

Circuit Letter 07.06.23

Dear Friends,

My Bible readings recently have been about INCLUSION and HOSPITALITY and it makes me think about how inclusive we are as Churches and how hospitable.

Most church communities will usually say of themselves – ‘We are a welcoming Church’ but we should always pause to think that through....

Are we as welcoming as we think we are?

Are we as inclusive as we think we are or ought to be?

How do these two aspects of our life together inform and shape each other?

And how can we improve them?

In Acts 10, after his vision from God about all kinds of creatures and food being acceptable to and included by God, Peter travels to see Cornelius, a Roman Centurion and says:

“I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality – rather, that any person of any nation who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. This is the message God has sent to the people of Israel, the Good News of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ who is Saviour of all.”

(Acts 10: 34-36 - Inclusive Bible)

Surely that same message rings across the ages to us too, as the people of God now, a new and expanded ‘Israel’, we are called, challenged and encouraged by God’s Spirit, to strive to ensure that we offer ‘the Good News of peace’ about Jesus, the Christ, to ALL people and we can only do that if we seek to offer genuine Christian hospitality and inclusive welcome.

This issue has also been in my mind following the brilliant EDI training session that some of the circuit’s preachers, worship leaders and ministers were privileged to share with Dan Warr Schori last week. Dan is one half of the District’s EDI Officer team, along with Dr Deeptima Massey – see their section of the District’s website for more info: [Methodist South East District - Property](#) (Please ignore the fact that this link says Property, it is the EDI link – I promise!)

Dan skilfully and helpfully led us through the essentials of the training, from which we learned a great deal, as well as from each other in the conversation that ensued. But we all knew that there was much more to learn as God continues to call, challenge and encourage us in these significant areas of church life.

So, I would encourage all of you to take a look at the EDI pages of the national website:

[Mandatory EDI Training \(Equality, Diversity and Inclusion\) \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

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and the wider Justice, Dignity & Solidarity materials of which they form a part:

[The Inclusive Methodist Church.](#)

The full content training is really rewarding and can be done in sections. The system 'bookmarks' where you've got to and you can re-start as and when you have time to do more. It includes some really interesting bits about Methodist history too, so you can see how we've come to be the 'justice, dignity and solidarity seeking church' that we are today.

Have a look and I'm sure you'll find it rewarding, you might even find it a useful resource for small groups or bible study groups to look at and discuss in sections.

Surely, as we seek to fulfil Jesus' final commission to: *"Go, therefore, and make disciples of **ALL** the nations."* (Matthew 28:19) – we can only really be on the right track if we welcome ALL and include ALL.

Who might God be challenging YOU to reach out to today?

Have a good, godly and welcoming week!

Sam.

Resources

Heat-Health Alerting Service

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has launched a new Heat-Health Alerting service in partnership with the Met Office. The alerting system provides an early warning when adverse temperatures are likely to impact on the health and wellbeing of the population. To find out more, view the current alert status for all regions of England and register to receive Weather-Health Alerts, please visit [Weather-Health Alerting System](#)

Good News

Open Gardens - Frimley Green

As part of Frimley Green Open Gardens, the Church on the Green will be showing "Fun with Flowers" with displays by the churches and community of GU16. Come along on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th June from 10am to 4pm and on Sunday 11 June from 2pm to 5.30pm. Everyone welcome, entrance and refreshments are free. Frimley Green Methodist Church, 8 The Green, Frimley Green, Camberley, GU16 6HF.

Fun With Flowers

**The Church on the Green
(Frimley Green Methodist Church)**

**Displays by
The Churches & Community of GU16**

**Monday 12th June
Tuesday 13th June
10am to 4pm**



**Entrance and refreshments free
Everyone Welcome Also Open
Sunday 11th June 2pm - 5.30pm
As part of Frimley Green Open Gardens**

