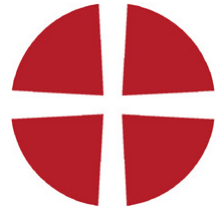


Upminster
Methodist Church



Newsletter
February 2017

About the Methodist Church



The Methodist Church is one of the largest Christian churches serving Great Britain, with nearly 209,000 members and regular contact with 800,000 people.

It has 4,812 churches in Great Britain, and also maintains links with other Methodist churches with a worldwide total membership of over 800 million.

Its activities, both alone and with ecumenical and secular partners, are based on four aims known as ***Our Calling:***

To increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

To help people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care

To be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

To make more followers of Jesus Christ

Teach us, O Lord, to attempt what we fear we cannot attain, to ascend what we fear we cannot reach and to express what we fear we cannot utter.

In adoring you whom we cannot comprehend, teach us to celebrate the faith we cannot prove; for your own love's sake. Amen.

Hilary of Poitiers (315-367)



Contemplative Worship

Upminster Methodist Church

Are you seeking to explore your spirituality and an alternative way to worship?

At Upminster Methodist church Revd. Jason Vinyard will be leading Christian Contemplative Worship on the third Sunday evening of each month from 6.30pm

This is a forty five minute Contemplative Service, with tea, coffee or hot chocolate served afterwards, for those wanting to stay and reflect



If you are interested and would like to find out more please have a look at the website www.upminstermethodistchurch.org or contact Revd. Jason Vinyard by phone 01708 223568 or by email revjcvinyard@gmail.com



What will 2017 bring? I know what I want!

I want to stand for a church that is universal. Truly universal. At Brentwood Methodist Church on the 15th January we sang together that great hymn by Charles Wesley 'Come, O thou Traveller unknown,' the words taking on life and meaning from the hymn book – or the screen – whichever we were using.

Charles Wesley casts himself and US as Jacob. The Angel becomes the God –Man [the Christ] and in verse 7, struggling, wrestling, asking, searching the hymn writer cries out with the realisation and knowing that what we yearn for and what we will find is, 'pure universal love thou art'.

I was visiting one of our dear friends from Upminster Methodist Church in King George's Hospital recently. A guy asked me if I'd go and see his dad. He approached me and asked:

"Are you fully ordained"

"Yes," I replied.

"I can't get hold of the Rabbi, do you know that Jesus was a Jew, and about Israel – he's from Israel?"

"Yes", I replied "and if we may, I'll push that a bit further, and talk about being a Palestinian Jew – let's get geo-political as well as theological".

"Great, you'll do!" he replied.

I then had a wonderful pastoral conversation with an old Jewish man. We spoke about incarnation. We spoke about our thoughts on why Jesus had to carry the Cross. We spoke about dominating occupation. We spoke about our shared stories – we spoke about Abraham, and Jacob wrestling with the Angel - we spoke about identity. We spoke about and agreed how we – each one of us - at some time, will carry our cross. I hope he got as much as I did from our conversation!

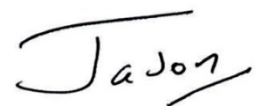
I want to stand in a church that is love. Total love. Non-judgmental, welcoming all and offering hospitality.

I'm eager to be with people – of whatever faith - who are genuinely searching for the Truth and for the God that resides within ALL people.

A God waiting to be discovered.

I am a Devoted Trinitarian Theologian – I really AM – have no-doubt about this! I say it all in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. You see, for me, the undeniable Truth is that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are a Relationship, and this Relationship invites us ALL and leaves me without doubt that God presents Godself within ALL creation, throughout ALL flesh, and within ALL truth and always in relationships of LOVE.

Verse 8 of Wesley's hymn summarises it all succinctly - 'In vain I [WE] have not wept and strove: thy nature and thy name is Love'

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

CHRISTMAS MINI-MARKET 2016

Dear All

We would just like to thank you very much for attending our Christmas mini market. It was a huge success and raised a grand total of £1094.03 towards our Church Building Fund – this is an amazing total and a fantastic start to our fundraising.

If you came to raise money for your own charity we hope it was just as successful for yourselves as it was for us.

If you came to sell all the wonderful hand-made gifts that you so cleverly created we hope you went home with less of a boot full than you arrived with!!

And if you are a member of the church who helped in any way to run a stall, bake cakes, collect items, donate items or dress up as Father Christmas we are also very grateful to you too – we couldn't have done it without you.

cont'd....

For your interest the break down on stall income is:

Hamper Raffle	£98.00
Chocolate Tombola	£135.50
Cake Stall	£101.40
Santa's Grotto	£37.50
Prize Raffle	£185.00
Refreshments	£376.18
Books, DVD's	£83.50
Toiletries Tombola	£94.50
Name the Reindeer and Play your Cards Right and Mother Christmas	£46.20
Bric a Brac	£105.20
Stall Holders	£90.00
TOTAL	£1352.98
Less Expenditure:	
Final Total	£1094.03

Hopefully we will see you at the same time, same place next year – if not before!!

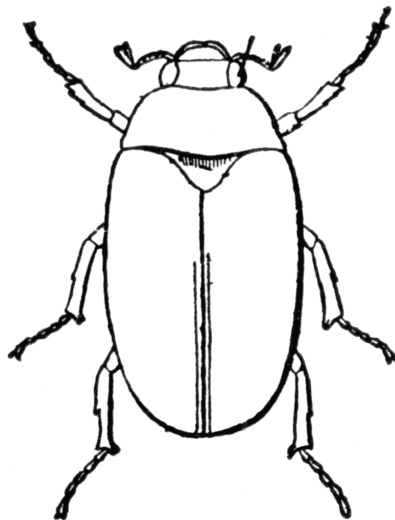
Thanks again,
Caroline, Allison and Helen

FEBRUARY FAMILY SOCIAL SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY
3.00PM – 5.00PM

This month we will be holding a Beetle Drive in the Wesley Hall, this is great fun for all ages and very easy to play as long as you can count to 6 and draw anything that resembles a beetle!!

We will serve tea and coffee half way through the afternoon and am sure we can find some cake or biscuits to share too!

Please let Caroline Kinder know if you are able to attend.



FAMILY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Committee is in the Scout den at 8 pm on Tuesday 21st February.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2017

The Women's World Day of Prayer will be held this year at St. LAURENCE Parish church Upminster on Friday 3rd March from 2.00pm - 3.00pm, with refreshments to follow.

The title of the service is 'AM I BEING FAIR TO YOU' and has been written by the Christian women of The Philippines.

More information to follow in the Church notices.

ST LAURENCE CONCERT PROGRAMME

Thursday Lunchtime Concerts start at 1.05pm and last approx 45 minutes - free with a retiring collection

February

2nd - James Parsons (organ)
9th - Roman Rudnytsky (piano)
16th - Richard Brasier (organ)
23rd - Tom Wraith (cello)

March

2nd - Riccardo Bonci (organ)
9th - Tiago Gomes (guitar)
16th - Richard Brasier (organ)
23rd - Paul Greally (organ)
30th - Cygnus Trio (violin, cello, piano)

For further details contact Robert Brabner – St Laurence Church
(home no. 01708 457578)



OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2017 envelopes are at the back of the Church for collection for those that are in the scheme, even if you are now giving by standing order.

If you aren't in the scheme you just have to have a word with me and I can get you a year's supply of envelopes.

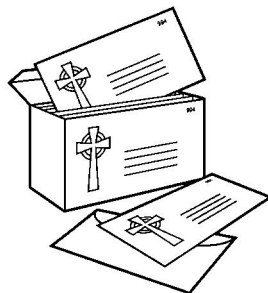
You don't have to commit to an amount or use every envelope but, if you are a tax payer, if you can agree to give under the Gift Aid scheme the Church can reclaim up to 25% of your gifts back as a tax rebate.

Paying by standing order on a weekly or monthly basis saves you emptying your purse or wallet, means the collection counters can enjoy their coffee after services and those banking it don't have to take so much to the bank.

This year please help your Church increase its work in the community and improve the premises further by joining the scheme and, if already in the scheme, consider an increase in your giving.

Thank you for your generosity.

Peter Hobbs



SAFE AND SECURE

If you use the Church or halls for any occasion, please make sure that someone checks that all the internal doors are closed and that the external doors are locked appropriately.

Unfortunately, on too many occasions doors have been found open or unlocked, which literally 'opens the door' for anyone to enter the building/s without anyone knowing. In light of recent terrorist activity, especially in France, we need to be more vigilant and check the security of our Church and buildings.

The introduction of the new key fobs has helped greatly but we need to make sure that security is in the forefront of our minds when using the Church/halls.



CHURCH CAR PARK

Thank you to all of those who have changed their parking habits, especially commuters, so that those attending activities during the week at the Church can park on the premises, especially those less able.

However, we still have some commuter parking, parking for the dentist, parking to go to football, etc..... which can cause problems.

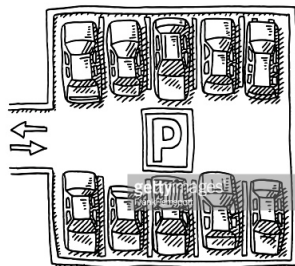
To try to ensure that only those entitled to park are able to, with effect from 1st January the gates will be locked at random times throughout the week. This will be consciously done to avoid causing inconvenience to those attending activities at the Church.

Any concerns regarding this should be sent to:

upminster.stewards@gmail.com

Thank you for your understanding.

The Stewards



PRIVILEGIUM VISIT

24 – 28 March 2017

Privilegium are a Norwegian youth gospel choir who have visited Upminster a number of times since 1989. On their first visit they completely amazed us with their wonderful singing, enthusiasm and liveliness, and have not disappointed us since. After another visit in 1994 some members of the church returned the visit to their town of Finnsnes in Northern Norway and had a fantastic time. The links have continued and they have visited us on another couple of occasions bringing a new group of singers each time but still remaining extremely talented.

In December I was contacted by Lise their conductor and asked if they could bring their current choir to visit for a few days in March.

A group of 38 will be arriving late on Friday 24 March and staying on the church premises until Tuesday 28 March. They will be participating in the Sunday Morning Service, and performing a concert on Sunday evening. They also hope to visit a local school, as well as visiting London – so a very busy schedule! We really hope that all church members will become involved and support our visitors during their trip. We will be asking for offers of use of your showers as there are none on site.

On Saturday morning there will be a church breakfast, which will be a fantastic social occasion to start to get to know our visitors – please speak to Keith Nichols if you would like to attend. After setting up their equipment and completing a sound check they then intend to spend the day in London, and would always welcome local tour guides! If any youngsters would like to join them to sing on Sunday morning, there will be a short rehearsal after breakfast. On Sunday morning they will participate in morning worship led by Jason, this will be followed by a church lunch. The Sunday is Mother's Day and I am sure that their participation in our service will add to a special day.

The Concert will be on Sunday 26 March at 7.00pm and it would be great to see as many of you attend and for you to bring many friends and family with you, you will not be disappointed! Why not buy your Mum a ticket for the concert as a treat. Tickets costing £10 for adults and £5 for children will be on sale very soon.

Further details will be in the next newsletter and in weekly notices so please keep your eye out for information and let me know if you are able to help in any way.

Caroline Kinder 01708 223793/07941431091

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY QUIZ – ANSWERS

Time to put the arguments to rest - here are the answers to this year's festive brainteasers.

Thank you to all who supported us - we have sent a cheque for £70 to Richard House; Gift Aided, this will benefit the Hospice by £87.50

That was the year that was

- 1] Donald Trump
- 2] Claudio Ranieri, Leicester FC manager
- 3] David Bowie
- 4] Boris Johnson
- 5] Andy Murray
- 6] Victoria Wood
- 7] Michael Gove [by Rachel Johnson]
- 8] Gary Lineker
- 9] Alastair Cook, cricket captain
- 10] Diving pool water turned green
- 11] West Indies cricketers [won World T20 after jibe from Mark Nicholas]
- 12] Tim Peake, UK astronaut on the Space Station

Sounds like Christmas

- 1] Holly
- 2] Carroll [West Ham footballer]
- 3] Noel [Gallagher]
- 4] Mince pies
- 5] Stocking
- 6] The Queen's Speech
- 7] Partridge in a pear tree
- 8] Robin [Batman's sidekick]
- 9] Turkey
- 10] Yule

Coded carols

- 1] Hark the herald angels sing: Glory to the newborn king
- 2] In the bleak midwinter frosty winds made moan
- 3] See amid the winter's snow born for us on earth below
- 4] Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed
- 5] We three kings of orient are
- 6] I saw three ships come sailing by
- 7] While shepherds watched their flocks by night

Christmas crackers

- 1] Theresa May
- 2] Draw a shorter line next to it - first line is longer than the new one.
- 3] Letter "w"
- 4] A pillow
- 5] He was cleaning the ground-floor windows
- 6] Edam [m-a-d-e backwards]
- 7] Baby pandas
- 8] Letter "e"
- 9] Because
- 7-8-9
- 10] Your name
- 11] Six
- 12] Elvis Parsley

Dingbats

- 1] Slow over rate [cricket]
- 2] Hole in one [golf]
- 3] French Open [tennis]
- 4] Corner kick [football]
- 5] Warm-up
- 6] Grand National [horse racing]
- 7] odds-on favourite
- 8] hat-trick
- 9] Maximum break [snooker]
- 10] America's Cup [sailing]
- 11] Half-back
- 12] Championship

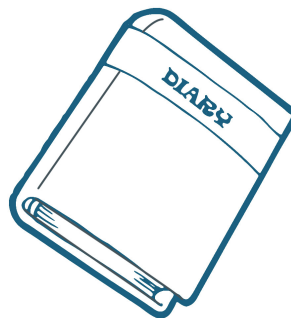
Spot the difference

In the lower picture:

- 1] The girl's hair is shorter
- 2] Her right eyebrow is a different shape
- 3] She has no fingers on her left hand
- 4] A bauble is missing from the pattern on her box
- 5] The baby has one fewer hairs on his head
- 6] The baby's buttons are on the opposite side
- 7] The checks on the wrapping paper are the opposite way round
- 8] There's an extra piece of torn paper on the right side of baby's box
- 9] The end of the ribbon above the dog's eye is shorter
- 10] The dog's left hind leg is missing

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sunday Feb 26th – Circuit Mission Service, 4.30pm at Havering Road Methodist Church.
- Saturday March 4th, 10.00am – 12 noon Gift Day & Coffee morning.
- Sunday March 12th Church Anniversary
- Saturday March 18th - Come Fly 3
- Lent Course – March 8,15,22,29, April 5th
- Sunday April 23th Church AGM
- Saturday May 13th – Brass Band concert.



THE BIG SPRING CLEAN!

Following the refurbishment of the chancel, the stewards would like to encourage as many people as possible to come along on the morning of Saturday 4th February, 9.30am, to help with a grand Spring Clean and general clear-up of the church and other parts of the premises.

If you could give a little of your time to help polish pews, dust the hymn book shelves, polish the brass, sort out and tidy up any cupboards you use, make the coffee, or any of the other jobs we are thinking up, we will be very pleased to see you.

It would be helpful if you could bring your own dusters, cloths, etc. As they say, many hands make light work!



A Big Thank You...

...to everyone who helped make the Christmas Tree Festival 2016 another great success. We were so fortunate that the work on the chancel had been completed, and the extra space was invaluable as this year we managed to fit in 35 trees, all beautifully decorated.

The theme of the festival was "Let's Celebrate" and the decorators interpreted this in so many different ways showing that we have so much to celebrate in this life.

We would like to thank everyone involved in the Festival -The Monday Maintenance group who worked hard putting up the trees, climbing ladders to put up decorations in the church and the halls, and then taking the trees down and cleaning up the church after the event. The people involved in making and serving refreshments for the Saturday market and the evening concert, the great team who approach the local businesses and shops for sponsorship and the group who acted as stewards during the week – your friendly smiles and warm welcome was noted by so many visitors. This year we invited the choirs from local Primary school to come and sing and these short concerts in the afternoons were enjoyed by the visitors .

Two new events proved to be very worthwhile. After school sessions of "Stories under the Christmas tree, " were enjoyed by children who came into see the trees lit as dusk approached. The festival ended on Sunday 11th with a very informal closing service of " Sing – along- a -Carols," and once again we entered in to the spirit of the occasion with Christmas jumpers and hats – the lights on the trees were turned off and the Christmas Tree festival 2016 came to a close. –It was a lovely ending to a great week.

The votes for the favourite tree have now been counted and the results were extremely close. For the second year Engayne Primary school won the Festival Cup voted for by visitors. The festival organisers appreciated the work by the French Group and awarded the "Best in the Festival" certificate for their beautiful decorated tree. The other runners up were the Cubs, the Guides and in 5th place, the after school club, Kaos.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

- do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive.
- just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly.
- a successful man is one who makes more money than a wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man.
- I cook with wine, sometimes I even add it to the food.
(W.C. Fields)
- always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else.
- knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

BRENTWOOD HALF MARATHON

On 19th March Bob Avis, Peter Hobbs and Linda Dick will be running the Brentwood Half Marathon.

Bob is running to raise funds for Methodist Homes, Peter and Linda for the Church's Building and General Funds.

Sponsorship forms for all three are at the back of the Church and they would appreciate your supporting one or more of them.

Thank you.



The London Course – Training to be a Local Preaching in the London District

Anyone who knows me realises that Ricky is a man with little “natural” discipline. I need to be set targets and deadlines, in order to manage a successful outcome for any activity. Or to put it another way, a deadline is not urgent until it is too late and has already been passed. The prospect of setting off on the training for being a local preacher using the traditional Faith and Worship course material, with the help of a tutor; seemed to give me only a small chance of completion within the 5 year timeframe. It would not be good for my personality nor offered the likelihood of a successful outcome.

So Jason, Hilary and all who knew me, determined that the London Course offered a much better prospect for a successful outcome. Additionally, God demonstrated his hand in these matters as well, my application arriving only after the submission date for the London Course 5 had closed, and Jason’s reference arriving on the morning that the selection committee was meeting.

The course involves completing 11 units over a 16 month timeframe. Additionally there are 6 weekends away plus an assessment weekend. The weekends away provide a time for “intensive learning”, with lectures, book reviews and worship; starting on a Friday evening after dinner at 8pm, and concluding after communion at 5pm on the Sunday. Just one rest period on Saturday afternoon. Each unit involves 2 exegesis, service preparation document, a full script for the service, a service review document and a digital video recording of the service. To support you through this, each student had a tutor appointed by the course, and half way through, students swapped to another tutor.

These were the mechanics of the experience.

But what of the essence of doing this, and how did the different parts of the London District mix together. London District students came from different faith and cultural backgrounds. The predominant groups represented were Ghanaian and Nigerian, with other including Caribbean, Indian and Sri Lankan, Korean, and of course just 3 British (of the 20 on the course). A variety of ages and spiritual experiences as well, with 2 students (that I discovered) having seen visions of Christ, some having led many people to Christ, some were senior stewards in their churches, some minister's children and all having quite a testimony of their walk with God.

But the most interesting part of the course progression was the cultural clashes, not between the students, but between the lecturers, tutors and the students. And these clashes were between the strong faith stories of the students coming from the African churches, against the liberal theological ideas that the Methodist church in Britain has developed over the centuries. This was evident from the first day of the course, and was a continuing story of the course, as the students developed a theology that began to understand the value of the liberal theology, but without tempering their strong and abiding faith in God.

But sometimes this clash was not successfully resolved. Walking to the station with a fellow student after the Wednesday evening session, I remember discussing that the reading of a theological treatise could and can never replace our intimacy with God, and the power that this releases for our walk with God; as one of our tutors had suggested that evening. To us, this seemed like heresy, and did shake our conviction in the Methodist Establishment.

But in these discussions, we found a confidence in understanding what was fundamental to our beliefs, and when the liberalism of Methodism was liberating and enhancing to our ideas and knowledge of God and our own spiritual values.

A very moving time for the course was when one of our tutors, David Gamble, an ex-president of the British Church, died. It seemed that David had become something of a hero and mascot for us all, and we had learned to lean on his wisdom and understanding of the church, and the way in which he was able to inter-relate faith and theology in his own walk with God. And he was such a warm human figure, who loved to relate to us his time as President of Conference, and his visits to various parts of the world as part of this experience.

The last 8 months of the course was in itself a walk of faith. Here we accomplished 7 units in 7 months, with a final month to complete submissions for the Assessment weekend. Did all pass the course? One of the 20 withdrew from ill health. Some were deferred, because they had not completed a unit. For these there was additional work to be supervised by a tutor. But it seemed that around half passed at the time of the Assessments, and required then only the approval of the Local Preaching Meeting of the individual's circuit. I know that at least 8 have now been accredited.

When will London Course 6 be launched? Currently the course is under review, and is being revised to match the new Local Preacher training material that has been developed for the British Church. This is in progress, but the date for the next course is yet to be announced. I hope that this is not too long – the London District needs the vibrancy and the faith input that the London Course Local Preachers bring to the district!

Ricky Bull



Newsletter – *The next newsletter will be the March issue. Please forward material to Allyson Hill by the 15th February.*

The newsletter email address is
upminster.newsletter@gmail.com

If you would like to receive the monthly Newsletter by email please place your request via the email address above.

The views expressed in articles in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the editor, minister or officers of the church.

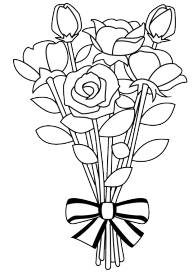
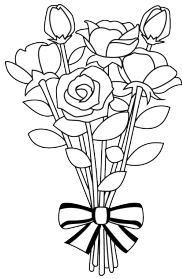
Weekly Notices - Items for the weekly Notices sheet should be sent to **upmethodistchurch@btinternet.com** or pass to Allyson Hill

METHODIST BLOG

If you wish to read the President and Vice President's blog on a regular basis, please go to the Methodist Church website at **www.methodist.org.uk** and there you will be able to follow the links on a regular basis.

You may find other articles of interest too on a weekly/monthly basis.





OUR CHURCH FLOWERS

We would like to say a very big 'thank you' to all the kind folk who have provided flowers each Sunday over the past year, and to everyone who has arranged the flowers.

The flower list for 2017 is on the noticeboard at the back of the Church. If you would like to provide flowers please add your name to the list next to the date, or dates, you would like. We are finding it more and more difficult as the years go by to fill every Sunday so would be very grateful if you could consider this. We have a large number of spaces still to fill.

FEBRUARY

Provider

5th Grace Ababio
12th Marilyn & Andrew Milne
19th Liz Wylie
26th Jenny & David Smy

Arranged by

Grace Ababio
Judith Hall
June Dutton
Jenny Smy

Upminster Methodist Church Weekly Activities

If you have a date or activity you wish to add, please let the editor know at upminster.newsletter@gmail.com



Holy Communion

Wednesday 10.00am – 11.00am



Gateway Tea, coffee and chat

Monday and Wednesday 10.00am – 12 noon



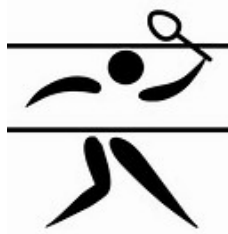
Choir and Band Practice

Fridays and Saturdays as announced
7.30pm

Adult Badminton

Thursdays 8pm – 9.30pm

All abilities welcome



Wesley Players

Mondays 8.00pm



Patchwork Group

Mondays 1pm



Children's Praise

We meet on the first Sunday of every month.

9.15am – 9.45am

Suitable for ages 2 – 10 years
split into two age groups

Games, story, craft and singing,
followed by drink and biscuit



Tots and Co

Tuesdays in term time
9.30am – 11.30am

Uniformed Groups

Mondays	6.15pm 7.15pm	Brownies Guides and Rangers
Wednesdays	6.30pm	Cub Scouts
Thursdays	6.00pm	Beaver Scouts
Fridays	7.30pm	Scouts



Sunday Worship

Dates for February

5th

9.15am
10.00am
6.30pm

Tots Praise
Mr Mike Palmer
Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion

12th

10.00am

Mrs D Freeman – All Age and Parade

19th

10.00am
6.30pm

Mr T Banks
Revd. Jason Vinyard – Contemplative

26th

10.00am
4.30pm

Revd. Jason Vinyard – Holy Communion
Circuit Mission Service – Havering Road
Methodist Church



"That was our contemporary service. Next is the traditional service, followed by a classical service, and a casual service with a sports emphasis."