

From the Superintendent

Rev Steve Day

Dear friends,

In June we will be celebrating the centenary of Greenford Methodist Church. In preparing for this milestone it has been interesting to learn a little about the church's history.

It seems that a few members of Hanwell Methodist Church, together with several local people, felt God's call to establish a Methodist church in Greenford. People initially held evening services in the Greenford Park community hall on Queen's Avenue before purchasing the site of the current church in 1926. A large hut was built to the side of the current church in 1928 and used for worship and other activities until the first brick church building was built in 1932. This church building had to be rebuilt following damage during World War II; the current church was opened in 1957.

This snippet of history enables us to appreciate the vision, faith and courage of those who first felt God's call to establish a Methodist church in Greenford. We can also appreciate the vision, commitment and hard work of the people who enabled the site to be purchased and the church built. Behind the bricks and mortar is the community of faith which sought to faithfully respond to God's call and bear witness to Christ's love in Greenford. It has been fascinating to listen to longstanding church members describe how they came to join the church, sometimes many decades ago, and what they have valued about being part of the church community.

Remembering and celebrating those who responded to God's call to establish and develop the church is very important on this significant anniversary. However, it is also important to ponder God's call on the community at Greenford Methodist Church at this time. This reflection can allow us to respond faithfully to the present context of Greenford and, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to seek to respond faithfully and courageously.

While the reflection mentioned above may be particularly pertinent to Greenford Methodist Church as she celebrates her centenary, I encourage each of our circuit church communities to engage in such reflection. I pray we may discover

a renewed sense of God's call upon us as the people called Methodist within this area which provides the inspiration and stimulus to look to the future into which our Lord would lead us. I look forward to hearing the outcome and seeing the fruit of this reflection in Greenford and elsewhere.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sten", with a horizontal line underneath.