

Rejoice!

FEBRUARY 2015



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

Just a thought,

A little late perhaps but I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year, and pray that 2015 will be all that you wish it to be. And secondly my thanks for all the support you have given Jill and me since our arrival. We have been blessed with new friends for whom we can truly thank God.

And in all our Churches we have much to thank God for and I could name many things, but it would be wrong of me in this letter not to concentrate on the heart breaking events that have happened recently in the world, especially what is happening in Syria and the terrorist attacks in Paris. For many this must seem like the end as Jesus foretold it, but for me it shows how cruel and selfish humankind can be and how, even more importantly, we as Christians need to get the message of Jesus out from our church doors and into our communities.

But in all honesty it must be churches and chapels together with synagogues, mosques and temples who must lead the way by showing that the only way to true peace is through God. How we have come to God creates its own problems though one day I do believe the path to Christ will become apparent to all. But until that time comes we must talk to each other, each faith finding a common ground and working towards a better world.

Are we prepared for that challenge? It is not an easy road to take, but if we are to learn anything from the slaughter of the innocents reading in Matthew 2: 16, it is that tyranny and hatred will not win. **“Love one another as I have loved you” said Jesus. “Love one another”** It is not rocket science, it is just holding out the hand of friendship to all.

So as we move forward into 2015 let us keep this commandment in our hearts and let us bring our own peace to a world, which though it may seem in darkness, the light of hope, of love and of peace which is Christ our Lord cannot and will not ever be extinguished.

Perhaps I look at things too simply sometimes, but I have much optimism for this world of ours. It is still a wonderful God given place and in the end it is to Him we can put our trust.

Steve

Praying together in the Circuit

Though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ,
and we are all joined to each other as parts of one body.

Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Romans 12: 5 & 11

Praying together for :-

Our ministers, serving and preaching week by week.

Our Circuit leadership team.

Our Circuit Churches worshipping, witnessing in love and dedication.

Congregations, each individual, their unique calling and ministry.

Worship leaders and local preachers.

Those whose gifts of music and singing enhance worship.

Ministry to children and young people and for their leaders.

Messy Church, Luncheon Clubs, Fellowship meals.

Mid-week fellowship meetings.

Bible study and prayer groups and personal prayer.

Pastoral care and sensitivity to those who need support.

Those who are unable to come to Church due to illness.

Hospital and home visitors.

For outreach in communities and schools, care homes.

Rejoice magazine. Administration. Safeguarding. Practical care.

Stewards and those who hold office in our churches.

For those who care for, clean and upkeep property and premises.

For all the preparation which goes on behind the scenes.

For our preparation for coming together in worship each week.

To have the awareness of coming into Your awesome presence
and expectation of You meeting with us.

Our drawing aside to listen and wait, to seek and ask.

Honouring your word. To be doers of the word and not just hearers.

To put faith into action.

To be open to the new things You want to do within us and amongst us.

Praise and worship to raise within us and glorify You.

Your Spirit, prompting, leading, transforming, equipping.

For the gifts and fruit of the Spirit shared in love.
For our faithfulness and our fruitfulness, for Your Glory.

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. For the family and friends of Les English, Peter Macey and Margaret Green as they mourn their loss.

For Marie as she struggles with her health issues and wonders what the future will bring.

Praying for the Circuit. We are not meeting at present,
waiting for new direction

Christian TV has been available since 5th January 2015. It can be found at TBNUK on Freeview Channel 65

Growing in God

We are a committee of 12 chaired by Andrew Maguire. We meet four times a year at different venues in the Circuit.

We have funds of £1,000 allocated to us each year. We use this money to purchase equipment like Wii games console, laptop and microphones. We also fund activities in the year, such as holiday clubs, visits and presentations. If you have any ideas for Circuit activities we would be very pleased to discuss them with you and bring them before the committee.

"Messy Church" is proving a popular way to reach the community. Families enjoy crafts, games scripture and food. A big thank you to all who help.

We hope to have a rota so that each Church can submit a report to Rejoice regarding their growth in God and their outreach to the community.

Every blessing,.

Linda Howling

DEACON JANET STAFFORD - INVOLVEMENT IN THE CIRCUIT

We are delighted that after conversations at the Circuit Leadership Team and with Janet and Maurice, Janet has agreed, from January 2015, to help as a member of our Circuit Staff Team in a diaconal role. At her request this will be on a "voluntary" basis. Janet's work will not normally be for more than two days a week and will be focussed on particular areas:

- Pastoral work at Hilgay including the conduct of some Sunday services in collaboration with Pauline Driver
- Representing Downham Market at Churches Together
- The conduct of some funeral services
- Pastoral links with new people and families at Downham Market
- Being Downham Market's Church support link with the Social Centre
- Pastoral links with new families in Downham Market Messy Church

We will review with Janet how things are going after Easter this year and anticipate that the arrangement will continue until the summer of 2016. We look forward to Janet working with us.

Andrew Maguire

THURSFORD SONGS OF PRAISE - SUNDAY 22ND MARCH

The Central Norfolk Circuit is organising a Songs of Praise Service at The Thursford Collection on Sunday 22nd March at 3.00 pm. This is a popular event with choir, band, organist and visiting preacher the Revd Mark Wakelin, former President of Conference. It should be an uplifting afternoon.

As a Circuit we in West Norfolk are planning to organise a coach to take people to this special event. The coach will pick up at Downham Market, King's Lynn and Heacham, leaving Downham Market at

12.15 pm, pick up in King's Lynn at London Road 12.45pm and Heacham Tesco at 1.10pm. Pay on the coach but if you ask for a seat to be reserved then payment must be met. The cost of the coach will be £8 per person.

We have reserved 40 tickets (which are free of charge), but it will be essential to have a ticket to gain admission. If you would like to have a ticket and join the coach then please contact Barbara Foster by 22nd February. Tel. 01553 811867. Email rabbit1308@btinternet.com.

Andrew Maguire

Methodist Women in Britain

Local Forthcoming Events 2015

1 Women's World Day of Prayer to be held on March 6th 2015 at:-

King's Lynn St. Margaret's Minster at 11.00am.

Downham Market Methodist Church at 2.30pm.

2 Easter Offering to be held at London Road Methodist Church, King's Lynn on May 20th 2015 at 2.30pm.

3 Autumn Rally to be held in October. Date and venue to be arranged.

4 A.G.M. at London Road Church on October 5th 2015 at 2.30pm.

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District Events 2015

1 Forum Meeting at Diss on February 20th 2015.

2 Spring District Day to be held at Chapelfield Road, Norwich on April 30th 2015

Speaker:- Linda Crossley (MWIB President).

3 Autumn District Day to be held at Diss. Date and speaker to be confirmed. This will include Heather's commissioning.

Further information on these District events will be given later.

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Latest news! MWiB - Day Conference 2015 will be held at Belsey Bridge Conference Centre, Ditchingham on Saturday 21st March 9.30 for 10.00am start; finishing at 4.15pm.

The leader for the day will be Rev Nicola Jones who some may remember as the daughter of Rev Dick and Kath Jones. Dick was at one time Chairman of District here. Included in the day there is a varied choice of workshops with free time and time for fellowship as well as lunch and afternoon tea. The total cost is £30 per person. If you are interested please contact Helen Maguire, Mary Uttin or me as soon as possible. Bookings must be in by 14th February.

Margaret Shelton

A Hymn for today's church?

We worship our building, though it is unsuitable;
Dated in outlook, tradition and form;
Cold in the summer and freezing in winter
Costing us thousands and we're still not warm.

We worship the hymn books, more ancient than modern;
Tattered and dusty, irrelevant too.
We like the 'Thee and Thou', no modern language now.
Do not disturb us with anything new.

We worship the pews; they are part of the furniture.
Do not remove them – the church will decline.
We've always sat here, ignoring the sermon,
Falling asleep at the relevant time.

We worship the organ with all its complexities:
Manuals and pedals and stops by the score.
If you replace it with something more suitable,
We, with some others, will walk out the door.

Oh, we are a witness to all who pass by us,
With our long faces and negative views.
We've no idea why our church is so empty –
There's plenty of spare room on our hard wooden pews.

(Tune: 'Was Lebet)

Around the churches



Hilgay

The Christmas Eve Service at Hilgay Methodist Church was taken by Reverend Maurice Stafford with readings and carols. The service was well attended and after the service there were welcome refreshments- tea, coffee, mince pies and biscuits, giving people time to have a friendly chat. Thanks to everyone who attended and to those who helped to make it a successful service. We at Hilgay would also like to thank all those, who have taken services at our Chapel or given us their support during 2014. We wish you well for 2015.

Gwen Dearsley

On Shrove Tuesday, 17th February, 2:30pm- 4pm Hilgay Guild will be having a 'Family Pancake Party'. Come along and join us for games and making and eating pancakes.

As this coincides with half-term week all ages are invited to make this a real family gathering at the beginning of Lent.

Pauline Driver

South Wootton

The giving and receiving of gifts is quite a usual practise at Christmas time, however the gift we at South Wootton received this year was a little out of the ordinary. On Advent Sunday Rev Catherine Dixon, on behalf of Church members, received the care of the Stained Glass Memorial Windows from the now closed West Lynn Chapel. One of these windows is an expression of the Sacrament with a Sheaf of Corn and Chalice in memory of a Communion Steward and the other an open Bible and a Dove in memory of a Preacher. In rededicating the windows thanks were given for all who had made the move possible. The membership at South Wootton is highly delighted with this special gift which really enhances the worship area. They are best seen during the day when the light makes them visible from the inside but also in the

hours of darkness when the church is in use, as the lights shine out enabling all who pass by in the lane behind the chapel and on the road in and out of King's Lynn to see them. At South Wootton we say we are a chapel on the edge of community and a beacon on the road. We now shine out as a Technicolor light in the darkness, look out for the windows as you pass by. Alternatively come in as we have a coffee morning the first Wednesday in the month (not January) at 10.00am and there are some Circuit Meetings held at South Wootton too; and of course for Sunday Services. Anyone is welcome to come and see them at these times or even ring a Steward and request a viewing.

Mary Uttin

London Road

The Cyberspace Minister

I am sure you have all heard about the Flying Doctor Service in Australia, well at London Road we can boast the Cyberspace Minister.

During Catherine's enforced domicile with ill health, thanks to the wonders of e mail she has transmitted services intact to Lesley Evans who has delivered them on Catherine's behalf.

This covered the Choir Christmas Music Sunday morning service on the 14th December and the Evening Carol service on the 21st. As Lesley was already scheduled to take the Morning CFS on 21st it has been a very busy time for her.

We are grateful to Andrew for taking the Midnight Communion Service on the 24th, while Lesley was able to have a more relaxing time playing the piano on the 28th when I led the CFS - "unsung Carols" service.

On the 1st Sunday of Christmas thoughts concentrate on the three visitors from the East. At London Road we didn't have three but two - they didn't ride camels or wear crowns - they were visitors from Hungary!!!!

The Launch Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was held at London Road on January 18th. The Service was led by Rev Catherine Dixon and the Sermon was preached by The Bishop of Lynn Rt. Rev Jonathan Meyrick.

The Inspiration for the service was from the Churches of Brazil, which was highlighted by the Bishop as one of his class mates from the "Baby" Bishops' classes he attended in Canterbury is now Archbishop of Brazil.

The large congregation at London Road experienced a challenging service with participation in prayers and readings by members of many churches around King's Lynn.

During the "Rocking" Bishop's inspirational sermon we were treated to a rendition of his latest release " All will turn out well", based on the words of

Mother Julian.

An offering for Christian Aid raised over £179.

Refreshments were provided by the ladies of London Road.

It is the first time I can remember that the launch service for the "Week Of Prayer for Christian Unity" has been held at London Road, but from the great support given to the service I am sure it will not be long before it is held at London Road again.

David Gifford

Downham Market

Intermittent odd days of wind and freezing fog have occurred in a period of cold but lovely sunny days, so we probably have the worst of the winter to come. Thankfully, therefore, the long awaited double glazing of the Church itself is taking place as I write this and we should all be a lot warmer when the really bad weather does come. We have already noticed the difference in the rest of our premises and look forward to a warmer Church. We still have to beaver away raising funds to pay off a loan to cover this last stage of the work but at least our heating will not be wasted in future and our Sunday services will be more comfortable for us mature folk with stiff joints.

At a recent Churches Together meeting it was reported that 40 Christmas hampers were distributed with at least one Christmas card received giving sincere thanks as well as verbal thanks. The hamper fund was rather low just before purchasing took place but with many generous donations and the collections from our three carol sings at Tesco's the bill was covered. Our Treasurer has set us a target of £1,000 for next year (a hamper costs approx. £30) and it is hoped to raise funds well in advance. The food bank continues to be desperately needed. Between April and December 266 people (inc 87 children) were helped, with almost 3 tons of food being donated from Churches, schools and the local community. Many people were in difficulties because their circumstances had changed and their benefits were delayed; some were simply on low incomes. King's Lynn food bank is open every day, while ours at Downham Market has two sessions, 12.30 to 2.30 on Tuesdays and 10.30 to 12.30 on Fridays. More volunteers to help are always welcome as the staff likes to talk to folk on an individual basis and sometimes there are quite a few clients in at once. Contact Alex on 1336 384474 if you feel called to help in this way.

A Christian Aid service is planned for Sunday 10th May at 6.30 p.m. at St Peters, Stow Bridge. As it was becoming difficult to get a sufficient number of volunteers to cover all local roads distributing and collecting envelopes, it was

suggested that Churches should try some other way of raising funds, a shared lunch after a morning service perhaps.

Our Messy Church sessions go from strength to strength and recently the 8th event took place with the theme of Jesus the Light of the World. The children made lanterns, stained glass windows, light cards and glittery stars, which was followed by a short service focused on the sayings of Jesus. After this they shared in a light meal with lots of chat and hilarity. It has been wonderful to see children from Messy Church coming regularly on a Sunday morning, and we are grateful to Hazel and John and all their helpers for their work in this outreach of our Church as they try to help others experience the love of God. Our weekly Saturday coffee mornings continue to be a regular meeting place for fellowship, with a warm place to enjoy a hot drink and homemade cakes while perhaps picking up a bargain from the bric a brac stall or a good book from our extensive range. I am just bringing in a few house plants at the moment as it's not gardening weather, but hope to have some hyacinths, tulips and daffodils potted up soon to brighten the coming winter days. Roll on the Spring when I can get outside again under the shelter of the gazebo and sell to passers by as well as sending some in to the coffee morning and making new friends. It is so rewarding when someone thanks me for a plant bought some years ago which is thriving well in their garden. Do come and join us on a Saturday morning, officially 10.00 to 12.00 but folk arrive well before 10.00. Bric a brac is always needed and volunteers to help always welcome.

Now that the Christmas decorations are all packed away with just memories of the lovely services, the old familiar message and carols we've enjoyed, we turn our minds to preparations for Easter, working very hard at choir practices. There are some preparations for Lent House Groups in the pipeline. One will be held at the Rectory at Wimbotsham commencing on Monday 23rd February at 7.30 p.m. following the York course. Please let Rev. Karen know if you wish to attend so that books can be ordered. (01366 384342)

I wish everyone a happy, healthy, germ free New Year. (germ free as grandchildren do seem not only to pass these bugs around school but also to bring them home.)

Joan Macey

February 8th 6.30pm Back to the 90s Praise Service, a chance to sing many of the Worship songs we sang in the 90s, + Pray and Testimony, led by Reg and Mary Rose.

Social Centre: Because of the retirement of one of our cooks we have a vacancy for one day a week for a cook on Wednesdays and to cover for present cook's holidays. This is a permanent paid position.

Mary Rose 01366382593.

Ladies Friendship Circle - Happy New Year to everyone. We return on Wednesday 11th February with a visit from Andy Malcolm, our friend from the Deep Sea Fishermen's Mission. Then on 25th February we welcome Mr John Hobden with a talk on Railways.

We look forward to another interesting year and welcome new members. We meet in the Function room at 7.30pm.

Several of our members have been poorly during the last few weeks and I wish them all well and hope to see them back.

Margaret Fox

Stanhoe

Christmas was celebrated at Stanhoe with a blaze of colour and beautiful, seasonal flower and plant arrangements by our gifted member, Sushila Russell, plus a Christmas tree and advent candles supplied in another charming arrangement, by Valerie Shackcloth. We enjoyed our annual Carol Service, conducted by Rev. Stephen Oliver, on the morning of 14th December, following which we served mince pies and hot drinks, and took a retiring collection, which was made up from church funds to £125.00, and donated to St. Martin's Trust, Norwich, which cares for homeless people across Norfolk. It was inspiring to have a nearly full church, including three children. Some of us joined with Burnham Market for their Carol service on Christmas Eve, and this was followed by a short service on Christmas Day, unfortunately not so well attended! We are looking forward to our joint Covenant Service at Burnham Market on 18th January, which will be conducted by Rev. Stephen Oliver.

All of our services are enhanced by our organist, John Loose, and we were very sad for him, and his family, after his wife, Margaret, died in November.

We were sad, too, to lose Ann Davidson, who died on 14th December. She was in her late eighties and had worshipped regularly with us for several years, although not a member, until a recent admission into Dorrington House Care Home. She was a very charming and gracious Scottish lady, and we shall miss her.

Elizabeth MacLeod

St Faith's

Although you will be reading this St Faith's Church article in February, I feel it is worth stepping back to December for a short reflection on the St Faith's Christmas Tree Festival.

From comments made by our many visitors, the Tree Festival was considered a great success and it meant different things to different people. One of the most pleasing aspects was the numbers of "new" faces the event attracted. From the official opening evening, performed by the Rev James Stewart, Chaplain to the Lord Bishop of Norwich, there was a wonderful, friendly family atmosphere running through the four-day event with people taking a keen interest in more than 30 decorated and illuminated trees that were on show. It was clear that school pupils, people in church groups and charities had taken a lot of time and trouble in making their decorations and dressing their trees. New to the Festival this year was the talented work of St Faith's Craft Group, a team of ladies who joined together at Gaywood Rectory to make an amazing selection of hand-made Christmas crafts, many of which sold like "hot cakes". Of course, events on this scale don't just happen and thanks are expressed to the work of the organising team of which I am the chair, and to Nick Roberts, John Woodford, Susie Crank-Page, Adrienne Dean and Zoe Callendar. The team was greatly supported by St Faith's ministry team and numerous individuals who helped in all sorts of ways to contribute to such a successful event of outreach to the community.

Our thanks go to all those who took part, including those who sang, played instruments or read at our two evening concerts, particularly singer Charlotte Rendall and members of the Castle Acre based Big Heart and Soul Choir. Sincere thanks are expressed to our generous sponsors, East Coast Storage of Clenchwarton, Tesco at Gaywood and Homepage at Lynn.

St Faith's Anglican and Methodist Church is delighted to be welcoming the Bishop of Lynn, the Rt Rev Jonathan Meyrick, to our morning worship on Sunday, 1st February, starting at 9.45am. The Bishop, who is also known as the "Rockin' Bishop", will preach the sermon and, who knows, he may even give us a song or two.

Bishop Jonathan, after the service, will also join church members at a lunch of soup and cake in the Church Rooms. People will have an opportunity to chat to the Bishop about his work covering the West of Norfolk.

Bishop Jonathan is also due to return to Gaywood on 4th February when he will spend time visiting various groups and organisations in the parish.

One of the longest serving members of St Faith's Choir, Olwyn Barber, celebrated her 80th birthday on January 24th and to mark the occasion the choir members, clergy and friends took Mrs Barber out for afternoon tea. Mrs Barber, of Gaywood, joined St Faith's Choir when she was a 12-year-old schoolgirl which means she has now been helping to lead the worship in the same choir for an amazing 68 years. Our warmest congratulations are sent to Olwyn, a wonderful example of faithful and dedicated service to God and His people in Gaywood.

Members of St Faith's Fabric Committee (which looks after the maintenance of the church building) and the grants committee have been working on a grant application for up to £100,000 (to be awarded for church roof repairs) from the £15 million which the government is making available across the country for churches that are listed as being of particular architectural and historic importance. We wish them good luck in their efforts and our prayers are with them.

St Faith's Prayer Shawl Ministry is celebrating its fifth birthday. Since its inception, more than 600 shawls and scarves have been knitted and given to people, at home and overseas, who are unwell or in need of support and prayer. The Prayer Shawl Group has a membership of 14 church members. When a new batch of shawls has been knitted they are taken to St Faith's Church and blessed during the service. The concept of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is that they surround people who are unwell, or in need, with the warmth, love and prayers of the church.

New members are always welcome and anyone interested in this wonderful ministry is asked to contact the St Faith's Church office on 01553 774916 (weekdays between 9am and 12 noon) for more details.

The latest in the monthly coffee mornings in Gaywood Church Rooms will be held on 7th February starting at 10.30am. These sessions of coffee (or tea) and chat are proving very popular. Donations of home-made cakes and prizes for the raffle are always welcome. Please contact St Faith's Church office on 01553 774916 (weekdays between 9am and 12 noon) for more details.

Richard Parr

(Connie Cleps and I visited an elderly friend of ours in Feltwell and she had her shawl right by her. Mine is also to hand in the bedroom. I'm lucky enough to have two as I have a Downham Market one as well! Ed)

Terrington St Clement

At our MWIB meeting on 12th November Janet Mason came to speak to us. Her theme was "Questions and Answers". Jesus asked a total of 135 questions in the Bible, his answers often turning the tables on the questioners.

Then on 24th November Eileen Spurgeon welcomed her daughter Ruth Hannay to speak to us about presents and gifts; a popular theme in the festive season. She included the most important gift of all Jesus, the reason for the season.

Our Christmas Network was a variety of readings and songs by Helen Maguire and Margaret Smith. Two birthdays were celebrated, Rev. Dianne Hare and Margaret Smith.

We held our Christmas Coffee Morning on 13th December.

There were stalls, a raffle and games. One of the games was bagatelle, always very popular. Coffee, mince pies and cream were served and a light lunch of soup and crusty bread. A good time was had by all and the total raised for our Church was £334.50; a big thank you for all who helped and supported the event.

Our Christmas Day Service was led by Rev. Andrew Maguire. We showed our presents to the congregation and Helen Maguire organised a pass the parcel. Each wrapper revealed a sweet and a character from the nativity, which the person who had unwrapped it had to mime. The character was added to the picture on the screen. As the game progressed it became easier to guess who the figure was.

Our CAT Youth group:

We had games, a Wii, then bible readings and a hymn. Ali Norman organised a game which got the young people thinking about their priorities in life and what was important to them. Wendy Murray organised "How many words can you get from the letters of CHILDREN IN NEED. Nicholas Powell found the most words. In total £40 was raised and sent to Children in Need. Very well done. "Put the baby to bed" completed the evening.

The collection we had at our Church raised £175.85 for Action for Children. This was comprised of our Christmas Day collection, money given instead of cards, Network and Junior Church collections.

Linda Howling

Pott Row

Christmas Tree Display

As I arrived at the Chapel to look at the recent Christmas tree display I saw, in the entrance, a beautiful arrangement of greenery and lilies which reminded me of Jesus' greeting, "Peace". Opening the door I saw the trees – a stunning tableau of light and colour!

I wondered at the work and concentration of so many ideas. What a nice idea the decorator had in mind for the children's tree, which was so different. Some trees had flashing lights to draw our attention, like the gold coloured tree and the one with red lights flashing. Many trees had Nativity groups at their base. Each tree was designed differently but all had the same Christmas outlook.

Moving past the prayer tree towards the stage, where the long steps were decorated with pine, greenery and snow effects, there were candles placed at intervals to be lit later.

The Advent wreath was there next to the carved Nativity scene.

And then what a surprise. The pulpit had been turned around and displayed a crib scene inside. The figures were knitted, with expressive faces. Little bells were hung to complete the scene. Beside the pulpit was a pine tree= simple but how effective.

“I am here again!” the little silver tree in the middle of the stage seemed to cry! And the tree dressed by the Craft Club looked very grand, with hand made items all in white.

Another tree was hung with unusual and interesting decorations = amazing what can be done with milk carton lids!

Standing next to the organ was a “telegraph pole” with six different sized arms with various decorations hanging down.

The organ was not forgotten as lights were hung around its top.

Keeping watch over the basket flower arrangement was a beautiful angel with large wings.

I then went into the schoolroom, where there were cakes and light refreshments and each table had a Christmas decoration.

By now it was getting dark and the lights in the Chapel were switched on. Oh, what a delightful sight!

It was then that the full splendour of the trees could be seen.

Christmas had begun.

Sunday Evening Carol Service.

Each year this service is special in that it is attended by representatives from local groups who take part in the reading of the Christmas story. Rev.

Catherine Dixon led the service during which she read two poems, one of which was “Mary, did you know?” - very moving.

The well known carols were sung with gusto, finishing with “Hark the Herald Angels” and it was time for home.

Saturday Fellowship Breakfast

I arrived early and was met by an amazing sight.

There was a long table set with plates and napkins, decorated for Christmas.

We said Grace and cheerful chat and eating were soon underway.

Then devotions. Catherine had brought her dog, her unexpected Advent guest.

Preparations had not been made as her guest was completely unexpected.

But how welcome. He fitted in to the family and was obviously a very happy chap! We are able to prepare for Christ and let him make his home with us.

Then “Goodbye”, “Happy Christmas”. See you next year!

Bill Hone

Fakenham Choral Society invites you to a *Come And Sing Day*, Faure Requiem, directed by Janet Kelsey, in aid of Tapping House Hospice, on Saturday 28th February 2015. Everyone is welcome. Workshops are in Fakenham Community centre; Cost: Singers £10.00; students £5.00. Performance (admission free) at Fakenham Parish Church at 6pm. Details and booking forms can be obtained from www.fakenhamchoralsociety.co.uk or contact Rosemary Dear at dear_brian@hotmail.com or on 01328 851776.

Thank you

Elizabeth Macleod



Any items for the **MARCH** edition should be with the editor by **FEBRUARY 12th**, earlier if possible. Don't forget to check that your email has arrived.

Mrs Barbara Foster
140 Stow Road
Magdalen, King's Lynn
PE34 3BD
Tel. 01553 811867
E mail rabbit1308@btinternet.com

Pastoral Carers' Day

Saturday March 7th

Coffee 9.30am for 10am start

At

Hunstanton Methodist Centre

Theme:

'Joy' in Pastoral Visiting

Led by Mrs Julia Warnes

A light lunch will be provided

ALL ARE WELCOME

Please notify Phyllis Bowman if you would
like to attend

01553 671288

Coffee Morning,
with
Quiz
for
Action for Children
Saturday
21st February
10 a.m. – 12 noon
at
Downham Market
Methodist Church

Answers to Quiz will be given at 11.00am

Quizzes can be obtained in advance from:

Sheila Forth 01945 772501

Audrey Jones 01366 388264

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary February 2015 onwards

Sunday 8th February Praise Service at Downham Market at 6.30pm

Saturday 14th February Fellowship Breakfast at Southery at 8.30am

Saturday 21st February Action for Children Coffee Morning at Downham Market from 10 – noon

Friday 6th March Women's World day of Prayer

St Margaret's Minster King's Lynn 11am

Downham Market Methodist Church at 2.30pm

Saturday 7th March Pastoral Carers Day at Hunstanton at 9.30

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

Saturday 21st March MWiB Day Conference at Belsey Bridge starting 9.30am

Sunday 22nd March Songs of Praise at Thursford

Saturday 11th April Fellowship Breakfast at Downham at 8.30am

Saturday 9th May Fellowship Breakfast at Marham at 8.30am