

The Methodist Church

East Solent and Downs Circuit (26/7)

Co-Superintendent Ministers: The Revd. David Muskett
The Revd. Elize Goddess

31 July 2024

Dear East Solent and Downs Circuit Family

As we start this new Church year we wish you the blessing of God's tangible presence to inspire and guide your way forward. May His unconditional love and grace continue to motivate you in all you do as His disciples.

The year ahead offers us new opportunities to be effective and relevant to our local community. What are we going to do with those opportunities? Allow the prompting of God to encourage, equip and lead the way forward. Allow Him to prompt you as we plan the year ahead and always remember failing to plan is a sure plan to fail.

During our last Circuit Meeting in June 2024 we acknowledged again that our Methodist call is to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out our discipleship in worship and mission. The Church therefore exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love; help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care; be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice; and make more followers of Jesus Christ. With this as our foundation we adopted the new Circuit Vision and Mission Policy. We all undertook to rethink who we are and what we are doing as individuals and as Church communities within the wider local community. We are encouraged to enter a journey of discernment to connect with our God-given plan and purpose and move from a place of comfort and stagnation to life-giving mission and ministry.

That is the call on all of us as disciples of Jesus Christ and a journey in faith. When we talk about a journey of faith we need to remind ourselves again what that is saying. It starts with faith in Him who can accomplish far more than what we could ever dream to achieve.

The last weekend in July we had the ever popular and spectator worthy Kite- Festival at Southsea. At times it looked as if there was a wind vacuum when the kites hang limp. It is only when they are turning into the wind that their full potential to entertain with beauty can be

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on display. I could not help but connect that with how important it is for us as church and as disciples to “catch” in the same way the movement of the Spirit to reach our potential and provide with God’s provision and prompting what God’s people need and are craving. We move forward together, motivated by our love and gratitude towards Him who gave His all for us.

You are all invited to join us for the Circuit Welcome Service at Portchester Methodist Church when we will be welcoming our new Chair of District, Rev Rachel Bening, to our Circuit. The service is on Tuesday 10th September at 7.30pm, with enough free parking available behind the Church.

Together we move forward in Christ.
With every blessing

David and Elize