

CIRCUIT LIFE



>>>Connecting Methodist Churches in Harrow & Hillingdon<<<

Autumn 2026

Issue 29



Last autumn, many churches responded to a questionnaire and asked for help in sharing or talking about their faith. The Methodist Church's new resource ***On the Way*** supports people to do just that.

Rooted in 'A Methodist Way of Life', ***On the Way*** offers a gentle but thoughtful journey through some of the big ideas, practices and questions of faith. Across 12 sessions, it helps people explore Christian faith as something lived and practised, not just believed.

It is for people exploring faith for the first time, or for those wanting a gentle refresher or new perspective. (It can also be used as a preparation for membership.)

Together those 'on the way' gather around a story from the life of Jesus – not to be told what to believe, but to reflect together on what it might mean for us today. And through that, together with music and images, we explore big Christian ideas, such as grace, the kingdom of God and the Trinity.

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Servant or CEO?

LYNITA'S PONDERINGS



As the body of Christ, the Church is blessed with a diverse group of people: people from different walks of life; different occupations; different countries and cultures. As the people of God, we bring our different skills. The Methodist Church believes in the priesthood of all believers, which means that everyone who belongs to a church, has a part to play in its life and mission.

Within this body, there are those who are set apart to fulfil very specific functions: they are the ministers and comprise presbyters and deacons. Ministers have a particular role and certain authority, but the relationship is not hierarchical. And just as is the case with the laity, the clergy also bring different gifts and skills, many of which came from a previous working life, in law, administration, hospitality or publishing. The role of ministers is to lead people in spirituality, worship and sacrament; to offer pastoral care and general oversight.

**All parts of the
body have
equal value**

The Methodist Church has certain structures within which it functions. Some of the principles of governance come from the corporate world, but they can never be exactly the same. And it is not surprising, that, since some members come from commerce and industry, to think of the minister as having a similar role to that of a CEO. But this notion is

misplaced. The very word 'CEO' implies hierarchy. It is the language of power, of empire and in some respects, a legacy of patriarchy. Yet Paul does not describe the Church as a pyramid, as a top-down structure: Paul likens the Church to a body, whose head is Christ. And Paul makes it very clear that all parts of the body have equal value.

And if we look at the word 'minister' we discover that the word means 'servant'. Thus, while ministers have some oversight, and are there to give direction, they do so as servants and in collaboration with the laity, who are all ministers as well. Strategy and planning have their origins in discernment: trying to figure out what God is saying at a particular time and place. This is collective discernment; it is not left to only one person. Jesus came into the world not to be served, but to serve.

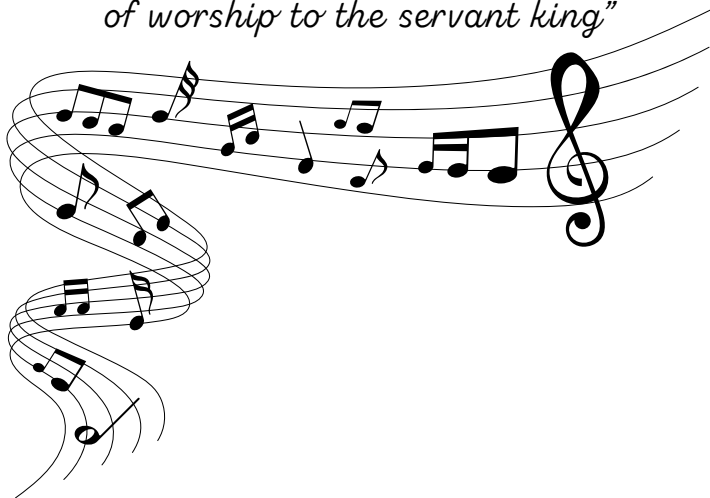
I referred earlier to the priesthood of all believers. It goes without saying, that the majority of the members of the Methodist Church are lay people. And since

its inception, the Methodist movement took seriously the role of the laity. At local level, the church stewards and church council are, in collaboration with the minister, there to give collective direction. At Circuit level, the clergy, along with the Circuit Stewards, in collaboration with one another, give direction to the Circuit and take recommendations to the Circuit meeting. A shortage of Circuit Stewards in a Circuit therefore means that there is an imbalance between laity and clergy. Moreover, Circuit Stewards bring gifts and skills which ministers may lack: skills in administration, finance, property and human resource management, to name a few. According to the Methodist Church website: 'Circuit Stewards play a vital role in the teams which lead local churches within Methodist Circuits. They work in partnership with presbyters, deacons, church workers and other Circuit Stewards to enable individuals and communities to find fulfilment and belonging within the Church.'

**enable individuals
and communities
to find fulfilment
and belonging
within the Church**

As we embark upon a new connexional year, we are all challenged to examine and heed God's calling, whether that is as a local preacher, church steward or Circuit Steward or other important offices within our Church. Above all, we as ministers as servants, (not as CEO's) commit ourselves to continue to serve the Church, in collaboration with the laity and to the best of our abilities. Ministers and laity are mutually accountable to one another. We offer ourselves, in the words of Graham Kendrick:

*"This is our God, the servant king,
He calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the servant king"*



By The Revd Dr Lynita Conradie, Circuit Superintendent Minister

Circuit Plan September 2026

Dates		6th Sept	13th Sept	20th Sept	27th Sept
Readings		Exodus 12: 1-14 Rom 13: 8-14 Matt 18: 15-20	Exodus 14: 19-31 Rom 14: 1-12 Matt 18: 21-35	Exodus 16: 2-15 Phil 1: 21-30 Matt 20: 1-16	Exodus 17: 1-7 Phil 2: 1-13 Matt 21: 23-32
Year A		Ordinary 23	Ordinary 24	Ordinary 25	Ordinary 26
Christ Church (Uxbridge)	early 11am	Dudley	Sayimani AA	Mackin P AA H	Sayimani HC
Cannon Lane	9:30am 11am 5pm	LA	Barrow	10.15am Conradie JS HC @ Pinner PAC	Goodall Bnd HF
Eastcote	9:30am 4pm	Conradie	Conradie	10.15am @ Cannon Lane	Goodall HF
Pinner	9:30am 11am 6.30pm	Conradie	LA	10.15am @ Cannon Lane 5pm Conradie PAC	Reflective Service Davies HF
Lighthouse	4pm				
Hayes	11am 6pm	Schoon	Kingston HF	LA	Dudley HC
Hayes End	9:30am 11am 4pm	Kingston	LA	Kingston HF HC	Conradie
North Hillingdon	8 am 9:30am 6pm	Dudley	Kingston IG	Kingston HF LA PN	Kingston HC
Viewsley	11am 4pm	Kingston HC	Dudley	LA	Kingston HF
North Harrow	9.30am 10:30am 6pm	King HC	LA	Wells C&S	King HF
South Harrow	11am 6pm	LA	King HC	Shaw	Atiemo
Ruislip	11am 6pm	LA AWC	Conradie King JS	King HF CS	Woods (T)
Ruislip Manor	9.30am 11am 6pm	LA	King CS @ Ruislip	Reid	Smith HF HC
Kenton	10:45am 5pm	Browne HC	Newton	LA	@ Wealdstone
Northwood	9am 10:30am 4pm	Beaven	Browne HC	LA	Browne HF
Wealdstone	10:45am 5pm	LA	Hustler	Browne HF HC	Schoon JS
Trinity (Harrow)	10:30am 2pm	Williams/Varcoe AA	Varcoe	Curry	H Samuels J Samuels

Abbreviations Used:

AA = All Age Worship
AS = All Saints
AP = Autumn Praise
AWC = All We Can
AGM = Annual General Meeting
Bnd = Band Service
B = Baptism

CA = Church Anniversary
CTS = Circuit Service
C&S = Come and See
CS = Covenant Service
GS = Gift/Toy Service
HF = Harvest Festival
HC = Holy Communion
IG = Inter-generational Worship
JS = Joint Service
LA = Local Arrangement

MEM = Memorial
P = Parade Service
PAC = Pinner Association of Churches Service
PN = Praise Night
REM = Service of Remembrance
(T) = Transport Needed
WF = Worship Forum

Circuit Plan October 2026

Dates		4th Oct	11th Oct	18th Oct	25th Oct
Readings		Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Phil 3: 4b-14 Mt 21: 33-46	Exodus 32: 1-14 Phil 4: 1-9 Matt 22: 1-14	Exodus 33: 12-23 1 Thess 1: 1-10 Matt 22: 15-22	Deut 34: 1-12 1 Thess 2: 1-8 Mt 22: 34-46
Year A		Ordinary 27	Ordinary 28	Ordinary 29	Ordinary 30
Christ Church (Uxbridge)	early 11am	LA	Sayimani P AA	LA	Sayimani HC
Cannon Lane	9:30am 11am 5pm	Conradie 4pm @ Lighthouse	LA	10.15am @ Pinner	Beaven Bnd
Eastcote	9:30am 4pm	Conradie @ Lighthouse	Conradie	10.15am @ Pinner	Conradie
Pinner	9:30am 11am 6.30pm	LA 4pm @ Lighthouse	Conradie	10.15am Conradie JS HC	LA LA Taizé
Lighthouse	4pm	Nyota CTS JS			
Hayes	11am 6pm	Kingston 4pm @ Lighthouse	Kulasingham	10.30am @ N. Hillingdon	LA
Hayes End	9:30am 11am 4pm	Kingston @ Lighthouse	Dudley	10.30am @ N. Hillingdon	LA
North Hillingdon	8 am 9:30am 6pm	Wells 4pm @ Lighthouse	Kingston IG	10.30am Kingston AP JS HC	LA
Viewsley	11am 4pm	Wells @ Lighthouse	Kingston	10.30am @ N. Hillingdon	Barrow
North Harrow	9.30am 10:30am 6pm	King HC 4pm @ Lighthouse	Atiemo	LA C&S	@ South Harrow
South Harrow	11am 6pm	LA 4pm @ Lighthouse	King HF HC	Davies	Conradie JS
Ruislip	11am 6pm	LA 4pm @ Lighthouse	Newton King JS	King MEM HC	LA
Ruislip Manor	9.30am 11am 6pm	LA 4pm @ Lighthouse	King @ Ruislip	Newton	LA
Kenton	10:45am 5pm	Browne HF 4pm @ Lighthouse	Hustler	LA	Browne HC
Northwood	9am 10:30am 4pm	Reid @ Lighthouse	Woods (T)	Browne HC	LA
Wealdstone	10:45am 5pm	LA @ Lighthouse	Browne HC	Reid	LA
Trinity (Harrow)	10:30am 2pm	Varcoe/Pottage AA 4pm @ Lighthouse	Varcoe	Varcoe HC	Varcoe Samuels J

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Circuit Plan November 2026

Dates		1st Nov	8th Nov	15th Nov	22nd Nov	29th Nov
Readings		Rev 7: 9-17 1 John 3: 1-3 Matt 5: 1-12	Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25 1 Thess 4: 13-18 Matt 25: 1-13	Judges 4: 1-7 1 Thess 5: 1-11 Matt 25: 14-30	Ezek 34: 11-16, 20-24 Eph 1: 15-23 Matt 25: 31-46	Isa 64: 1-9 1 Cor 1: 3-9 Mark 13: 24-37
Year A		All Saints	Ordinary 32 Remembrance	Ordinary 33	Before Advent	Advent 1
Christ Church (Uxbridge)	early 11am	LA	Sayimani	Day	Sayimani HC	Mackin
Cannon Lane	9:30am 11am 5pm	Pickering CA	10.55 Conradie REM	10.15am @ Eastcote	LA Bnd @ St Luke's AGM PAC	Shaw
Eastcote	9:30am 4pm	Conradie	Conradie	10.15am Conradie JS HC	LA	Conradie
Pinner	9:30am 11am 6.30pm	Conradie	10.55 Woods (T) REM	10.15am @ Eastcote	Reflective Service LA @ St Luke's AGM PAC	Conradie
Lighthouse	4pm					
Hayes	11am 6pm	Kingston	Wells	Schoon	Kingston HC	LA
Hayes End	9:30am 11am 4pm	Kingston	Kingston	Kulasingham	LA	Kingston HC
North Hillingdon	8 am 9:30am 6pm	Dudley	Kingston IG	Kingston Kingston PN	Kingston HC	Kingston
Viewsley	11am 4pm	LA	Newton HC	10.30am @ St Matts	Conradie	LA
North Harrow	9.30am 10:30am 6pm	King HC	LA	Beaven C&S	Goodall JS	LA
South Harrow	11am 6pm	LA	King HC	Hustler	@ North Harrow King PN	King GS
Ruislip	11am 6pm	Dudley	LA King JS HC	King HC	Reid	Barrow
Ruislip Manor	9.30am 11am 6pm	Reid	King @ Ruislip	Dudley	King HC	LA
Kenton	10:45am 5pm	Atiemo	LA REM	Browne JS HC	Dudley	Beaven
Northwood	9am 10:30am 4pm	Davies	10am Browne REM	Newton	Browne HC	LA
Wealdstone	10:45am 5pm	Browne AS HC	Schoon REM	@ Kenton	Hustler CA	Browne B WF
Trinity (Harrow)	10:30am 2pm	Williams/Varcoe AA	Varcoe	Varcoe HC	Varcoe	Varcoe

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Serving our churches

CIRCUIT STEWARDS

As Lynita reflected in the ponderings, Circuit Stewards play a vital role in the Methodist Circuit, as part of the leadership team they help local churches flourish.

Together with presbyters, deacons, church workers and Circuit administrators, they help shape and implement strategic decisions so local churches can respond faithfully to today's challenges.

In a large and diverse Circuit such as Harrow & Hillingdon, the role offers many ways to serve, drawing on people's gifts, experience and interests. This includes supporting the ministerial team and their families, helping appoint ministerial colleagues, and overseeing Circuit finance and property.

Let's hear from two of our three Circuit Stewards—John Chamberlain and Priya Rasanayagam—about what the role means to them.

It matters to me that my church, Hayes End, is represented across the wider Circuit.

I enjoy helping develop the Circuit's mission strategy and using my skills to support other Circuit churches. However, with only three Circuit Stewards, it is challenging to cover every aspect of the role fully.



I wanted to better understand Methodism across the Circuit.

For me, the role has always been about teamwork: supporting the Circuit, contributing to Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) decisions, offering pastoral care, and building fellowship as we serve God together.

As our numbers have fallen, we have taken on more responsibility, including supporting four Methodist presbyters, a deacon and two URC ministers, while responding sensitively to complex pastoral needs and pressures.

Working as a team and bouncing ideas off each other, coupled with my past experience, has been a great help to me.



Perhaps you have the skills and qualities to strengthen this vital team.

Could God be calling you to serve the Circuit in this way?

JOIN US FOR THE

20th Anniversary

Circuit Celebration



Hosted By
Members of the Harrow & Hillingdon Circuit

Guest Preacher
Revd Faith Nyota, London District Chair

Sunday 4th October at 4pm

Lighthouse Centre, Queens Walk, South Ruislip HA4 0NL

Please join us as we give thanks and celebrate 20 years since the Circuit was formed, together with those who have been part of the journey. Afternoon tea will follow the service.

Please RSVP by 21st Sept to admin@hahcircuit.org.uk

Harvest Hope

A PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE

At harvest time we give thanks for all that we have – But it's not just at harvest time that we should remember to share what we have.

For many years South Harrow Methodist Church have supported the local night shelter during the winter but we felt that we should set up something in the church space, to help the local community. So around three years ago, we opened a 'Warm Space' offering drinks and biscuits (no Methodist space is complete without biscuits!).

God's hand was certainly in this because shortly after this began, we were approached by a local branch of the Lions. They originally asked if they could use our car park to distribute food that had been donated to them. We were delighted that we could work with them in offering our 'Warm Space'. It felt like a very practical way of putting our Christian faith into action and sharing the abundance that we have.



The local Lions have been partners by joining their practical experience with the welcome and space offered by the church, we hope that we offer something that is accessible, friendly and genuinely useful to local people.

Peter Wells co-ordinates all this, the Lions pick up all the donations from various businesses and provide some volunteers. So, coupled with our list of trusty volunteers (without whom, this could not run) it has become a place where relationships have grown, people feel valued, not judged and helped.

By offering this practical action we are sharing our gifts to harvest hope within our local community.

By The Revd Julie King, Circuit Minister





Alongside the time together, there is a journal to record your thoughts and ideas either during or between the sessions, as well as activities to help you reflect and grow.

Those who have already followed the course have spoken about how it has 'broadened their mind and reinforced their faith', giving confidence and opening up 'new ideas and perspectives'.

Churches around the Circuit are working out how to make use of the course, whether through face-to-face or Zoom sessions, or by using the material as a series in Sunday services. Look out for what is happening in your church or section, and how you might be **On the Way**.

By The Revd Ken Kingston, Circuit Minister

Getting to know you...

PRIYA RASANAYAGAM

Priya says Methodism has been part of her story for as long as she can remember. It all began at the grand age of six when she started at a Methodist school, in Sri Lanka, where she was born. Her caring side showed itself early too, as she lovingly helped nurse her father at home towards the end of his life. After he died, she moved to England at the age of 18 with her family and later studied Biochemistry at university. She then spent 20 years in hospital diagnostic pathology labs as a biomedical scientist, which probably explains why hospitals feel like familiar territory to her. As if that was not enough, she went on to spend another 12 years working with regulators, professional bodies and in project managing. Latterly, Priya has worked to support the care sector with HR, getting stuck into hands-on care, leading recruitment, and sponsoring overseas carers and settling them into their roles.

Now, as Priya turns 70, she sees what she does as service to God, a calling, and something she does with love for her beloved family too. Slowing down does not seem to be on her to-do list. Instead, she gives a huge amount of time to the Methodist Church. You might spot Priya in the admin office at Northwood Methodist Church; serving as a Worship Leader, Senior Steward, and in property management at Yiewsley; being one of our much-valued Circuit Stewards; or taking her seat on the District Council. Priya laughs that she is a jack of all trades and master of none, but anyone who knows her would say she brings heart, humour, and a whole lot of energy to everything she does.

Grab a cuppa, now it's Priya's turn to answer those quickfire questions...



TEA TIME WITH PRIYA RASANAYAGAM



Describe yourself in three words.

Busy, helpful, spiritual.

Coffee or Tea?

You'd think, coming from a tea-producing country, I'd say tea – but I prefer a coffee with oat milk.

Most embarrassing moment?

I find being praised in public a bit embarrassing – a quiet word to me is more than enough!

Last time you cried, and why?

Sunday! A heated family lunch debate about racism really affected me.

What would your super-power be?

The ability to pray and channel the Spirit so that others experience the power of God.

City or Country or Seaside?

The seaside. In Sri Lanka, I lived just minutes from the beach, so after-dinner walks along the shore with my family were a regular joy.

Top 5 dinner guests (dead or living)?

I would cook a (preferably spicy) Sri Lankan curry for my parents, my son and his wife, and my brother – all very dear to me.

Hobbies?

It used to be dancing, until my knees handed in their resignation. These days, long drives and gardening do the job nicely.

Favourite song/piece of music?

Scriven's hymn *What a friend we have in Jesus*. It moves me to tears.

What would you change about yourself?

I speak my mind too freely- it gets me in trouble.

Your greatest fear?

Letting people down by failing to follow through on my duties and commitments.

Trait you find unappealing in others

When people lack care, sensitivity, or awareness of others' needs and personal circumstances.

Greatest achievement?

I've spent a lot of time learning about brain development and autism spectrum disorder.

Worst habit?

I go to bed far too late, often writing emails and reports – each New Year's resolution to sleep earlier never lasts.

Three things to save from a fire?

An ID card, newspapers from the dates my son and grandchildren were born, and a photograph of my parents.

Perfect day?

Leading a yoga or relaxation class for older people and helping others; it energises me.

Favourite film/play?

I love theatre – especially *Les Misérables* – and would love to see it in the West End again.

How would you like to be remembered?

Someone who lived life to the fullest.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Keep in the loop with Circuit events and meetings!
Visit our website, follow us on Facebook, and subscribe to
our weekly Circuit e-newsletter for all the latest info!



Date	Event	Venue	Time
September 2026			
Wed 2nd	Circuit Leadership Team Meeting	Lighthouse	7.30pm
Thu 3rd	Circuit Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting	Ruislip	7.30pm
Wed 9th	Circuit Meeting with Holy Communion	Yiewsley	7.30pm
Sat 19th	Representative Synod	MCHW	10am
October 2026			
Sun 4th	Circuit 20th Anniversary Celebration	Lighthouse	4pm
Tue 20th	Circuit Plan making	Lighthouse	10am
Wed 28th	Circuit Resources Network Meeting	Lighthouse	10.30am
November 2026			
Tue 10th	Circuit Leadership Team Meeting	Lighthouse	7.30pm
Wed 25th	Circuit Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting	TBA	7.30pm
December 2026			
Tue 8th	Circuit Meeting	TBA	8pm



CONTACT US

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