

World Church Vision



In October 2021 the GAIA globe came to St Peter Mancroft Church in Norwich on its tour around the country. It gave a chance to see our planet from a new perspective and rather than "World Church" it was the "World in a Church!"

Immeasurable Love

**Who can count the grains of sand
That make up the vastness of desert land?**

**Who can number the millions of stars
Or imagine the distance to planet Mars?**

**Who can plumb the depths of the sea
Or fathom how far the bottom might be?**

**Who can soar to the heights of the skies
Or to the roof of the heavens rise?**

**Who can measure the Father's Love boundless?
For it's wider - and more - than east is from west.
Who can its height, span and depth comprehend -
For His Love knows no measure, no limit, nor end.**

**©Helen M Seeley-Dixon
September 2022**

Welcome to the Autumn 2022 edition of *grapevine* 'World Church Vision'

We are so incredibly fortunate to be able to share some wonderful articles that show how we as Methodists are demonstrating our World Church Vision. We are able to share with you about Yankho, a trainee nurse in Malawi who is being supported by the Methodist Church, and how a visit in 1980 formed a glorious Christian fellowship with some Dutch friends.

You can read about the great work that the Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB), East Anglia are achieving by supporting not just local charities but charities outside the UK as well. There are some wonderful demonstrations of how your Church can get involved too, from toilet twinning to supporting All We Can or Water Aid.

Dr Yasmin Finch gives us an insight into Pray 2-3, and George Ginn shows us how the Methodist Prayer Handbook brings the world church into our homes.

We also have a touching few words from Rev Julian Pursehouse, the Chair of our District, who acknowledges the sad passing of the Queen, and the grief that will be being felt around the world following this news.

Please remember this is your magazine. If there is something you would like included, we would love to hear from you.

The next issue is due in April 2023. You will find contact details on the back page.

grapevine

is available in large print and on
CD (audio)

**If you would like to request a copy,
please contact the District Office:**

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office@eangliamethodist.org.uk

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Front cover Susan Eldridge

Page 2 and 20 Danielle Gravestock

Introduction

Revd Julian M Pursehouse



Dear Friends,

I am personally delighted to commend this Autumn edition of Grapevine to you, and I do hope that you will be encouraged and inspired by our theme of World Church Vision. Sadly, the publication of this edition coincides with the death of Queen Elizabeth II and I know you will want to join me in offering condolences to the Royal Family as they grieve this loss.

However, as we are discovering there is a sense in which we are all sharing in a collective sense of grief as we mourn the passing of a Monarch who has been a constant presence through the changing scenes of life. There will be many things said about Elizabeth II in the coming days as we seek to remember and give thanks for her legacy but for the sake of this edition of Grapevine, I mention three things.

Firstly, Elizabeth II was utterly dedicated to public service and her keen sense of devotion to constitutional duty sustained her through seven decades of civic duty. Some of this public service took place in times of great adversity and personal tragedy but with an unflinching spirit she undertook her solemn duties with grace and serenity.

Secondly, the reign of Elizabeth II was carried out with a strong and devout Christian faith in which she sought to live out the great commandment to love her God and love her neighbour. It is well documented by Royal observers that the annual Christmas Address by the Queen always included some reference to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and the miracle of the Christmas Story. She was not shy or reticent about owning her Christian devotion and recognising that it formed the very bedrock of her life and service as Queen. I wonder how many of us can say the same about the public witness of our faith in God.

Thirdly, Elizabeth II clearly had a deep love and affection for her family—she took great delight in the younger generations of the family, her grandchildren, and her great-grandchildren. At the heart of this great affection was her abiding love for her husband, Prince Phillip, whom she regarded as her rock and stay throughout the many exertions and demands of the public life.

It is often the case that we never truly know the extent of someone's legacy and the value of their life until the postmortem—the days ahead give us

the space and time to reflect upon the great story of Elizabeth II's life and the enduring qualities that remain as a beacon to us all.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory!

With every blessing



So let us give thanks for her life and cherish her memory!

Revd. Julian M Pursehouse
Chair of the District



Queen Elizabeth II

21-04-1926—08-09-2022



Supporting a trainee nurse in Malawi

Alison Gillies

Ellen and Aubrey Barber and their family took holidays at Methodist Guest houses for many years. They attended Elmsett Methodist Church, a small village Methodist Church in the Ipswich

Circuit. On their holiday in 1989 they met Fraser Chimbeleko from Malawi. Fraser was hoping to stay in this country, find work and send money home to his family. Unfortunately this was not to be the case and he had to return home. Ellen and Aubrey had struck up a friendship with Fraser and financially supported him and his family over the years as Malawi is

one of the poorest countries in the world. This continues to be the case. Needless to say the Covid pandemic has hit the country extremely hard.

Fraser has an 18 year old daughter Yankho who had the dream to become a nurse but the family did not have the funds to enable her to achieve this. She was unable to get a job and so the place she had secured at Medical School could not be taken up. It was

put to the Church Council that this might be a project we could support as a church. If Yankho could get her qualification it would not only benefit her and her family but also her local community.



The Church Council agreed and after personal giving from a gift day, 2 coffee mornings and some personal monthly giving we have been able to pay for Yankho's first year of training, purchase a laptop and buy all her uniform and the equipment she needs. To date we have raised just under £3,000 and we will soon be paying for Yankho's second year of medical school for which

we almost have the finances.

Yankho keeps in touch with us so that we know how her training is going and she is so very grateful for our support. We hope that our support for this young lady will benefit those who struggle to access medical care and will also bring in the much needed financial help for her own family.

Alison Gillies
Ipswich Circuit

World Church at Home

George Ginn

The Methodist Prayer Handbook brings the world church into our homes when we faithfully use it on a daily basis. I began taking the Handbook each year, thinking it would help me in some way as a local preacher. Then I began to use it daily, reading the set scripture and hymn for the day. Then turning to the prayers for each day of the month. The left hand page is for countries abroad and the right hand page is for UK Districts. I was struck by the honesty of recording for each country. They did not paint a picture of complete success, although they did point out their aims of reaching out to people, but they also pointed out the bad things in their society and the real problems they were facing.

Although my church (Soham) has no connection with churches abroad, our East Anglia District (Day 14) has a Partnership link with Zimbabwe. There is, however, a personal link in day 2 (The Gambia) in the person of Bishop Hannah Faal-Heim. Both Hannah and Knut were training at Wesley House Cambridge. When training was completed Knut was stationed in the Newmarket Circuit with a manse at Soham. When he moved in my wife and I were asked by the stewards to provide an evening meal

for him after the removal had finished. This we did, but he never turned up as he was keen to get back to Wesley House to be with Hannah.

He did turn up a few days later with a bunch of flowers to say sorry. Hannah was stationed at a church in London, where they both got married and two or three car loads of our people attended the wedding, including my wife and myself. Hannah actually took a service in our church and they both came to our home. This situation regarding ministry could not continue in separation so Knut ended his stay with us to be with Hannah in London.

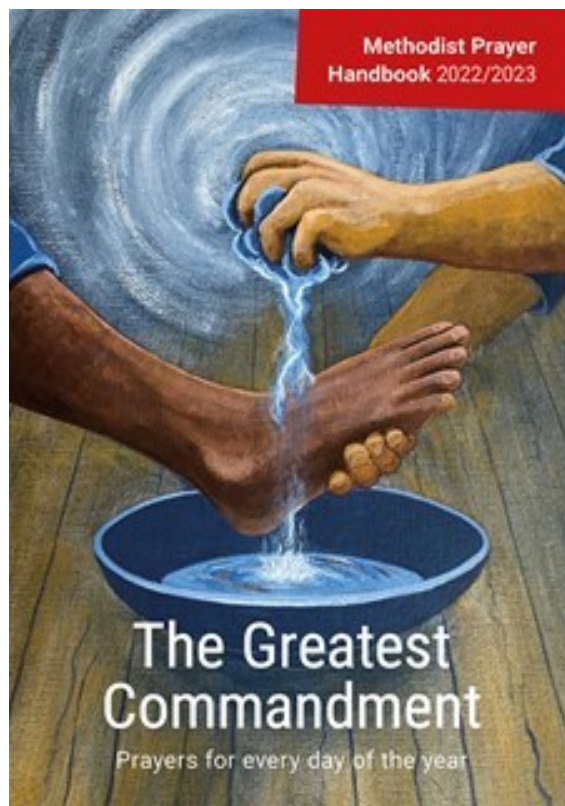
A few years later Hannah went back to her own country, I believe, which is Gambia. Gambia has been

celebrating 200 years of Methodism where they work with their Muslim neighbours to bring light and hope to all Gambians in their work in education and health in difficult times, often it is said with little equipment.

So the Handbook does bring the world church into our home and it can inspire us as well as sharing with them in their joys and difficulties.

George Ginn

Local Preacher Ely and Newmarket circuit



Dutch friends

Steven Johnston

In 1980 a junior choir from a group of protestant churches in Holland visited England and, as part of their tour, visited Emmanuel church in Bungay (then part of the United Bungay Circuit) to perform. Emmanuel had a very active musical director and choir, and the visit went extremely well. So well, in fact, that we received an invitation to visit them in their township of Hellevoetsluis in Holland the following year.

We did not know then that this would be the start of a glorious Christian fellowship that would defy time and still be going 40 years later. Every year since 1980 up to 2020 (when the pandemic struck) a group from our and their churches have visited each other, alternating so that one year, we would go to Holland, and the next they would come to Bungay.

People from within our circuit/ partnership would volunteer to host our visitors, usually over a long

weekend, and our Dutch friends (as they have become) would reciprocate.

The weekend would include getting to know each other on the Saturday, sharing worship to our Lord on the Sunday, followed by an outing on the



Monday, often by coach, giving the opportunity for more fellowship.

It has been wonderful to share our hopes, our fears, and our dreams for a united world with Christians from another country, and we have learnt so much on our journey of faith together. Not only that, but we have been able to support, encourage and pray for each other through some difficult times.

Many of the children who participated at the beginning have grown up now with families of their own, and we have been able to share this journey with them. How blessed we have all been.

Sharing Christian fellowship with brothers and sisters from another country has proved to be a wonderful experience which has inspired us, and at times humbled us, but most of all, it has shown us that we are not alone in our visions and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.



Steven Johnston
Waveney Valley Ecumenical Partnership

Reflect

Deacon Lynne Tonge

Some of you will be familiar with Reflect – the Methodist Church’s group which promotes spirituality and retreats, in collaboration with the Retreat Association – and each year we organise a number of events. There are two such gatherings in the near future and we hope that you might be tempted by one of them (or indeed any others which are in the pipeline!).

Firstly, we are offering the latest of our “Online Quiet Mornings”, which we developed when Covid began to limit opportunities to meet in person, but which have become popular and are now part of our regular programme. There are two opportunities to join (Friday 14th and Saturday 15th October).

The other forthcoming event is a little

further afield, but you are equally welcome there too! We hold an annual Open Day, varying the venue around the Connexion, and this year it takes place on Saturday 5th November at Victoria Hall in Bolton.

If you are interested in finding out more about Reflect, please do get in touch with me (2tonges317@gmail.com) or visit our website <https://www.reflectretreats.co.uk> which will tell you more about who we are and what we do.

Details for the events mentioned can be found on the District website www.eangliamethodist.org.uk

Deacon Lynne Tonge
West Norfolk Circuit

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB), East Anglia, and the World Church

Susan Eldridge



The President of MWiB in East Anglia nominates a charity/project which generally runs for the two years of their Presidency. These tend to alternate between a local or UK charity (e.g. Teenage Cancer Trust, EACH and Mind) and supporting a charity/project outside of the UK. Funds are raised by local MWiB groups and others, for example by having a coffee morning, lunch or strawberry tea. It is amazing how much can be raised as people tend to be very generous and a lot of fun can be had as well. We also have a “bring and buy” stall at our events to raise money for the cause. Sometimes these have a theme such as “Water or the letter W”.

The most recent overseas project was “Bees, Beds and Blessings” during Ruth Arnold’s Presidency (which lasted three years). At the Autumn District Day in 2017 we were privileged to be joined by Bishop Everald Galbraith, then President Elect of the Caribbean Conference, and his wife Sherraine, to launch the project. In practice the Bee-keeping side was more successful than the Beds (although work on this is still planned) but there were many blessings all round.

One of the earlier overseas projects was the one associated with Rev Jean Simmonds, who is sadly no longer with us. This was “Turning Point Trust” supporting work on the Kiberia slum and was started in Angela Macquiban’s Presidency, which was cut short when her husband, Rev Tim, was posted to Rome! This gave me the opportunity when in Rome with a friend to visit them and experience Methodism in Italy. We have also heard about Methodism in Italy from Rev Alison Walker.



We have some of our District Days and Conferences led by people who can share their experiences of church overseas, most recently Mrs Sandra Goodwin who told us about her visits to Bolivia, the Solomon Islands and Fiji. Another former National MWiB President, Anne Browse, led one of our residential Conferences and shared her experience of church in Germany. One of our day Conferences was led by Rev Nicola Vidamour who served in Russia in 2003-2009.

In light of the District Partnership with West Harare, Zimbabwe, we are considering ways we might share with various women's groups and initiatives across both Districts.

Our next residential Conference, from 4-5 March 2023 at Belsey Bridge, Ditchingham, will be led by Mrs

Carolyn Lawrence whose past roles have included being Area Vice President for the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women from 2016-2022 and earlier as an educational Mission Partner in Guyana, South Africa, so Carolyn should have World Church experience to share.

Also, don't forget that the Easter Offering is organised by MWiB and raises money for the World Church.

So we are "Methodist Women in Britain" but in practice so much more! If you would like to know more about MWiB, please contact either Sue Groome (who will be inducted as our President in October) or myself. We even welcome men at our District Days!

Susan Eldridge
Synod Secretary



Sandra Goodwin's display at MWiB District Day at St Ives

Nhamatanda—Sparrow Orphanage, Mozambique

John Howe



It was through my wife and I being members of the Support Group at Methodist Care Home, Cromwell House, that some years ago now through a carer there, Victor Gillon, we were introduced to Nhamatanda – Sparrow Orphanage. Victor was asking for items to take for the young people there on his next visit in support of this Orphanage and also encouraging people to support the work with the donation of money.

We sought help for this cause from the church we attended at Framingham Earl, Norwich Circuit. Kindly, our church council agreed to support this cause by way of giving 50% of any fund-raising we did and also by holding other events to raise funds for the orphanage. There was an opportunity to sign up to give a regular donation by direct debit, if you wished to do so.

We feel that this is part of our mission as a caring church to support those who need funds, together with the Methodist 'All We Can' mission fund, by direct giving by way of retiring collections and also by supporting the appeal from Water Aid each year.

I attach an update with information of Nhamatanda – Sparrow Orphanage, received from Victor Gillon.



Methodist
relief and
development

All We Can is an international development and relief organisation, working to see every person's potential fulfilled. Focussed on serving the world's most marginalised communities, All We Can is rooted in the Christian faith.

All We Can works through partnership alongside our global neighbours most impacted by disasters, poverty and injustice to enable flourishing and resilient communities.



WaterAid

Water Aid is an international not-for-profit, determined to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere within a generation.

Since 1981, they've directly reached 28 million people with clean water; 28 million with decent toilets; and 26

million with good hygiene.

Only by tackling these three essentials in ways that last can people change their lives for good. With their supporters and partners, they will change millions of lives for the better.

John Howe
Norwich Circuit



NHAMATANDA, MOZAMBIQUE

Home of the Sparrow Orphanage

Just like this country, after two years, life in Mozambique is slowly getting back to pre-pandemic levels.

As Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in Africa, malnutrition, malaria and HIV infections continue to create serious problems within the country. This is the environment in which the orphanage in Nhamatanda operates.

For the first time in three years, I'm going back to visit the orphanage this November. In the past few years I've kept in regular contact with people at the orphanage through emails, Facebook and WhatsApp, but it's always good to be there in person and to see at first hand what is going on and how the church can help.

Although occasionally the orphanage gets financial help from a church in Sydney, Australia, and a church in South Africa, it is only members of New Hope Christian Centre and friends at Framingham Earl Methodist Church who support the children regularly. Without this continuing support the orphanage would not be able to function as it does now.

When I come back from my visit to Nhamatanda this autumn, I will give everyone a report of how I found life there, and also of any particular needs.

Once again, on behalf of the children, I want to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported them over the years.



23RD AUGUST 2022, VICTOR GILLON

District Agricultural Chaplain's Report

George Frost



Summer 2022

What a year this is, with turmoil in parliament, the weather certainly attracting a lot of attention and I have been in hospital 3 times, so chaplaincy has had to be done by the media, either 'phone or e-mail. We have this technology so we must try to use it.

From the farming scene, the cereal harvest started very early, end of June, and as I am writing this I think most of East Anglia is just about finished. With an exceptionally dry period there are bound to be losers, and it looks like the sugar beet and maize will be one of the casualties, unless there is above average rainfall in the next week or so.

My understanding from reading the farming press is that the quality and yields are quite good with wheat, barley and oil seed rape. Prices are holding up, mainly due to the war in Ukraine/ Russia. But, there is always a 'but', animal feed prices are very high meaning the increased cost of the end product has to be passed on to the consumer, at a time when energy prices are rising forcing more into the poverty stream. Whoever is the next Prime Minister will have to address this urgently. Food banks cannot keep taking responsibility for feeding people

who are struggling. A country like ours, with all the resource it has, should be able to share things more equally. Farmers who are producing meat, be it pig, poultry, beef or lamb should be entitled to a return for the effort and hours caring for the animals. Losing £50 per head on pigs is not acceptable.

East Anglia has everything in its favour, good quality land, beautiful scenery and pretty good farmers, who take good care of the land in general. There is always an exception of course. When I was leading the worship at our chapel yesterday, from my wheelchair and playing the hymns from the same position, the parable of the rich fool, a fool because he does not take God's intentions into account. To share with others the abundance we have is what we should be doing, because that is what God wants.

Let's hope that the Autumn seeding is possible and that the land is not saturated with too much water. I remember 1976 when September was very wet.

Keep praying.

George

George Frost
District Agricultural Chaplain

District News

An introduction to Kate Daynes...

I've been the District Local Preaching tutor for a little while now but I still feel that I'm learning all the time and discovering how much the Worship: Leading and Preaching course has to offer. I feel it is a great privilege to help students explore, develop and affirm their call to lead worship and preach; to share in their journey as they grow and develop in their ability to share their faith.

I'm a Local Preacher in the Norwich circuit and a member at Framingham Earl. I am a cradle Methodist literally; I was Christened in Sunday school as mum was one of the teachers as this was the only time the minister could manage to get there. I was born and spent much of my childhood in Ealing, West London where my family was very involved in the local Methodist church. This continued when my father's job took us to live in Ipswich and Norwich. My Methodist heritage includes my grandparents from Darlington Co. Durham who were both Local Preachers and very active in the church. Shortly after I returned from university, I became involved in youth work at Chapel Field Road, where I met David, one of the other youth leaders, a member of St Stephens, the



neighbouring Anglican church. We were married in 1977.

We've both had busy careers, taken various roles in our Churches and recognised the importance of our shared faith. I've had various jobs including serving as a church and circuit steward. I worked for many years in the NHS, mainly in human resources, again in a variety of roles but the one I enjoyed most and found most fulfilling was when I established and ran a training department in one of the NHS Trusts.

I can remember how I was challenged to become a Local Preacher. I had just moved to a new church and felt ready to serve God in different ways. I recall trying to work out if this was my calling now, and recognising that many of the skills I had gained, such as speaking in public plus study and reflective skills were a good preparation plus it might be in the genes!

Kate Daynes

Twinning our toilet with Zambia

Danielle Gravestock



My son, Jacob, recently joined me on a trip into the office at Chapel Field Road Methodist Church. It was there that he became inquisitive about an initiative called Toilet Twinning.

Chapel Field Road Methodist Church signed up to support Toilet Twinning by twinning its toilets with latrines in areas of poverty around the world.

Sanitation is serious stuff, and Toilet Twinning and its partners take a special approach to community-led total sanitation. This means that they work hard to support small village committees, of both men and women, to look at the link between practices such as open defecation and ill health. They support with hygiene education, and it is this support and link between ill health and hygiene that is key to behaviour changes long term.

Toilet Twinning raises funds in support of Tearfund's water and sanitation programme in around 25 countries

across the world.

Tearfund works through local church partners because it is recognised that local churches are well-placed to serve local people, because they tend to know who is most in need and they can

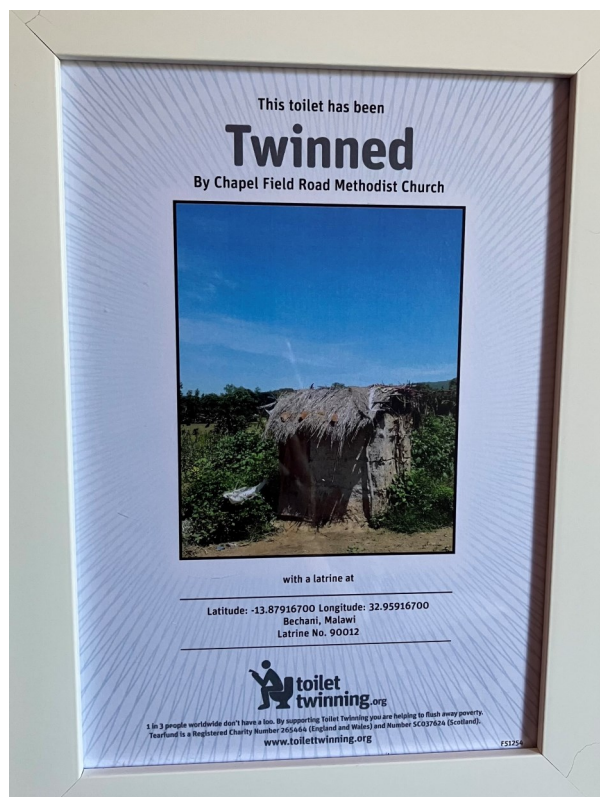
implement culturally-appropriate, cost-effective, sustainable development programmes.

The partners of Toilet Twinning involve local people in deciding on the design and materials to be used in latrine building, this means latrines are both appropriate and affordable.

Toilet Twinning strongly believe that the best

way to bring transformation in poor communities is to work with them, rather than doing things for them. It's all about dignity and self-respect.

As a result of learning all about Toilet Twinning, Jacob and I twinned our very own toilet at home with a latrine in Zambia. We now have a certificate with a picture of our twinned latrine on proud display in our bathroom.



Jacob Gravestock, Age 9 and $\frac{3}{4}$ said “We have a special toilet now, as our toilet helped to build another one in Zambia. I like that we helped people who don’t have as much as us, I want them to feel happy and to not feel poorly when it rains.”

Could you dedicate a Sunday service to Toilet Twinning, maybe at harvest, or around World Toilet Day (19 November)? Or could you put on a fundraising event and create a Toilet Twinning display at the back of your church? (If a 9-year-old can be inspired by a Toilet Twinning poster, then think

about how many of your church members may be inspired too).

2 billion people across the world still don’t have a proper toilet. In Ivory Coast, more than three-quarters of the population lacks a loo. **Could your church transform lives overseas by twinning your toilets?**

Please visit <https://www.toilettwinning.org/group/churches/> where you can find lots of useful information and materials about Church Toilet Twinning.

Danielle Gravestock
District Administrator

The Lay Employees’ and Lay Volunteers’ Network

Revd Betty Trinder, the Lay Employees’ and Lay Volunteers’ Chaplain arranged a marvellous day out on the Norfolk Broads on Tuesday 14th June. A group, that included Lay Employees and Lay Volunteers from



shops and have lunch in the glorious sunshine. This was then followed by a two-hour guided tour on the Belle of the Broads boat, which travelled from Wroxham Broad to



across the District, gathered at Wroxham Barns to visit the boutique



Salhouse Broad. It was wonderful to meet in person and enjoy the sights on some of Norfolk’s most beautiful Broads.

Pray 2-3

Dr Yasmin Finch

www.pray23.org

Is it time to renew your faith, heal your heart, lift your eyes and fill your soul? Pray 2-3 is an East Anglia District wide prayer initiative for the calendar year of 2023 which we hope will do all of those things and more.

What?

It's another pick-and-mix opportunity - you don't have to do it all, just the bits you're interested in and drawn to. Just like regular pick and mix,

some people will go for the fudge, some people will scoff the mint imperials, and some people want a taste of everything. You can join in as little or as much as you want and there's a dedicated website for you to look through the options.

When?

It will run for the calendar year 2023. The launch service will be on zoom with Rev Julian Pursehouse, Monday 16th January 2023, 7pm



Give me an idea of the options?

You might want to take up prayer walking with a friend. We'll help you get started and stay in touch through the year. Or perhaps you want to form a new prayer group. You could go along

to one of the 24/7 prayer rooms that will be touring the District or organise a special prayer event for your church. Or you just might simply commit to

start every meeting in 2023 with 5 minutes of prayer in 2's and 3's. You might have a much better idea than all of that and do something wonderful.

How can I get involved?

Firstly, have a look at the website and talk to friends at church, your leadership stewards and minister. If you're interested in hosting a prayer room, or have another idea for the pick and mix offerings, or really have a heart for prayer and would like to be involved

in organising Pray 2-3, please drop Yasmin Finch (District Mission Enabler) a line - yrfinch@gmail.com

A prayer for the year...

Loving God, creator of East Anglia, you made the rich fields, decorated the wide open skies, sculpted the sandy coast and filled the flowing rivers.

Send your gifts of hope, renewal, joy,

and light to us as we seek your face together in 2023. We pray for East Anglia, for every Methodist member, for every Church and Circuit. For the communities they serve and the people they help. May we seek your face, hear your voice and draw close to you. Amen

www.pray23.org

Dr Yasmin Finch
District Mission Enabler



District Property Secretary – we are looking to find a team of volunteers to assist the work of this key role. If you have an interest in property, and could offer some time, please contact Mike Garwood DLES@eangliamethodist.org.uk for an initial discussion

Contributions

We hope you have been inspired by the articles
in this edition of *grapevine*.

If you would like to make a contribution to
the next edition, we would love to hear from you.

Please send any news items, letters and photographs,
which you would like to share with others in the
district to:

eagrapevine@gmail.com

or post to 'grapevine'

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For further information, please contact
the District Office on 01603 625765

*Unfortunately we cannot guarantee
inclusion of all contributions.*

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