

Report on behalf of the Circuit Leadership Team

As you may be aware, there have been some changes to the team this year. Judy Steward, Liz Cope and Margaret Gooderham completed their terms as Circuit Stewards and stepped down from the role at the end of August. They received our thanks for their years of dedication and service at the Circuit service in July. The Circuit Steward vacancies thus created have been filled by Kath Calversbert, Christine O'Neill and Sally and Jamie Scott. We appreciate that stepping into the shoes of those who have gone before will be no small task and ask for your prayers, support and patience as we grow into our new roles.

Sally and Jamie Scott have been assigned as Circuit representatives to Framlingham, Knodishall, Orford, Peasenhall and Woodbridge Methodist Churches.

We also bid farewell to Rev. Steve Oliver as his planned 12 month presbyteral cover and pastoral charge of Alan Road, Landseer Road and Museum Street ended and he left to take up his new appointment in the Norfolk Broads Circuit.

Our new Superintendent Rev. Vivienne Smith was introduced and officially welcomed at Bramford Road on 30th August. She and her husband Luke, who is the Superintendent of the Tendering Circuit, have moved into the manse in Manningtree. Rev. Vivienne will have pastoral charge of Bramford Road, Landseer Road and Museum Street. Our grateful thanks go to Rev. Steve Mann for his service in holding the position of Superintendent of the Circuit over the past year.

Rev. Paulson Devasahayam was received into the full British Methodist Connexion in July at the Methodist Conference and was appointed to the Ipswich Circuit officially joining us as a presbyter with pastoral charge for Alan Road, Chantry and Felixstow. Although already well known to many of us, he was also officially welcomed by the Circuit at the Bramford Road service.

Mike Stock who has been hoping to step down from his position of Circuit Treasurer for some time has now found a volunteer, Jon Sharp, to take over this responsibility. Thank you, Jon for being willing to serve in this demanding role.

Almost all churches have now held review meetings, taking time to prayerfully consider what God is calling us to do and how we might best fulfil our calling. Some encouraging outcomes include:

Chantry holding outdoor coffee mornings throughout the summer months.

Brantham holding quiet days.

Museum Street producing a regular printed news sheet.

Capel relaunching its men's evening.

Holbrook changing the time of its services.

Churches are encouraged to follow up these initial meetings with regular internal reviews. Rev. Steve Mann has suggested that a Circuit workshop gathering might be useful.

A major change this year has been Kelsale's decision to cease to meet and for their members to form a new church with the members of Peasenhall and Sibton, worshipping at Peasenhall. In July Rev. Steve Mann led a very well attended service of celebration for the life and work of the church in Kelsale over so many years. We hold all that have been affected by this change and the future life and work of the new congregation in prayer as they move forward together.

Following the success of the Lent prayer day at Framlingham, it was suggested that we should hold an Advent prayer day. Knodishall Church have kindly offered to host this on 29th November. They encourage other churches not only to attend, but to also provide a prayer station for the day. This does not need to be large or elaborate, so please consider if you might be inspired to create something to contribute. Further information will be circulated shortly.