

Friends

Last Sunday we had a circuit service at St. Andrew's, one of three Methodist Churches in Slough. Every month they have a sectional "All Cultures" service. This month the staff team thought that it would be a good idea if people from across the circuit joined this service so that we could experience what it was for ourselves.

We arrived to a full church and a full service, followed by a multi-cultural lunch and there really was something for everyone, readings in a variety of languages, hymns and songs from around the world, and a personal favourite of mine, written in Kingston, Jamaica by the late Patrick Eugene Prescod, "The right hand of God is writing in our land."

We also launched the circuit van project, the culmination of three years of strategic thinking around outreach and decline – how do we ensure that the Methodist presence is not entirely written out of places like Old Windsor and Eton Wick and how do we create potential growth for the churches we still have? We also announced a competition to find a better name for the Van Project and this was done via a video which is now available on the Circuit Facebook page and which will also be shown in various settings, including Circuit Meeting, as well as at Church Councils where the technology is available.

Essentially, the Van Project, which will be led by Deacon Margaret, will see a van take a selection of lego, toys and refreshments around the circuit, setting up on a Saturday, and encouraging children and their families to come join us for chat, tea/coffee/squash/biscuits and play. The aim is to increase their connection with church, firstly through the van, and then through encouraging them to join us at other activities in the local church building. Going out twice (morning and afternoon) each Saturday, we would ideally have 8 volunteers to join Margaret on a monthly rota. This is two per church, so do please give thought as to whether one of them might be you.

In the meantime, please pray for the life of the circuit and the hope of this project within it.

God bless, Vicci