilton Road, Felixstowe



**Sunday 9th February 6 – 7.15pm**

*Including Membership service for Marianne Sherborne*

**Sunday 29th March 6 – 7.15pm**



*Mission area service with focus on Pioneer Ministry*



**Sunday 17th May 6 -7.15pm**

*The first of the new style monthly services – every 3rd Sunday from 6 – 7.15pm*

“



*Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise”*



Brantham Methodist Church

Easter Songs of Praise

5<sup>th</sup> April 3.00pm

Everyone welcome



Trinity Players present

# Florence Nightingale

Thursday 5th—Saturday 7th March

**7.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Felixstowe**

*Celebrating the 200th anniversary of her birth this is the story of Florence Nightingale's life told in the form of a rehearsal of a play to be performed at a later time.*



**Tickets £8.00 from Anne & Ian Clarke**

**01394 285305 or on the door.**

Refreshments provided.



Profits to **Walton Parish Nursing**, a Christian charity supporting people in the Walton community towards whole person healthcare.

The next issue of Ipswich Round will be for the quarter

**June, July, August 2020**

and will be distributed from 1st May.

Please send items by **Friday 17th April** to

**[sue.hockenhill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sue.hockenhill@yahoo.co.uk)**

## **CHAIR OF EAST ANGLIA DISTRICT**

Rev Julian Pursehouse

### **MINISTERS**

Rev Derek Grimshaw  
(Superintendent)

Rev Martin Dawes

Rev Joan Pell

Rev Andrew Sankey

Rev Diane Smith

### **SUPERNUMARY MINISTERS**

Rev Michael Allen

Rev Jane Cassidy

Rev Mike Cassidy

Rev Malcolm Clark

Rev Ian Gardner

Rev Joanna Jacobs

Rev Chris Jowett

Rev David Keeble

Rev Margaret Millar

Rev Stephen Yelland

Rev Yvonne Haye

### **CHAPLAINCIES**

HMP YOI Hollesley Bay and HMP Warren Hill - Mr Stephen Caley

Methodist Homes (Norwood) - Vacant

Port of Felixstowe - Rev Stephen Yelland

### **LAY EMPLOYEES**

Mrs Ashley Benham

Mrs Dawn Bone

Ms Emma Bowyer

Mr Stephen Caley

Mrs Sue France

Mr Neil Happlethwaite

Mrs Nicky Seabrook

Mr Mike Stock

Miss Elizabeth Storey

Mrs Rachael Wainwright

### **CIRCUIT STEWARDS**

Mrs Diana Sawyer (2014)

Mr Chris Finbow (2014)

Mr Richard Anderson (2017)

Mrs E Cope (2019)

Mrs J Steward (2019)

## LOCAL PREACHERS

\*Not available to take appointments

1948	Mr Harry Chicken MA BD	
1950	Mr Raymond Sawyer CEng MIET	*
1950	Mr Richard Vickerstaff	*
1961	Mr Roger Fern	
1961	Mr Raymond Wilson	*
1968	Mr Brian Loader BSc (Eng)	*
1972	Mrs Margaret Powell	*
1974	Mr Colin Westren FCA	
1977	Mr Mike Castle	
1979	Mr Grahame Lindsay	*
1980	Mrs Alyson Ellis	
1980	Mrs Pam Hulford	
1981	Mr Stuart Bellis	
1985	Mr Martin Ellis	
1988	Mrs Gloria Theobald	
1991	Mrs Ellen Barber	*
1991	Mrs Diana Sawyer	
1991	Mr Geoff Wilson	
1992	Mrs Nichola Glasse	
1993	Mrs Daphne Elliss	*
1993	Mrs Janet Foster	

1993	Mr Bryan Nichols ACIB	
1994	Mrs Jenny Archer	*
1994	Mr William Glasse	
1995	Mr Paul Finch	
1996	Mrs Val Flint-Johnson	*
1997	Mr Stephen Caley	
1997	Prof David Welbourn CEng C Phys	
1998	Mr Roger Theobald	
1998	Mrs Marilyn Watsham	
1999	Mr Chris Finbow	
1999	Mrs Beryl Mabbutt	*
2000	Mrs Margaret Woods	*
2010	Mrs Heather Bentley	
2013	Mrs E Cope	
2013	Mrs Jane Paterson	
2015	Mrs Carole Almond	
	<b>PREACHERS ON TRIAL</b>	
2015	Mr Paul Walker	
2015	Mr Luke Rokobuli	
2016	Mrs Ruth Loggie	
2016	Mrs Maggie Finbow	
2017	Mrs Vickie Vallow	

CHURCH	Worship Leaders	
Bramford	Mrs Jackie Howes (2004)	
Bramford Road	Mrs Sharon Clarkson (2000) Mrs Val Kemp (2006)	Miss Anna Howes (2014) Mrs Judy Read (2000)
Capel	Ms Emma Bowyer (2009)	
Chantry	Mrs Vickie Vallow (2014)	
Chelmondiston	Mrs Rachael Wainwright (2014)	
Elmsett	Mr Russ Allen (2014) Mrs Vickie Vallow (2014)	Mr Mike Stock (2007),
Framlingham	Mr Richard Anderson (2009)	Mr Peter Webb (2009)
Holbrook	Mrs Sylvia McLean (1997)	
Museum Street	Mrs Betty Lindsay (2001)	Mrs Barbara Wearne (2007)
Seaton Road	Mr Robin Pattinson (2002)	
Trimley	Miss Elizabeth Storey (2016)	
Trinity	Mrs Madeline Ellis (2007)	
Woodbridge	Miss Helen Peats (2009)	

### Key to Services March to May 2020

<b>A</b>	All Age Worship	<b>LA (Supply)</b>	Church to invite Preacher
<b>BS</b>	Bible Study	<b>P</b>	Parade Service
<b>CA</b>	Church Anniversary	<b>PP</b>	Pizza Praise
<b>CCC</b>	Capel Community Church	<b>PR</b>	Prayer Service
<b>CF</b>	Café Worship	<b>S</b>	Holy Communion
<b>CWB</b>	Contemporary Worship Band	<b>SD</b>	Something Different
<b>EBC</b>	East Bergholt Congregational Church	<b>SP</b>	Songs of praise
<b>EO</b>	Bramford Road Methodist Church Easter Offering Service	<b>T4Y</b>	Time For You
<b>F4</b>	Families at Four	<b>TTS</b>	Tea Table Service
<b>FC</b>	Family Communion	<b>US</b>	United Service
<b>LA</b>	Local Arrangement	<b>WL</b>	Worship Leader

For details of visiting preachers please contact the Circuit Administrator:

Emma Bowyer: [circuitsecretaryipswich@gmail.com](mailto:circuitsecretaryipswich@gmail.com) 07591 341 498

### Circuit Staff Rest Days

Rev Derek Grimshaw – Friday

Rev Andrew Sankey – Friday

Rev Diane Smith – Friday

Rev Martin Dawes – Wednesday

Rev Joan Pell – Monday

Mr Stephen Caley – works Monday and Wednesday



At the heart of Community Ipswich Methodist Circuit		March				
		First Sunday Lent	Second Sunday Lent	Third Sunday Lent	Mothering	Passion
		1	8	15	22	29
Alan Road IP3 8EZ	10.45 6.30	Dawes FC Smith	Yelland P BS	Pursehouse Dawes H	LA -	C Finbow -
Bramford WL IP8 4ED	10.30 4.00	Castle -	Grimshaw S -	PattersonSD -	Smith US A Grimshaw F4	N Glasse -
Bramford Road WL IP1 4AY	9.30 11.00 6.30	Grimshaw Grimshaw S Dawes	- Almond Grimshaw S	- G Theobald A Pursehouse PP 5:30	- Yelland Grimshaw	- J Cassidy LA Supply
Brantham CO11 1NY	11.00	Gardner S	@ East Berg CC	Nichols	Westren	Cope
Capel St Mary WL IP9 2EF	10.30 6.30	T Jack PR	C Hill Sankey	LA -	Sankey @ St Marys	Dawes S -
Chantry WL IP2 0QL	9.30	Pell P	Pell S	Smith	R Theobald	M Finbow
Chelmondiston WL IP9 1DZ	10.45 6.15	Allen LA Supply	Sankey S W Glasse	M Brock Pell	LA Supply Sankey	R Theobald Sankey S
Elmsett WL IP7 6ND	9.45 6.30	CWB Grimshaw S	A Ellis Pell	G Wilson CF Grimshaw	Grimshaw S LA Supply	Fairweather Dawes
Framlingham WL Meth/URC IP139DX	11.00	N Glasse CF	Dawes S	Liddell	M Cassidy	W Glasse
Holbrook WL IP9 2PZ	10.00 6.30	Sankey S Sankey	Jacobs -	Bentley FF Sankey	Watsham -	Sankey -
Kirton IP10 0NT	9.45	Smith S	Gardner	Grimshaw	Rokobuli	Castle
Landseer Rd IP3 9LX	11.00	M Finbow	Pell	Pell S	Loggie	Haye
Museum St WL IP1 2EF	10.45	Pell S	Vallow	R Gee CA	Pell	Welbourn
Norwood MHA IP1 3ST	4.00	Grimshaw	Smith	Pell	Dawes	Sankey
Orford IP12 2NQ	10.30 5.00	Yelland -	LA -	Caley -	Dawes S	Caley -
Seaton Rd WL IP11 9BT	9.45 4.00	C Finbow T4Y Smith	Smith S -	LA CF -	Jacobs -	Smith -
Trimley WL IP11 0RN	11.00	Smith S	Westren	Grimshaw	Nichols	M Cassidy
Trinity WL IP11 7AN	11.00 6.00	Major Andrew LA	Smith S Jacobs H	CF Smith	J Cassidy J Cassidy	Smith LA MS
Woodbridge WL IP12 1ED	9.30 10.45 4.30	- Millar S -	Dawes S Welbourn -	- Dawes -	- Walker -	- Grimshaw -

At the heart of Community Ipswich Methodist Circuit		April			
		Palm	Easter Day		
		5	12	19	26
Alan Road IP3 8EZ	10.45 6.30	Millar FC Pell	Patterson P BS	Welbourn Pell S	Rokobuli -
Bramford WL IP8 4ED	10.30 4.00	Haye -	10:00 Grimshaw S -	Walker -	Almond Grimshaw F4
Bramford Road WL IP1 4AY	9.30 11.00 6.30	LA Grimshaw Easter Reflection	- Haye S Easter Reflection	- M Finbow A Easter Ref S	- Nichols Easter Reflection
Brantham CO11 1NY	11.00	3pm SP Gardner	Gardner S	C Finbow	Gardner
Capel St Mary WL IP9 2EF	10.30 6.30	R Stone PR	8:30am Sankey S 10:30 Ponsford Sankey	Cope -	Sankey S 7:30 U PR @CCC
Chantry WL IP2 0QL	9.30	M Cassidy	Pell S	Pell	Pell
Chelmondiston WL IP9 1DZ	10.45 6.15	Gardner Allen	Sankey S Smith	Finch LA US	D Cordle Gardner S
Elmsett WL IP7 6ND	9.45 6.30	Challis Easter Ref S	Watsham Easter Reflection	Loggie Easter Reflection	Grimshaw S Easter Reflection
Framlingham WL Meth/URC IP13 9DX	11.00	Brown	Jacobs S	Grimshaw	M Cassidy
Holbrook WL IP9 2PZ	10.00 6.15	J Cassidy US -	Gardner S -	Fern FF -	C Finbow Sankey SD
Kirton IP10 0NT	9.45	Smith	M Cassidy S	Smith	LA supply
Landseer Rd IP3 9LX	11.00	R Theobald	Pell S	Pell	LA Supply
Museum St WL IP1 2EF	10.45	Pell	Welbourn/ Grimshaw S	LA	Pell
Norwood MHA IP1 3ST	4.00	Grimshaw	Grimshaw	Pell	Sankey
Orford IP12 2NQ	10.30 5.00	SP -	Caley -	CF -	Millar S Tea Table Service
Seaton Rd WL IP11 9BT	9.45 4.00	Nichols T4Y Smith	Smith S -	LA CF	Smith -
Trimley WL IP11 0RN	11.00	D Sawyer	J Cassidy S	B Clow	Watsham
Trinity WL IP11 7AN	11.00 6.00	Fern M Cassidy	M Cassidy S LA	CF Smith	Smith Smith
Woodbridge WL IP12 1ED	9.30 10.45 4.30	- A Ellis A -	- Millar S -	- Allen -	- J Cassidy -

## Angels from the Realms of Felixstowe



Neil Hepplewhite challenged us to make angels for the Circuit Angel Project. The idea being, over Christmas, to place angels around the town (bus stops, door steps, etc.) for people to take away as a gift of love.

At the Convent Craft Group I made 54 angels, of all shapes & sizes. I got addicted to the knitting, using oddments of white wool from our “magic wool box” (so called because it was always full), with each angel taking an hour to make – until burn-out set in and I couldn’t face another angel!

There were tiny ones, a large one using No.6 needles in chunky wool we nicknamed “Gabriel” & over time I became adventurous adding glitter, sparkly paint & diamanté – “bling angels”. Someone in the group pointed out that angles are from all races; so with balls of wool in brown or yellow I created faces for the African & Asian angels. All of them had halos (of course).

These angels were placed at the base of the Churches Together Felixstowe tree in the Salvation Army Tree Festival. (58 charity trees were displayed all week with a great outreach to all the town). The message said :-

***“Please take an angel & share the Christmas message”.***

Thirty went out on Monday & were gone by Wednesday. The remainder were put out Thursday & by the de-montage Saturday had disappeared – hopefully to a good home where the tag around each of them reminded us of

***“Peace on Earth. Goodwill to All Men”.***

Sue Hockenhull



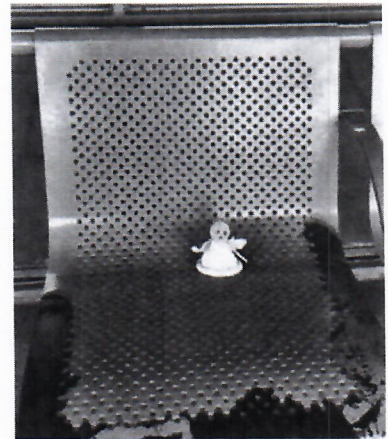
## Christmas Angels

A big thank you to everyone who embraced the Christmas Angels project. We don't know what the actual number of knitted and crocheted Angels was, but it was well in excess of 1000 Angels across the Circuit, which is amazing!

Angels were handed out in schools, left on shopping trolleys, left in bus stops and on railway stations, given to shop workers, left in buckets, on benches, on post boxes, given out in care homes and even put in people's luggage! The list is endless and it has been great hearing some of the stories and the wonderful ideas people have come up with to help spread the Christian message of God's love during this last Christmas time.

This is one of the Facebook posts made by someone who found Angels on the prom at Felixstowe ***" I had a day out at Felixstowe today, and was lucky enough to find two angels while there! Thank you to everyone who has been busy making these! I have taken them home as the note said, so one of them is now in Steeple Bumpstead, and the other one I am going to pass on to my niece as she had her very own little boy earlier this year! Thank you once again, and have a happy and healthy Christmas 😊"***

We wish you all a blessed 2020 and look forward to undertaking a new or similar project later on this year.



Thank you again for helping to bring some light into many people's lives during December 2019.

God Bless

**Neil Hepplewhite & Elizabeth Storey**

## How I put my hope into action



*Enabling churches to house the homeless*

I've always believed that people come into your life for a reason. Whether it is to teach us something, inspire us or just make us a stronger person.

Around eight years ago, I met a young woman called Ruth and although she will probably never know it, she became the inspiration that has set me on the path I am now on that has completely changed my life.

I was a Teaching Assistant on a residential trip to Sizewell Hall with thirty year 6 children. It was African Adventure run by CYM and Ruth was the team leader. She told many stories of her trips to Malawi, the views of the lake, the friendly locals and the poverty that the people there suffered.

Something inside me felt so overwhelming. Looking back, I believe it was God speaking to me and telling me I needed to go there and see for myself.

In 2017 I found the charity Naturally Africa, booked my flights and began fundraising to pay for my trip. But that was not the only thing I decided to do. I resigned as a teaching assistant July 2017.

In the four weeks that followed in Malawi my life changed forever. Indeed, the Lake was beautiful, the locals were friendly and the poverty was immense, just as Ruth had said. But, it was more than that. Here was the fourth poorest country in the World, but the children and adults alike were all so happy.



On my return to England, thoughts quickly turned to what I was going to do next in the world of work. The poverty that I had seen in Malawi made me feel that I needed to do something for people in poverty in my home country.

A chance sighting on Facebook of an advertisement for Shelter Assistants at The Ipswich Winter Night Shelter spoke to me. Would I even stand a chance with no previous experience? Well, it was worth a try.

Little did I know that behind a door of a small bungalow at the bottom of my road was the office of a Christian Charity called **Selig (Suffolk) Trust**. There, two of the most inspirational women I have ever met, were not only running a Night Shelter, but a housing project for previously homeless people as well called **Hope into Action**.

That winter, I worked as a Shelter Assistant three evenings a week & I went into the office as a volunteer and did admin work. This was my happy place and I didn't want it to end.

At the end of April I became Empowerment Worker for the **Hope into Action** project.

**Hope into Action** is a UK wide project enabling churches to house the homeless. Ed Walker founded the charity in 2010 with a handful of people passionate about changing homelessness in the city of Peterborough.

In June 2019, we opened our second Hope into Action home and I was promoted to Coordinator of the project here in Ipswich and I have two new Empowerment workers working with me. In September 2019, we moved a tenant into our third home.

I have an enormous passion for **Hope into Action**. I feel that God has called me to do this work, from that very first meeting with Ruth all those years ago.

In 2020 Ipswich and the surrounding area we are hoping to open at least two more homes. (So far, Hope into Action across 23 towns & cities has 76 homes, 67 church partners with 207 tenants sleeping in our homes every night.)

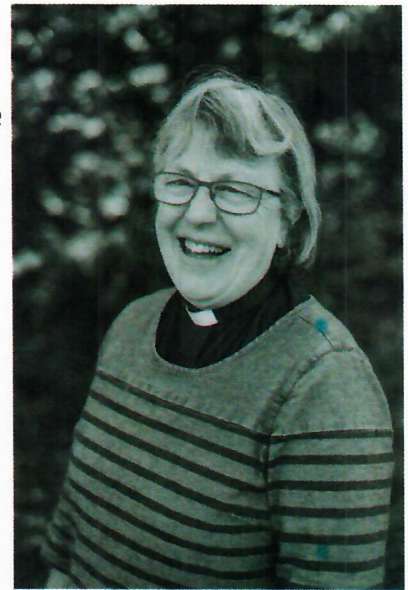
### **How does Hope into Action Work?**

An investor or group of investors buy a suitable house and lease it to Hope into Action for 5 years who will find tenants & support them with an Empowerment Worker and befrienders from a partner church. The investor/s then receives a 2% annual return on their investment. **Become a Church Partner.**

**For more information on Hope into Action contact me: Linda Perkins**  
**[linda@selig.org.uk](mailto:linda@selig.org.uk) or visit [hopeintoaction.org.uk](http://hopeintoaction.org.uk)**

## Rev. Barbara Glasson, President Conference 2019-2020

**I grew up in Kent, and the church was my extended family.** It was loving and safe, but they also challenged me to ask some big questions. I'll always be grateful to them for giving me a sense of being valued. That generosity and kindness showed me that a good church is an open-minded church.



**I felt called to leadership in the Church when I was 16,** but women couldn't be ordained at that time; so I read Agricultural Sciences with a view to working for the Church overseas. That taught me to value an organic rather than a structural way of viewing the world — really important when I was working at the Bread Church, in Liverpool, and my current interfaith work at Touchstone, in Bradford.

**After my three children went to school,** I completed my Local Preacher's training, though it was hard with three youngsters, and I did an MA in Theology before starting on a non-residential ecumenical training course, and was ordained in Tewkesbury Abbey in 1995.

**"Bastards and Nonconformists" was the title of my Ph.D.,** exploring Methodism's changing attitudes to lone parenting. I listened to stories from different lone parents, and looked at historical accounts. The practice of separating mother and child until the child was adult, and sending both to separate workhouses, was heart-breaking. I also heard stories from women who had separated from unhealthy relationships where the church was praying for them to go back to their husbands. I concluded that we should celebrate the faithful relationship between parent and child rather than bemoan a broken marriage. This faithfulness is at the heart of my understanding of God in Jesus.

**After five years, I was sent to be the minister in Liverpool city centre,** an appointment without church building or congregation. I took a year walking the streets and listening to people I encountered. *I am Somewhere Else* tells the story. A community came together to make bread and to give it away; so, if

you came, you'd make a couple of loaves and give them to whoever you wanted to. We called the project "Somewhere Else", but soon people began to call it the "Bread Church". It's still there in Liverpool — never the same group of people twice. It's particularly popular with kids, people with learning disabilities, and people exploring their faith outside conventional church structures. LGBTQ people are important at Somewhere Else. They taught me so much about what it means to be a prophetic community.

**Touchstone, which I went to lead ten years later, is another Methodist city-centre project.** It's been going for 40 years, from a terraced house in a Muslim-Pakistani-heritage area, and has now just moved into a refurbished pub. I learned a lot about interfaith relations, and visited Pakistan several times. We recently took our exhibition "Weaving Women's Wisdom" to the Houses of Parliament. This week, my colleagues Jenny and Shamim are teaching Asian-heritage women to ride bikes.

**When I was in Liverpool, I heard a lot of stories of childhood abuse;** so I got involved with the Face to Face project at Holyrood House, in Thirsk, and began to lead some survivor retreats. I've continued this in Bradford with a small counselling service and creative-writing days.

**The Church doesn't do something for women — it *is* women.** Women change politics, the environment, and are peace-builders; but usually in non-structural, relational ways. The most effective change comes from the bottom up; yet this is often demeaned as simply social or domestic activity.

**Interfaith dialogue is often regarded as bearded chaps sitting on a platform,** or civic events with curry and quiche, whereas Touchstone works politically on a daily basis to bring about grass-roots change, not simply for one neighbourhood. Methodist Women in Britain have recently done some spectacular work around human trafficking and domestic violence. None of this hits the headlines.

**I'd abolish "they" from the English language.** It's "othering" people, and that's the beginning of dehumanising them. We're called to love our enemies and pray for those that persecute us; so we need to acknowledge our enemies and then acknowledge our shared humanity. It's costly, but it's the only way to change the world.



## I AM SOMEWHERE ELSE

By Barbara Glasson

The Story of a Bread Church



Rev. Barbara Glasson was appointed to Liverpool City Centre as a Methodist Minister without a church or a congregation.

She began a bread-making community, meeting in a kitchen above a bookshop in the centre of Liverpool.

People come to make bread - they may be Big Issue sellers, asylum seekers, gay & never felt welcome in church, abused & never felt safe in church, workers who come to relax & think, some have respite from what is going on at home, some have no home, some come to escape loneliness. Each one has different needs.

Bread is the symbol of the community, bringing together a group of random people.

Bread is a mixed-up sticky mess becoming something wholesome & nutritious. It takes energy & trust to make. It requires time, warmth & rest. It has its own rhythm. It cannot be rushed. It rises at its own speed depending on the atmosphere around it.

The random are invited *"to come & make bread"* but more often than not they end up talking about the very deepest part of their lives. A simple activity inspires people to touch base with their souls.

*"The bread is a gift to us, so we simply give it away."* The freshly baked loaf might be given to someone struggling, a survivor of abuse, a car park attendant, a stranger on a train.....and one was even posted to the Archbishop of Canterbury!

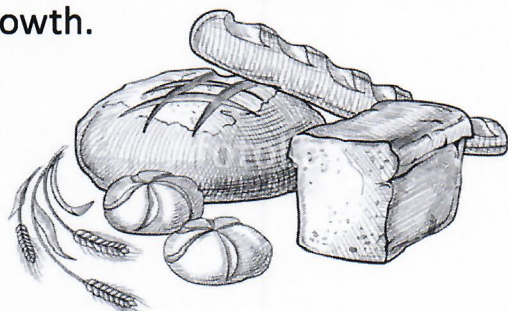
Sometimes they talk about stories in the Bible, there may be a form of worship, candles may be lit, pebbles dropped in water, prayer.

***"The poor & vulnerable are always with us but the Gospel can make a difference."***

Here is "church" being reworked, not showing the traditional hallmarks of church, opening up new possibilities for growth.

Bread can be transforming.

Sue Hockenull



# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND SIMULATED RELATIONSHIPS

by Prof John Wyatt

Cambridge Papers vol 28 no 3 December 2019

Have you ever heard of Woebot ? Likely not, but it is just one example of a number of technical developments in the rapidly growing field of Artificial Intelligence. Woebot is a robot designed by a clinical psychologist at Stanford University. The robot provides cognitive behavioural therapy for people with depression or anxiety. In effect it's a substitute for a human therapist but, admittedly, only a partial replacement not a complete substitute. Its simple, clear advantage as a machine is that it is constantly available; it's always there. That has to have some positive benefit for those with mental health concerns.

The story of Woebot takes a few paragraphs in a 6 page paper on the development of human-like machines (robots). The paper deals with the merits of such machine creations as well as the potential disadvantages. Amongst other aspects of the review, the writer looks at how children might react to and with personalised robots. It isn't plain sailing by any means.

The final part of the paper is a suggested Christian response to the development of human-like robots such as Alexa, Google Home, Apple's Siri and others.

The paper is a fascinating, well-presented and thought-provoking review of technical developments in the area of personalised machines with consideration of ethical, moral and philosophical implications of their design and use from a Christian perspective.

The paper is one of a series published regularly since 1992 by the Jubilee Centre in Cambridge covering many aspects of human activity both individual and social. Some of the topics dealt with over the years include economics, social welfare, politics, sport, identity, marriage, blasphemy, social media, history, psychiatry and art.

The Jubilee Centre has as its aim to present a biblical vision for public life.

There's enough here to satisfy all interests and to make you think biblically.

The papers can be downloaded from

[www.jubilee-centre.org/category/cambridge-papers](http://www.jubilee-centre.org/category/cambridge-papers).

They are free but donations to support the work are welcome.

**Raymond Wilson**

## God Works With Whatever We Have

I recently visited a church in East Anglia that was working on a building project because it had grown, rather than to help it to grow. It struck me that they had got the horse before the cart, rather than the other way round.

Often we think if we had a better building / a glass door/ took the pews out people would come back to Church. In my experience sadly this isn't the case. The good news is that we don't need to do the big building project, it's much simpler.

If we genuinely want to let people join (for their sake rather than ours), talk about a faith that's alive and if we pray and seek God in all that we're doing I usually find the mission comes easily and the glass doors can come later.

When I was a youth worker in a rural Derbyshire community we did our best mission out of a big old Anglican Church with listed box pews. We even managed to hold a dance group there.

God will work with whatever we have and God will work wherever we are.

I pray that you see God at work in your Church and Circuit.

Every blessing,  
Yasmin Finch  
East Anglia District Mission Enabler

