

Dear Friends

I hope that you all had a happy Easter celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. It is important to remind ourselves that we only here, as a church, because of the promise of eternal life that God gives to us through His risen Son Jesus Christ.

As I travel around the circuit visiting different churches I am impressed by the huge amount of work that people are doing running the churches and organising all the activities that go on. But I am still struggling to get a clear idea of how it all hangs together and how I can help the circuit to function better.

One of the observations that came out of the recent Circuit Review is a challenge to discover what it means to be a 'missionary people'. This is a direct reference to the mission statement on our website. How can the circuit help the churches to reach out to the communities in which they are placed? I believe that must be a priority for us all, and it is something that needs to be undergirded by prayer.

I would like us to pray for each other on a regular basis. Could you please get together in your church and let me know what you would like others to pray for in your community. This could form the basis of a circuit prayer book.

In July the Circuit Leadership Team (staff and circuit stewards) will be spending a day away together at the Othona Christian Community, Bradwell-on-Sea. Richard Armiger, who undertook the review, will be our facilitator as we consider some of his conclusions and recommendations for our future development. Please pray for us on that day especially, as we spend time with the Lord and each other reflecting on the way forward.

In August we will be saying goodbye to Rev Dr Martine Stemerick after 5 years in this circuit. We will also say goodbye to Anne Lane, Roy Brown and Len Ward our lay workers. I want to express our gratitude to them all for everything that they have done over the years and to wish them God's blessing in their future lives and ministry. We will miss them.

Have a good summer

Bryan