

Friends,

The Circuit Stewards are pleased to confirm that both the Reverends Marion Cole and David Bagwell have been invited for a further term of appointment as Presbyters in this Circuit. Their current appointment ends in the summer this year; Marion will be with us until summer 2021 and David will be with us until summer 2023.

We thank them for their work and commitment over the past five years and pray that God will continue to bless us through their ministry in the future.

Suzanne Stubbs, Senior Circuit Steward

WHY EASTER?

On Saturday 24th March the Thurrock section of churches will again be holding an Easter awareness event in Grays shopping Centre between 9am-2.30pm. We have a stall with a knitted Easter garden display and something for children to explore, to help them understand "WHY EASTER?"

We give out leaflets with an Easter message and times of Church Services. Many brief conversations with shoppers take place and through these we have shared the Gospel in simple ways.

Why not call in to support? The Shopping Centre is undercover so whatever the weather we are warm and dry. There is plenty of parking in the attached multi-storey car park. See you there on 24th March?

COMMUNITY GARDEN AT HERONGATE

Launched with two Open Meetings in January this exciting project aims to transform a piece of overgrown land at the back of St Andrews Methodist Church into a Community garden for all. With the support of the RHS Community Outreach, Parish council, local garden centre, Ingrave Johnstone

Junior school and the St Andrews Allotment society, we leafleted the village in early January, and those who expressed an interest will now be meeting on Saturday mornings, to 'start digging'.



In time we want to grow fruit and vegetables, flowers and shrubs, and create a place where we can gather together as a community. Please remember this project in your prayers and if you can offer us any practical help, tools and resources, spare plants etc. that would all be most welcome.

Rev'd David Bagwell

TILBURY SEAFARERS CENTRE

The docks which used to be at the heart of East London have moved to Tilbury and DP World at Stanford-le-Hope. Did you know that over 90% of our imports, food and goods arrive by sea?

The Queen Victoria Seaman's Rest (QVSR) in East London, still offers accommodation for retired seafarers, but now most of its work with working Seafarers is at Tilbury and DP World Docks in Thurrock.

At present I am on an induction course for 'ship visiting' as part of the chaplaincy team at the Tilbury Centre which provides a warm welcome as ship's crews come ashore.

There is a continuing need for toiletry items and adult sized woolly hats and gloves. If you can help with supplying any of these items please let me know to arrange collection.

Many of the ship's crews are from the Philippines, Indonesia, China and Ukraine. Warm hats and gloves are essential for their well being whilst at sea for seven months plus at a time.

During December last year our Stanford Methodist Choir participated in the Christmas Carol Service at the Docks in the Seafarers Centre which was much appreciated.

Deacon Mark Moeller is the Senior Chaplain and can be requested to speak at a Church Service or midweek about the Seafarers Centre work. Adults can visit the Centre by booking through Deacon Mark.

Revd Brenda Gutberlet

BRITISH MUSEUM VISIT

Another visit to the British Museum is being planned for Saturday 2nd June. This time we will be viewing an exhibition of Coptic Christian artefacts (Ethiopian) and the much larger exhibition of ancient Greece. This is the background for much of St Paul's missionary journeys.

We make our own way to the Museum and have a central meeting point. Further details to be circulated via the Circuit Office. In the meantime, if you want to register your interest please email brendagutberlet@btinternet.com 01375 672848 (Office).

NOISE REDUCTION IN TRINITY CHURCH HALL

Ever since we removed the stage and associated curtains as well as a set of blackout curtains some years ago there was a noticeable increase in the 'noisiness' of the room. This was particularly noticeable with a high number of people present including young people. It was much more difficult to make oneself heard and to hear others.

Advice was taken from a number of quarters but in particular from an Essex based company, B L Acoustics, who visited the site, undertook a survey and calculated the necessary quantity of sound absorbing panels needed to be installed to reduce the reverberation time from over 5 seconds to less than 2 seconds.

The cost of doing the work and the benefits for the church and community users was such that it was decided to apply for a grant from Veolia Environmental Trust. Fortunately, despite a rigorous application process, our project met the criteria for a grant and work was planned and undertaken in January this year.

Because of a low level of asbestos content in our ceiling boards fixing to other surfaces in the hall was necessary. Consequently we have acoustic panels on the end wall of the church hall and along both sides at a level above windows and doors. The resulting improvement is obvious and very welcome especially for our family night meetings and on community cafe days.

The panels could not be cut to fit the angled roof line but can be used for display for lightweight items pinned to the fabric. The choice of colour was inevitably a compromise - lighter colours were not advised due to showing dirt over time. The final installation has generally been well received.

Steve Nice, Trinity Property Steward

ST. PAUL'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

St. Paul's are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year with a variety of events throughout the year. Each month on the plan there will be a preacher who has had ties with St. Paul's, leading worship. It was fitting that Rev'd Gillian Walsh was there to kick off the first of these services.