

CIRCUIT STEWARDS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2022

It has been a busy time for the Ipswich Circuit over the past few months. Earlier in the year we went into Stationing and were delighted when Rev Abe Konadu-Yiadam was called to Ministry in the Felixstowe Peninsula Churches. Later on in the process Rev Saul Tadzaushe was called from the Methodist Connexion in Zimbabwe to join the Ipswich Circuit, serving the Northern Mission Area.

And so it was that we said our goodbyes and gave thanks for the Ministries of Rev Martin Dawes and Rev Joan Pell, as they both moved on to pastures new. It was a very moving and uplifting Service at Landseer Rd and a great opportunity to wish Martin and Pam, Joan and Adrian every blessing.

Soon after that we held a Welcome Service for Rev Abe Konadu-Yiadam at Felixstowe. The Spirit was certainly moving in that place, and we were all invited to show hospitality to others in all sorts of ways. It was wonderful to welcome Abe and to meet some of her friends and previous colleagues. Sadly, circumstances meant that Rev Saul Tadzaushe and his wife were unable to join us as they were still in Zimbabwe. This was due to issues beyond our control, and at the time of writing we continue to hold them in our prayers, and pray that they will soon be on their way to join us to start the next stage of their Ministry here in the Ipswich Circuit.

Having taken a (brief) breather, we once again enter the Stationing process, as Rev Andrew Sankey takes a well-deserved seat, (the Methodist way of retiring!) We are discerning who God is calling to the IRMA (Ipswich Rural Mission Area) churches – Bramford, Brantham (when Rev Ian Gardner sits down), Capel, Chelmondiston, Elmsett, Holbrook, and ask for your prayers for a successful outcome to the stationing process.

Rev Derek Grimshaw is now serving the Ipswich Town Churches, following Rev Joan Pell's departure, whilst still having pastoral charge over Elmsett church, until September 2023.

In conclusion, I would like, on behalf of all the Circuit Stewards to thank you all for your patience and understanding over the past few months. I would like to say a special thank you to everyone in the Northern Mission Area who offered furniture and household items to help Saul and Tariro settle in to the manse in Woodbridge, particularly to Chris and Maggie Finbow who have had two manses to sort out in such a short space of time.

The Circuit Leadership Team will be continuing to work on developing the Mission Areas going forward, and building on our fantastic team of lay Workers to support the ministry work.

We are always trying to be proactive and thinking ahead, so we are delighted to welcome Robin and Mary Pattinson as "job-share" Circuit Stewards.

Please do hold the work of the Circuit Stewards in your prayers, and thank God for the way He calls us all to His kingdom work here in the Ipswich Circuit.

Every blessing
Liz Cope (Senior Circuit Steward)