

Rejoice!

December 2014/January 2015



**The Magazine of the
West Norfolk Methodist Circuit**

Dear Friends,

As the days shorten and grow darker, we find ourselves entering the season of Advent. In the church calendar Advent is a time of waiting and of preparation. A time of anticipation for that which is coming. And what are we waiting and preparing for? What do we anticipate? Many people would answer 'Christmas', and in a way that is true. But among the parties and the mince pies, the wrapping paper and the tinsel, it is easy to forget that we are not preparing for a day, however lovely it may be to share with family and friends in a special celebration. We are preparing for the coming of Jesus. And that is a serious business.

I do not wish to sound like Ebenezer Scrooge crying "bah humbug" to all the traditional festivities of this time of year. But I do hope that we try and find a balance during Advent. A balance between time to celebrate and time to reflect. A balance between the sacred and the secular. And a balance between preparing for Jesus the child in the manger, and Jesus the Lord of time and history whose second coming we also anticipate in Advent.

So many of our carols focus on the tiny baby in the manger. And it is the great miracle of the Incarnation that God came down to be like one of us, became utterly helpless and vulnerable in a new-born child. But we also need to remember who this child is and who he will become. My favourite carol reminds us of this, using imagery from the prophet Malachi:

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.

Into these dark days of Advent comes the light and life of the one who brings salvation. As Charles Wesley's verse continues:

Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

That for me is the true miracle of Christmas. I pray that during this season of Advent we will not lose sight of that amazing truth behind the glitter and the tinsel, and that we find time to prepare our hearts and minds to receive our Lord who comes as both child and Saviour,

the God who created all things “contracted to a span,
incomprehensibly made man” in the words of another great Wesley
hymn (HP 109).

I wish you a peaceful Advent and, when it comes, a joyful Christmas
and every blessing for 2015.

Catherine

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

TO MISS KATHLEEN SHARMAN (AKA SHARMIE)

104 ON NOVEMBER 15TH

AND TO REV MAURICE STAFFORD

A BIT YOUNGER ON NOVEMBER 16TH

MAY THEY BOTH HAVE A GOOD YEAR.

Some thoughts to share.

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year.

- Victor Borge

May your troubles be less, may your blessings be more, and may
nothing but happiness come through your door.

Money can't buy you happiness But it does bring you a more
pleasant form of misery

- Spike Milligan

What child I this?
What child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping.

This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding
Good Christian fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh
Come peasant king to own him
The king of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone him

This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud
The babe, the son of Mary.

Praying together in the Circuit

Romans 10:13-17

As the scripture says,

"Everyone who calls out to the Lord for help will be saved."

But how can they call to him for help if they have not believed?

And how can they believe if they have not heard the message?

And how can they hear if the message is not proclaimed?

And how can the message be proclaimed if the messengers

are not sent out? As the scripture says,

"How wonderful is the coming of messengers

who bring good news!"

But not all have accepted the Good News. Isaiah himself said,

"Lord, who believed our message?" So then, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through preaching Christ.

Don't be afraid I am here with good news for you which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born - Christ the Lord !

G God's

O only

S son

P provides

E eternal

L life

Open ears and hearts and lives to the good news of the gospel.
Let faith come to life as the good news is welcomed and accepted.

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift !

We have a gospel to proclaim !

Prayers have been requested for:-

Derek + Viv , Stephanie, Janice, Amy, Trisha, Linda, Ruth Harbach, Andrew, Mavis, Julia, Rachel, Judy, Dulcie + Neill. Kelly, Kath, Stephen + Victoria, William, Tom . Ken and Norma. Brian Osborne. Marjorie Osborne passed away in October. We remember her family and especially Brian at this time.

The friends and family of Sheila Nunn, who died in November. Peter Macey in hospital.

Rev Marie Whitcombe

<p>Praying for the Circuit. Mondays at London Road 2.00 pm Thursdays at Downham Market 11 am</p>
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A Tribute to Margery Barratt

I was introduced to Mrs Barratt, (never Margery!) in 1976, by her sister, who was my employer at the time.

I felt quite in awe of her. She had an air of authority about her, was very upright and was part of an era now gone.

She had high values, liked things “proper”. After a few years of getting to know her better I came to the conclusion she was a kind, caring person, but quiet, seeming to keep things to herself. I felt there was a line you feared to cross over. She was involved in so many activities. She had been a volunteer ambulance driver in her early married days, helped her husband with a youth club at Gaywood, (the old rooms) where boys were a bit rough- but both Mr and Mrs Barratt were highly respected. I recall her being really involved in Women’s Work, which became Network and now Methodist Women in Britain. (So many changes, we agreed on that!) Then the King’s Lynn Festival, President of Inner Wheel, garden parties, students to stay over, always welcoming folk from the Church in their home. Reminds me of John Wesley’s “Social Responsibility”. She was part of that to be sure.

I feel that she knew lots of people, both in Lynn and South Wootton; only a few came close to her heart. She had her sufferings, which she kept to herself. Most of all I will remember her for being a wonderful and exceptional mother. First and foremost, a lovely lady to aspire to emulate.

Phyllis Bowman

Around the churches



Heacham

Last month we celebrated the harvest time with a harvest supper (prepared and cooked by Mike Careless) of shepherd's pie and vegetables, followed by fruit pies and custard. After this excellent meal, we were entertained by a programme arranged by our organist, Pauline. Many thanks to her and Sharon (who sang solos for us – including a familiar song from “Les Miserables”). It was enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks for all the support.

The following day we celebrated Harvest Festival with a service led by our new Minister, Stephen Oliver. What a full and meaningful weekend it turned out to be.

Our calendar for the next few months includes a Christmas Lunch on 6th December and a Christmas Concert lead by the West Norfolk Singers on 13th December (2.30pm start). Seems early to be booking in Christmas dates – but it approacheth ...

A warm welcome is extended to all who wish to join us at any of these events.

London Road

London Road Methodist Church was full on the early starting Remembrance Sunday service led by Rev Catherine Dixon.

We were well supported by the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts of the 21st Scout Group with their parents.

Catherine's theme, beginning with the lighting of a Remembrance Candle was concentrated on “The light of the World”.

The closing hymn “ I vow to thee my Country” was a very poignant way to conclude this very special service of Remembrance.

The service finished in time so that the 21st Scout Group along with those who wished could join in the civic act of remembrance in the Greyfriars Garden. With traffic held back in all directions the two minute remembrance was in complete silence .

For those unable to go to the garden, Catherine observed the remembrance in the Church.

At the ceremony wreaths are laid by many organisations including the Salvation Army, Catholic Parishioners and the Church of Latter Day Saints. Is there any church in the Circuit that lays a wreath at their local war memorial?

50 years at London Road

I came to King's Lynn at the beginning of October 1964 to start work at Campbell's soups.

As I was engaged to Jo, a Methodist, I thought that I should seek out the Methodist Church to attend the following Sunday.

I attended the evening service and was immediately made welcome by Alf Lloyd, Ken Neale and Ron Charlesworth. The next Sunday I attended morning service and was invited to lunch with the Lloyds on Wootton Road.

During the first year I attended classes with Rev Harry Lockwood and was received into membership at the same time as Tony Mindham.

I was invited to join the choir, not because I could sing, but my wife to be was an accomplished musician and a soprano. Set a sprat to catch a mackerel. During my first year I became a Sunday School teacher then Roger Richardson decided that he did not want to carry on as Sunday School Supt. and asked me to take over.

This I did for over 20 years and for a lot of the time ran the youth club on a Saturday night. Life was hectic, acting as a Rugby referee at matches in Norwich, Diss etc and then getting back for youth Club.

My one regret is that with family and Sunday School I never visited my ailing mother in Bristol as much as a dutiful son should.

What a change at London Road in 50 years – the old cold hall (remember those Christmas Fairs) and basic kitchen replaced in 1979 by a fantastic facility still looking new today and all those noisy cinema seats gone from the church and a dark London Road replaced by a light airy church, made multi purpose by the use of chairs.

The recent repainting and resetting of the lights has again brought London Road up to date.

We are constantly amazed by people who visit us on Heritage Sunday who have lived in King's Lynn all their lives and never realised what a beautiful church was on their doorstep.

Fifty years – so many Ministers – so many faithful Christians – so many generous people, in spirit as well as money.

Highlights, the baptism of our two children and the service, during the Norwich Conference, of induction of new ministers.

And the saddest, the premature loss of Neil.

David Gifford

Terrington St Clement

The Methodist Women in Britain Rally was held at T.S.C. We were welcomed by Phyllis Bowman and our guest speaker was Rev Catherine Dixon. She spoke about Sir Edward ColbyBurne - Jones , who designed magnificent stained glass windows. Edward was training for the ministry at Oxford but left to develop his artistic side. Lovely examples of his work can be found in St Philip's Cathedral Birmingham. Thanks to Rachel Panton for playing the piano. Tea and cakes were enjoyed.

Dates for diary Saturday 13th December is our Christmas coffee morning 10am to 1pm with light lunches and the usual stalls, Everyone is welcome. Our New Year's tea party is on January 24th from 2 to 4pm including entertainment. Do come and join us to start 2015.

Linda Howling

Clenchwarton

"Last Orange to Paris" was a comedy about a low cost airline written by Bill Sampson for C.M.E.G and performed at Clenchwarton Chapel on October 16th, 17th and 18th together with another comedy drama called "All in the Family" written by his son Grahame Sampson. In "Last Orange to Paris" a family had won a special flight to Paris with Orange Airways from Maid Marion Airport and they never got off the ground!! The pilot, an ex RAF type, was using all the air force jargon explaining to passengers all the reasons an ageing Rapide aircraft could not take off. Special handouts came from the owner to help compensate for the delay (not so exciting as they were led to believe!). In the end a ballerina who had recently landed gave them complimentary tickets to the ballet so they all departed. Very funny.

"All in the Family" found the owner of a family business thinking of retiring and who wanted to hand over the reins to his daughters. Two of them took over and didn't do at all well. One closed the English factory and got the work done in China and later found out the products couldn't be sold. Her sister who was running the factory in France wasn't doing too well either. The former owner found that the sisters treated him badly. He was even cast into prison on a pretext. In the end his third daughter turned up trumps. She bought them out, re-employing the staff and getting work for people in the Congo where she had been volunteering.

Both of the plays were full of laughs and those who came had a good evening. Pity not many did come. I thought that Grahame's play was his best so far.

Harold Smith

South Wootton

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING WITH MINCE PIES
WEDNESDAY ...DECEMBER 3rd ...10-00-11-00am
GREAT CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INCLUDING A HAMPER
AND MANY MORE GOOD THINGS.

ALSO

SOUTH WOOTTON LADIES GROUP CAROL SERVICE
TUESDAY DECEMBER 16th at 7.00pm
LED BY REV CATHERINE DIXON – ALL WELCOME

Phyllis Bowman

Pott Row – Remembrance Sunday

How good it was that this year the Remembrance Day service was a combined one, with the Methodists joining the congregation at Grimston church. The service was led by the Rev John Wallis, during which all who could manage it went out to stand round the memorial in the churchyard. A trumpeter sounded the Last Post before the two minutes silence, and after the Reveille the wreaths were placed on the memorial base. The trumpeter led the singing of O God our Help in Ages Past before we returned into the church for prayers, a hymn and the blessing. After the thoughtful service refreshments were served and we had plenty of time to share our memories.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Tree Festival.

Friday and Saturday December 5th and 6th 10am - 4pm

Sunday 7th 2pm -4pm

Our Carol Service led by Rev Catherine Dixon is on Sunday December 7th at 6.30pm

We will have the kettle on each day!!

Jenny.

Peace, love and happiness

May you always have love to Share Health to Spare and Friends that Care

Downham Market

Our October meetings from Safety in the Neighbourhood and Age Concern were very informative and enjoyed by all members. The Fish and Chip supper last week was a great success and we invited the Managers from the East Anglian Children's Hospice to collect a cheque for £60.00 which we raised at our Harvest Festival and they talked about the work done by the hospice.

Our December meetings are on December 3rd with a slide show from Allan Hale. Our Christmas Evening is on December 17th with Reg and Mary Rose. This meeting starts at 7pm. Everyone will be made very welcome.

We have no meetings in January and we return on February 11th 2015 so we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Margaret Fox

The gremlins have struck again, only half an article last month but here goes, third time lucky. Unfortunately the big build up I'd given our annual Christmas Fair didn't appear and by the time you read this it will be all done and dusted for another year.

Our Saturday coffee mornings continue to be popular and the good news is that the double glazing for the Church windows should be installed by mid December, after John our premises steward has juggled events, so hopefully we shall be snug and warm and saving on the heating bills in the New Year. Our Church kitchen has been fully refurbished, excepting decoration, and the morning refreshments and lunches continue to be well supported. We also have a large box of games, dominoes, Solitaire, Scrabble and playing cards etc. for those who want to stay for some brain stimulation and companionship. Messy Church goes from strength to strength. There have now been five sessions with the 6th planned for 12th December. The response has been "God givenly" amazing with an average of 35 children and 20 adults at the sessions. After a time of refreshment and games, when all are gathered, the session's theme is introduced with the children involved in related crafts, then into the Church for a short celebration with stories, songs and prayers. After this it is back to the hall for a simple meal and a time of fellowship. Some of the families now attend Sunday worship and some have promised to help with our Christmas Fair. We are so grateful to Hazel and John and all their helpers for this outreach on our behalf.

Our Sisterhood group enjoyed talks from Brian Bannister and Don Gates in October. November's speakers were Martin Chilvers and Brian Rogers and our meeting on 10th December will be a members' meeting when we shall

enjoy Christmas music and readings. Do come and join us if you can for a friendly Christmassy time with seasonal refreshments and plenty of fellowship.

Joan Macey

St Faith's

Everyone involved with St Faith's Church is looking forward to the second Christmas Tree Festival which is being staged from December 12th to the 15th. More than 25 trees will be on show, all creatively decorated by pupils from local primary schools, members of church organisations and representatives of local charities. In the fading light of late afternoon, the illuminated trees take on a magical appearance, creating a beautiful winter wonderland scene in the centuries-old church. Admission is free to the Festival but donations are invited. Refreshments will be available.

This year there will be a stall selling a range of hand-made Christmas crafts which have been made by members of St Faith's Craft Group which has been meeting over the past months.

As part of the Festival, there will be two concerts, a variety show on Friday 12th December and a performance by the popular Big Heart and Soul Choir on 13th December. Both concerts are in church and start at 7.30pm. Tickets, at £5 each (or two for £8), are available by contacting the church office on 01553 774916 weekday mornings until 12 noon.

Also during the Festival, there will be a Family Gift Service on Sunday morning 14th December at 9.45, people are invited to take along a wrapped stocking-filler gift which will be blessed and then distributed to deserving children at Christmas. Please indicate on the wrapping if your gift is for a girl or boy and the age range.

We hope, once again, that the Christmas Tree Festival will be an opportunity for Outreach to the wider community and that it will be an enjoyable and memorable experience for all our visitors.

This year the Festival is to be officially opened, during an invitation-only preview evening on 11th December, by the Rev James Stewart, the newly appointed Chaplain to the Bishop of Norwich.

December, of course, is the month when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in humble surroundings of a stable in Bethlehem. We hear once again the age-old story of the Nativity. Special Christmas services have been arranged at St Faith's.

On Sunday 21st December, at 6.30pm, there will be the popular Carols by Candlelight service featuring traditional carols and special items by the choir as well as readings.

On Christmas Eve there is to be a combined Crib and Christingle Service starting at 4pm. This is always a well-attended service so please get there in good time.

Later that day, at 11.15pm (note the start time) there will be an opportunity to celebrate Christmas Day and Christ's birth at the Christmas Eve Midnight Communion service when traditional Carols will be sung.

Looking ahead to the beginning of January, there will be an Epiphany Praise service at St Faith's on January 4th at 4.30pm (note the start time).

Earlier that day there is to be a Kings and Camels event in Plantation Wood, off Parkway, Gaywood, starting at 2pm.

On the four Sundays of Advent, starting at 5.30pm for 30 minutes, at Holy Family church in Field Lane, Gaywood, there will be ecumenical services featuring Taize music.

Daphne Sampson said that attending these services can be an ideal way to take a breather from all the hectic run-up to Christmas and to "allow yourself to be open to the rhythm of God's breath. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Looking ahead to January, there is an opportunity on 11th January at The Friends' Meeting House, Bridge Street, King's Lynn, to gather and talk with others concerned about the all-important issue of world climate change and our response to it. The discussion will be prompted by the free screening of the film, *The Age of Stupid*, starring the late Pete Postlethwaite. The film asks its audiences the question, "Why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance?" Tea and cake will be available.

Richard Parr

Dersingham

As we enter into the season of Advent we shall be supporting the Mission in Britain Advent Project entitled 'Watching and Waiting' with our money from a collection on Advent Sunday. The church will be decorated and the proceeds from the stars we put on our church Christmas tree, to send greetings to one another instead of sending Christmas cards, will also go to this project. The Carols by Candlelight service on the 21st December at 6 p.m. will look at the Meaning of Christmas and the Christmas morning service at 10.30 a.m. will be taken by Marion Kemp.

Over the last few years we have been invited by our friends at St. Nicholas Church in Dersingham to decorate a Christmas tree for their Festival of Trees. We have had 'notes' from the Methodists, 'texts' from the Methodists and 'links' with the Methodists and this year it is to be 'tweets' from the Methodists! Consequently we will be cutting out and decorating birds, and writing on them a favourite Bible text, verse of a hymn or poem, or a prayer.

Then as the New Year dawns we will be renewing our Covenant with God at the morning service on the 4th January which will be taken by the Rev. Steve Oliver.

Rosemary Caink

Stow Bridge

A quiz for you all.

1. How many people were on the Ark?
2. How many lepers came to Jesus to be healed?
3. How many fish had the little boy for lunch?
4. How many sons had Jacob?
5. How many did Gideon take to battle?
6. How many daughters had Philip?
7. How many stones did David take to slay Goliath?
8. How many lepers returned to give thanks?
9. How many days was Jesus tempted in the wilderness?
10. How many times did Naaman dip in the River Jordan?

Your answers should total **389**. Did I get it right? I hope you did.

Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

Samson. He brought the house down!

A washing machine salesman knocked on the door of a house. A seven year old boy answered the door.

“Is your mother in?”

“No,” said the little boy.

“Is your father in?” inquired the salesman.

“No he isn’t,” said the little boy.

“Well, is your sister in?”

Hang on a minute,” said the boy. After a minute he came back. “Yes, but I can’t get her out of the pram!”

Every blessing to you all this Christmas.

Peter Hewitt

Just a thought: With Christmas presents to buy some of us will be buying dolls for our grand daughters.

But... If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?

Pastoral Carers' Day

On Saturday 18th October nearly 30 people from around the Circuit met in the Downham Market Church to share a day together. These days are held to help support and refresh those involved in pastoral work.

Rev Catherine Dixon led the day, with input also from Phyllis Bowman. We focused initially on the first chapter of Luke's gospel and looked at the visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, noticing the context in which this all took place.

Then we looked more closely at the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth, noticing the presence of God, considered whether there may have been mixed motives for visiting and the mutuality of the encounter. Who was ministering to whom?

This story reminded us that we need to look at the wider context of the whole person and that we need to trust each other and God. We also noted that the visit of Mary to Elizabeth was filled with praise. We considered how these factors spoke to us about ourselves and our pastoral work.

Phyllis helped us think about how a few pastoral visits can be quite challenging, but that these are far outweighed by those that are fulfilling and enriching for all involved.

During the Communion Service at the close of the day we had opportunities to offer to God our concerns and how we felt as individuals at that time.

Our thanks to Catherine and Phyllis and all who helped organise the day, not forgetting those who supplied the lunch and those who served us and cleared up afterwards.

The whole day was relaxed and shot through with love and mutual care. It was really refreshing and, if you have not experienced such an occasion, do look out for the opportunity to share in the next one. It will be on March 7th 2015 at Hunstanton. It will be led by Julia Warnes and the topic will be Joy.

Hazel Miles

ACTION FOR CHILDREN Update.....

Apologies for the following omission from November's Rejoice.....

Contact details for Abbi Lang our District Fundraiser

Action for Children

Fundraising Office

3 Abbeyfields

Bury St Edmunds

IP33 1AQ Tel: 01284 755953

Mobile: 07921 491550

email Abbi.Lang@actionforchildren.org.uk

Action for Children Carol Service at Wesley Methodist Church
Cambridge on Wednesday 10th December at 7pm.

This evening will feature popular congregational carols, readings, and special performances by St Catherine's Girls Choir, King Hedges Primary School, Wesley Choir and Footlights Quartet. Refreshments and mince pies to follow.

Entry free - Retiring collection for Action for Children

Sheila Forth

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible

- George Burns

IT ISN'T FAIR

My grandmother was a very prim and proper lady. One of her favourite sayings was “A place for everything and everything in its place.” Unfortunately I have inherited her obsession and I suffer no end for it. Sometimes when friends kindly come to help me I have to spend ages the next day putting everything back in its proper place, otherwise I would not be able to find things. I like everything to be neat and tidy.

Unfortunately life is not like that. In hymns and prayers we often thank God for the order and beauty of his world. But it is not always like that. Far from it. What about earthquakes floods and volcanoes? I have seen the devastation things like these can cause. While many children are born into a loving, secure environment, some with a silver spoon in their mouth, today many more babies will come into the world in a refugee camp or a mud hut – it is a post code lottery “writ large”. The old idea used to be that such inequalities were God’s doing. Years ago there was another verse in that favourite hymn “All things bright and beautiful.” It went:

The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate
God made them high and lowly
And ordered their estate.

Fortunately that verse has been cut out of modern hymn books.

We are worried about the awful things that happen to many of us. Again some seem to find comfort in attributing them to God’s will. I used to visit two lovely Christian ladies, a daughter caring for her mother. One day when I called there was bad news for me. The older lady was going blind, but there was no bitterness, just calm acceptance “Thy will be done,” she said. I hadn’t the heart to tell her it wasn’t at all like that. Perhaps I should have done.

What can we say when we come up against things in life that seem so hard and unfair? For one thing we can remember that God has been there before us. The crucifixion was the most savage, cruel, unjust thing imaginable. Having suffered so cruelly himself he understands and understanding can help. At the heart of our Christian faith is a Cross, which shows how far God’s love will go for us.

George Matheson had a brilliant course at Edinburgh University and showed great promise as he set out on his career as a parish minister. Then came the blow. He lost his eyesight and the lady to whom he was engaged felt that his blindness prevented their marriage. He wrote "I was at that time alone. It was the day of my sister's marriage and the rest of the family was staying overnight in Glasgow. Something had happened to me which was known only to myself and which caused me the most severe suffering." He took up his pen and wrote one of the loveliest hymns in the book:

O love that wilt not let me go
I rest my weary soul in thee,
I give thee back the life I owe
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be

He was blind and he could write "I trace the rainbow through the rain"

It isn't fair? Hold on to the love of God.

John Garfoot

AMAZING GRACE

A favourite hymn, especially as it found its way on to the charts. It was written over 200 years ago by John Newton, curate of Olney, Bucks. He also wrote "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds," but he was a most unlikely clergyman. As a youth he went to sea with his father, was press-ganged into the Navy, flogged as a deserter. Later on, in those harsh, cruel days, he got mixed up in the slave trade and became captain of a ship which took slaves from Africa across the Atlantic to be sold to work in plantations. Not a nice man at all; he didn't believe in God. Then one day his ship ran into a terrible storm. The hold filled with water and the pumps had to be manned. That experience changed his life completely. With death staring him in the face he turned to God in prayer and begged to be forgiven. After his conversion he became a preacher of the gospel and was ordained as a minister

In 2007 we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery but unhappily that was not the end of it. We were all so pleased when Malala was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize but she shared the honour with

someone whose name was far less familiar to us, Kailash Sotyarthi. It is noteworthy that one came from Pakistan, the other from India; one was a Muslim, the other a Hindu. Kailash had devoted his whole life to stopping child slavery in his home country, working with children forced into labour in factories or mines, often into prostitution.

His organisation, Global March Against Child Labour, is now active in 140 countries. He founded another organisation which enables children to work safely in carpet making factories. This 60 year old activist has been campaigning for over thirty years and is said to have rescued more than 80,000 children from bondage, trafficking and slavery.

That is in India, but it is a world wide problem and here in Britain it affects some 20,000 men women and children, brought into the country by criminal gangs with the promise of a better life. Unable to meet the exorbitant fees charged they are sold into slavery, like objects, forced to work for little or no pay, at the mercy of their employers
Our gospel teaches us that we all matter to God and we have no right to lord it over other people and in particular we need to oppose every effort to denigrate women, children and all people who are different from ourselves.

It is good that in the Queen`s Speech this year it was announced that a Modern Slavery Bill will be brought before Parliament. It is hoped that it will become law before the general election, one of the good things that Westminster does.

John Garfoot

Methodist Women in Britain

The Autumn Rally this year was held at Terrington on Wednesday 29th October. The hospitality there was great as always, so many thanks. We welcomed as our speaker Revd Catherine Dixon who enlightened us on some stained glass windows that were special to her, now they are special to us, thank you Catherine. The Charity `The Turning Point Trust` is one that is being supported throughout the District by MWiB and a donation of £80-00 has been sent to the Treasurer for Mission in the Kibera Slum outside Nairobi. Please consider joining us at any future rally; you do not have to be a member of a church ladies group to come along to these services; all are welcome, men included.

Margaret, Phyllis and Mary

Any items for the **FEBRUARY** edition should be with the



editor by **JANUARY 12th**, earlier if possible. **If you don't get an acknowledgment of emails PLEASE enquire if I have received them as some articles have found their way into my spam bin which I don't check very often!**

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THE ROYAL DAVID HOTEL, BETHLEHEM
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Overflow accommodation in separate, rustic outbuilding.
Ideal for small family groups. Animals and infants welcome.

Cot provided.
Five shekels per night.
Rating; One star



The West Norfolk Singers

Christmas 2014 Concerts

**Saturday, 6th December 3.00pm
St Mary's, Old Hunstanton**

**Saturday, 13th December 2.30pm
Methodist Church, Heacham**

**Wednesday, 17th December 7.00pm
St Mary the Virgin, West Winch**

Admission all Christmas concerts — £5.00 includes
light refreshments. Tickets available at the door.

Programme will include carols for you to join in with.

PROCEEDS SPLIT EQUALLY BETWEEN THE CHURCH
AND THE WEST NORFOLK SINGERS.

More information : www.westnorfolksingers.org.uk

Greetings and thoughts

Happy Christmas to all who read our words of wisdom this month.

We four did our best to iron out all the spelling mistakes, commas, non sequiturs and make this is a good read.

Thank you to all the Churches who send us copy, especially those who tell us what is going to happen as well as what has already gone.

We would love to have another pair of eyes to spot the mistakes so if you'd care to join us for about two hours a month, for ten months of the year, please, please start the new year right and drop me a line.

Barbara, Joy, Joyce and Pat. And Janet when Deacon duties allow!!

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary

December 2014 onwards

Wednesday 3rd Coffee Morning at South Wootton 10-11 am

Friday/Saturday 5th/6th December Christmas Tree Festival at Pott Row 10am – 4pm and Sunday 7th December 2pm – 4pm followed by Carol Service at 6.30 pm.

Friday 12th December at St Faith's A Variety Show 7.30pm Tickets £5

Saturday 13th December Fellowship Breakfast at Pott Row at 8.30 am

Saturday 13th December at St Faith's Big Heart and Soul Choir at 7.30pm Tickets £5

Saturday 13th December Terrington St Clements Christmas Coffee morning 10am to 1pm

12th to 15th December Second St Faith's Church Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 13th December Concert at Heacham 2.30pm

2015

Sunday January 4th Kings and Camels at Plantation Wood, Gaywood, 2pm

Saturday 10th January Fellowship Breakfast at Wimbotsham at 8.30 am

Saturday January 24th Terrington St Clements New Year's tea party from 2 to 4pm

Saturday 14th February Fellowship Breakfast at Southery at 8.30 am

Saturday 14th March Fellowship Breakfast at St. Germans at 8.30 am

Saturday 11th April Fellowship Breakfast at Downham at 8.30 am

Saturday 9th May Fellowship Breakfast at Marham at 8.30 am