

Rejoice!

December 2015/January 2016



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

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time of celebration, but also a time of great contrasts. As we prepare to celebrate many of us feel moved to give a little more generously to charity than we normally do. We may well find groups like Round Table and Rotary out and about celebrating but also collecting. If we are fortunate enough to enjoy “plenty” at Christmas then we may be moved to give to support those who do not enjoy such good fortune. This year that sense of contrast may be all the greater as we remember refugees fleeing from Syria and other war-torn countries.

It could be said that Christmas has been a time of contrasts right from the beginning. At its heart Christmas is about Jesus coming from unutterable glory and immersing himself in the complex and untidy life of humanity in the form of a tiny, vulnerable baby. This contrast, this great mystery and wonder has been the source of astonishment and amazement from the earliest days.

The opening chapter of the Gospel of John has those memorable words: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory.

A sermon probably preached in the fourth century says:

For the miracle strikes me senseless. The Ancient of days has become a child, He who sits on a high and lofty throne is placed in a manger, ...and is embraced by human hands. He who tore the bonds of sin asunder is entwined in swaddling-clothes.

A Pope from the fifth century wrote:

He whom nothing could contain was content to be contained. The humility of manhood and the loftiness of the Godhead both meet there. The infancy of a babe is shown in the lowly nature of the cradle: the greatness of the Most High is proclaimed by the angels' voices. The one whom Herod treacherously tries to kill is like us when we were small babies; but the one whom the Magi delight to worship on their knees is the Lord of all.

Charles Wesley, the great eighteenth century hymn writer so loved by Methodist people, has these words in one of his hymns:

Our God contracted to a span incomprehensibly made man.

It sounds utterly amazing and incredible, so much so that some people are tempted to think it is all nonsense. But, utterly amazing and incredible as it may be, it has fascinated and inspired people for over 2,000 years, and millions live by the faith that it is true. So what does it mean if it is true? Just two thoughts from so many that could be shared.

First, we rejoice that humanity has been touched with the glory of God. If the Magi found God in a baby in a manger in Bethlehem then perhaps we too will sometimes find God In the most unlikely, unexpected and humble of places. May we have eyes to see.

Second, If God in his great love crossed apparently impossible boundaries in such an incredible way then maybe we too should be ready to reach out the hand of love in surprising ways and across boundaries which at first sight we would not dream of crossing.

What a contrast there is between a drab and colourless world where everybody looks in on themselves and a world touched with the glory of God where the hand of love reaches out across boundaries.

Thank God that in the baby Jesus He crossed the boundary between heaven and earth and filled the earth with his glory.

A joyful Christmas to you all.

Andrew Maguire

BETHLEHEM COMMUNION

Eagle-eyed readers of the plan will have noticed that on Christmas Eve at London Road the midnight communion service is taking place at 9.30pm. We have decided this year to have a 'Bethlehem Communion' - timing our service to coincide with the arrival of Christmas in Bethlehem itself. Thankfully we are two hours behind the Holy Land not two hours ahead, which means our service will begin at 9.30pm and at 10pm we will celebrate the arrival of Christmas in the place of Jesus' birth. All are very welcome to join us for this special celebration as we welcome the Christ-child once more. The service will be led by our minister, the Rev. Catherine Dixon.

Praying together in the Circuit

BEHOLD a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Matthew 1: 23

And Mary said, **BEHOLD** the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. Luke 1: 38
And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, **BEHOLD**, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Luke 2: 10

BEHOLD - look, see, observe, contemplate, take it in, feast your eyes upon, don't miss this .. it's remarkable!

The word 'behold' occurs many times in the King James Bible [and some other versions] to draw our attention to what is being said.

BEHOLD, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

BEHOLD, your King.

BEHOLD, I stand at the door and knock.

Our prayer this Advent and Christmastime is for eyes to be opened to **behold** the truth of who Jesus is. To catch the splendour of God's life changing, gift to us - **JESUS**, Emmanuel, God with us. First beholding, then believing, then becoming a new creation in Christ.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we **BEHELD** his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1: 14

May we never lose sight of the wonder of our glorious Lord.

O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord.

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. the people of Paris and all of France and those affected by the carnage.

SANKEY AFTERNOON

On Sunday October 11th a Sankey Songs of Praise was held at Highgate Chapel; ten songs with Jenny Sargent providing the music. It all reminded me of Sunday School. Nostalgia reigned! It was just great.

One line of Rescue the Perishing reminded me of our Pastoral obligations; Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying, - a bit Victorian to some but I loved it all, lively tunes, true words, then a lovely banquet of tea and cakes.

Rev Catherine Dixon did well to arrange the whole service.

Bill Barber was so looking forward to it but he had a spell in the QE.

If ever another afternoon can be arranged I hope more can be there. Lift us all up. IT WAS GREAT!!

Phyllis Bowman

King's Lynn Coordinator Needed

Christian Aid co-ordinator role

The role of the Christian Aid co-ordinator is one of oversight and support, and is an extremely enjoyable role where you are able to meet with people from the various church communities under the umbrella of Churches Together in King's Lynn.

As Christian Aid co-ordinator you will need to order the materials needed for Christian Aid week which takes place in May every year, and co-ordinate the collection of the resources with the various representative co-ordinators from each church community, and liaise closely with the Churches Together Treasurer, Mike Brown, who deals with all of the money side of things. The co-ordinator's role is to make sure that all runs smoothly and that money collected goes directly to Mike Brown. Be encouraged though because you will be working alongside people with lots of experience and the wonderful support of Julian Bryant in Norwich. The important thing is to remember to have fun, and to remember that everything you are doing is going to help some of the most impoverished people of the world.

Rev Zoe Ferguson

revcdixon@gmail.com or 01553 676918

Churches Together in King's Lynn.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2016

Monday 18th to Monday 25rd January 2016.

Theme: Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord (1 Peter 2:9).

Monday 18th January: The London Road Methodist Church, King's Lynn
PE30 5PU: Rev. Catherine Dixon: **12.30-13.00hrs.**

Tuesday 19th January: King's Lynn Baptist Church, Wisbech Rd, South Lynn,
PE30 5JS; Pastor Kevan Crane: **12.30-13.00hrs.**

Wednesday 20th January: Salvation Army, Wellesley St, King's Lynn, PE30
1QD.

Major Barbara Jeffery: **12.30-13.00hrs**

Thursday 21st January: North Lynn Methodist Church, St Edmundsbury Rd.
King's Lynn. PE30 2DH. Rev. Andrew Maguire: **12.30-1300hrs.**

Friday 22nd January: King's Lynn Minster, 16 Church St, King's Lynn PE30
5EB. Canon Christopher Ivory: **12.30-1300hrs.**

Saturday 23rd January: The Orthodox Church at Saint Felix Chapel,
Babingley

Sunday 24th January. St Faith's Church, Gayton Rd, King's Lynn PE30 4DZ.
Led by the Rev. Dale Gingrich, Preacher John Myhill of the Society of
Friends: **15.00-16.00hrs.**

Monday 25th January: The Sacred Space, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital,
Gayton Road, King's Lynn, PE30 4ET. **12.30 - 13.00hrs.**

Pastoral Day at London Road

A time to keep silence and a time to speak.....

More than 40 people attended the day which was led by Jackie Smith, a textile artist and MIND supporter. The day was devoted to mental health issues. Jackie has a great knowledge and interest in mental health as her daughter Caroline, now in her 30s, has had mental health problems since childhood.

Jackie told us about her daughter; she is a lovely girl, the nicest, kindest person, with a degree in sociology and psychology, yet suffers most dreadfully.

Jackie said her aim was to raise the profile of mental illness. She wanted to help people understand the best way of dignifying those with mental health problems. There is still a stigma attached to mental illness. People don't like to say they are mentally ill because they are afraid of a negative reaction.

During the day there was group work, role play and discussion about the best way to handle various situations.

Jackie is a great supporter of MIND, which she considers does excellent work. She thinks mental health is the poor relation and needs more money spent on it.

She had her impressive textiles on display. The most striking was a vast, threatening, black monster, in the middle of which was a mother gently cradling a child with its head down. Jackie had made the monster for Caroline, who had told her she felt she had a great black beast pressing on her and around her from which there seemed to be no escape. Until Caroline feels able to hold up her head Jackie is there to support her. The symbolism was very moving. The textiles hanging round the room were all very moving in their beauty.

Telling her audience how best to support people with mental health problems and help them feel more positive about them, Jackie said, "Listen. Don't talk too much."

The important lesson was in Ecclesiastes.....a time to keep silent and a time to speak.

Some comments;

Jackie wasn't trying to make us into mental health workers but instead give us an improved understanding of mental well being.

I was moved by the expression of such deeply personal spiritual reflections in the beautiful works of art.

This was an excellent day with a very good speaker. I admired her vision in saying such things.

All attending came away with a greater empathy and urge to help others towards more understanding of mental illness and the fellowship obtained by meeting others from around the Circuit.

Hilary Scase

EASTER PRAISE: SAVE THE DATE!!

On Saturday 2nd April 2016 there will be a circuit service in the afternoon at London Road to celebrate Easter.

More details to follow – watch this space!

ASH WEDNESDAY

On Ash Wednesday (10th February) there will be a service at London Road at 7pm led by the Rev. Catherine Dixon. All are welcome to come and mark the beginning of Lent and our journey with Jesus to the cross and then the joy of Easter.

SANKEY AFTERNOON

The next Sankey Songs of Praise service at Highgate will be on Sunday 28th February at 3pm. All very welcome. Please let Catherine know if there is a hymn you would like included.

ADVENT COURSE

At South Wootton we are “walking backwards to Christmas” on our Advent course. All are welcome to join us for one session or all. A time of prayer and reflection in this busy season.

Tuesdays, 10.30am 1st, 8th, 15th December.

LENT COURSE

Looking ahead to Lent, we will be reflecting on “The Things He Said” – sayings of the risen Jesus – at South Wootton.

Around the churches



Tuesdays, 10.30am, 9th, 16th, 23rd Feb 1st, 8th, 15th March

North Lynn

The Church was buzzing with excitement at the end of Half Term week when 12 members of the 11th (St. Edmunds King's Lynn) Guides and Brownies gathered for a 'sleepover' on the Friday and Saturday nights.

With the theme 'I'm a Guide Get Me Out of Here!' the leaders made everyone enjoy themselves with many different craft, exploring and learning opportunities. They especially liked the new jungle names for what they ate – baked beans were 'beetles' and spaghetti hoops became 'belly buttons'!

Naturally they really liked the Friday 'Take-Away' options – Chinese, Chips or Pizza.

On Sunday morning they were invited to join the congregation for a 'Parade Service' which began with the Guides processing in with their colours. Everyone really appreciated seeing the young people in church, altogether there were over 40 worshippers. The service was led by Rev. Becca Rogers who kindly wove their theme into the story of the cure of the blind beggar named Bartimaeus. We were impressed with how the Guides listened and took part in the service telling us of their weekend and how they too had discussed how we can go to the help of those in need.

We finished with coffee served by the Guides and hope that we can welcome them again in the very near future.

Our next big service will be the 52nd anniversary celebration on November 29th to be led by Rev. Andrew Maguire and Rev. Becca Rogers. A celebratory lunch will follow.

We also have our Christmas plans well advanced with our Advent services and then a community Carol Service on December 20th.

Neville Posnett

Stow Bridge

It was good to see Rev. Chris Bishop and his wife at our Harvest Festival on October 4th. He led our thanksgiving service, giving us plenty to think about. We appreciated his visit and say thank you. We departed after tea and lovely cakes and we give our thanks for the spread that the ladies provided.

A frustrated man in a Christmas queue said, "I'd like to kill the man who invented Christmas." Another customer looked him in the eye and said, "They did."

Christmas is a time of good will. Commercial pressure has spoilt it and sadly we must all take a little bit of blame.

Christmas begins with Christ. We are all invited by our local Church notices to attend the Carol service and as we sing and enjoy the lovely carols we all learn a lot about Jesus Christ.

Almost everyone sings carols at Christmas. "See amid the winter snow, born for us on earth below. See the Lamb of God appears, promised from eternal years."

A great message from the carols. We pray for a world at one, that fighting and greed may cease.

Good tidings of Great Joy to you and all mankind.

Merry Christmas.

Peter Hewitt

All Peter and Jean's friends from the old Bethesda and St Peter's would like to congratulate them on celebrating their Diamond Wedding on 27th October. All their friends from around the Circuit add their love and best wishes too.

Terrington St Clement

We will have our Christmas Coffee Morning on December 5th from 10am to 1pm, usual stalls raffle etc. Soup and a roll and mince pie with cream will be served. Everyone is welcome.

The MWiB [Network] rally at Clenchwarton was led by Phyllis Bowman and Mary Uttin with the theme of "Pilgrimage". Thanks for the lovely tea afterwards. Rev. Andrew Maguire and Helen showed slides of "Sicily" where they went in April and at the next meeting and told us of the amazing mosaics.

We are hoping to repeat last years successful New Years Party on January 23rd at 2.30pm. Once again everyone is welcome to join us.

New Beginnings has started to study the book "Good and Beautiful God", which is proving very interesting.

Linda Howling

Downham Market

Ladies' Friendship Group

Our October meetings went well.

On December 2nd Dave Flowers is coming to talk about the new Heritage Centre. December 16th is our Christmas evening. Rev. Maurice Stafford is coming to entertain us and a Buffet supper will be served.

Everyone is welcome

We restart on the 3rd February 2016.

Happy Christmas to you all

Margaret Fox

The weather-forecasters did get it wrong in their forecast for snow at the end of October, although we did have a cold spell. Now, having got out the thermals and packed away light clothing, it has turned warmer again and more like early spring. We have had a very busy month at church. One event was the Light Party when children of all ages with twenty eight accompanying adults joined in the disco, craft session, games and especially the food. The young mums are now meeting on Monday mornings from 10am-11am for coffee and fellowship. So if you know of any young mum coping with young children who would like some adult company of like minded folk, do let her know that she would be very welcome.

On the following Sunday Janet explained to the youngsters that Halloween was originally a Christian Festival, being the Eve of All Hallows, Hallow meaning holy, as in the Lord's prayer. This is a time when we remember the saints, ordinary practising Christians who are no longer with us. When the children had left for their own worship we then had candles lit to remember our own loved ones. It was a very moving and rather difficult service to get through for many of us.

Our weekly coffee mornings continue but at this busy time of the year there have been alternatives of two Craft Fairs, when again we welcomed many folk to our premises and helped our Church Treasurer balance the books, and an Action for Children event. Our thanks to Win Mears for all she has done over the years to organise the Craft Fairs. On 28th November we shall be holding our Christmas Fair and the gazebo will be needed, suitably decorated, for the Minister's vestry, which becomes Father Christmas' Grotto. I shall miss being outside during the coffee mornings and the regular customers who come, sometimes not to buy plants but just for a chat, so many of us are living alone now. However, even though the purchase of my cottage has still not gone through, with the owner's permission, I have stripped the tiny garden of plants,

the builders would have flattened anyway, and now have several hundred pots with bare roots and bulbs resting through the winter waiting for the miracle of Spring, when everything will come to life again.

At the last meeting of Churches together, it was reported that forty two hampers are going to be distributed this Christmas. The Rev Judith Grundy is appealing for shoe boxes which she and her daughter will be taking to Calais on 29th December for the Children of Calais Charity. (see their website). Contact Judith on 01366 383226 if you can help.

Our social centre is in need of more volunteers to help with the morning refreshments and lunches, even just to chat to the folk who come in both for food and company. Contact our minister Maurice 01366 388766 for details. As part of the Downham Dementia Friendly Initiative, there is now a Dementia Friendly Cafe in our social centre on the fourth Monday of each month, from 10am – 1pm. Contact Richard Ehlers 01366 388830 for details. There will be a service for Christian Unity at St Dominic's on 24th January at 6.30pm, all are welcome.

Now we prepare for the busy Season of Advent with our anti-dote to all the commercialism with lots of lovely music as well as the distribution of Christmas Hampers and our Christmas Day Lunch. This lunch is for people who would otherwise be alone and there is limited transport available from the immediate environs of Downham. Please phone Janet Roust who is organising this lunch on 01366 383233 if you would like to book a place.

Churches Together will sing carols at Tesco on 4th December and again on 11th December, raising money for the Hampers, soon to be distributed. Our Church Choir Concert is on the 5th December and Downham Market Singers Concert is on Tuesday 15th December at 7.30pm in our Church. Do come if you can. Apart from the lovely music we are preparing we have quite a reputation for the refreshments we provide. Then our Church Choir will be entertaining the residents of Ashville House on 23rd December.

The next edition of Rejoice will be in February, by which time we will hopefully be through a major part, if not the worst, of the winter weather and Spring not too far away. A very happy, healthy, peaceful Christmas to you all.

Joan Macey

Pott Row

A Reminder to see the many Decorated Christmas Trees at Pott Row Methodist Church at the Christmas Tree Festival on the following Dates and Times

Open Friday December 4th 10 am to 4pm

Saturday December 5th 10am to 4pm

Sunday December 6th 2pm to 4pm

And on Sunday 6th there will be a Carol Service at 6.30 pm, Led by Rev. Catherine Dixon

Jenny Baker

St Faith's

At St Faith's Anglican and Methodist Church our preparations for the great festival of Christmas....."Come Thou Long Expected Jesus...." begin on 29th November, the first Sunday of Advent, when there will be a 6.30pm service with Carols for Advent.

Special Taize services will be held at South Wootton Methodist Church each Sunday during Advent starting at 5pm. Everyone is welcome to these lovely services that combine prayer, devotion, music and periods of silence as we prepare for the Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the humble surroundings of a stable in Bethlehem.

On 13th December, at 9.45am, there will be the annual Gift service. This is a popular service when the congregation is invited to bring with them a gift (unwrapped, please) suitable for a boy or girl under the age of 12. The gifts, which are blessed by the clergy during the service, are then given to representatives of the Vancouver Children's Centre and are distributed to less fortunate children in the Gaywood area. It is hoped that many children will attend this service which may include a puppet show.

The ancient church of St Faith takes on a magical look on 20th December at 6.30pm when the popular Carols by Candlelight service is held. People are advised to get there in good time because it is usually well-attended.

Christmas Eve, as in many other parish churches, is a busy time at St Faith's. This year, starting at 3.30pm (please note the time) there is to be a combined Christingle and Crib Service. This is traditionally a lovely way to begin Christmas celebrations as prayers are expressed before the Nativity figures gathered within the main altar.O, Come let us Adore Him....."

Our prayers and thoughts are firmly focused on the birth of Jesus Christ as we gather for the 11.15pm (please note the start time) Midnight Communion. The service of the first Communion of Christmas is being led by St Faith's Curate, the Rev Zoe Ferguson. There is always a feeling of excited anticipation as worshippers gather for this service and afterwards leave the warmth of the church and make their way home in the cold night air.....

There is an early opportunity to take Communion on Christmas morning with a 9am service of Communion with Carols. Later, at 10.0am, there is a Family Service and children are encouraged to take along their favourite toy they have received.

The Bishop of Lynn, the Rt Rev Jonathan Meyrick, has made a number of visits to Gaywood in recent years and he will be leading an Anglican Communion service at 9.45am on 27th December. Please note that there is NO 6.30 evening service on this day.

The following day, 28th December, there is to be an open-air service in Plantation Wood starting at 2pm. More details are available by speaking to Daphne Sampson or contacting the Church Office on 01553 774916.

The clergy team at St Faith's, together with warden and stewards, wish everyone a peaceful and happy Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year.

The details of the post of the new Rector of Gaywood, to succeed Canon Beryl Wood, who retired in August, were due to be advertised during December with interviews of the short listed candidates, being held towards the end of January.

A small team of clergy and laity have been working hard putting together the new Parish Profile (the details of the vacancy, including job description) and it is hoped that we will be able to make an appointment in the first few months of 2016 with the new Rector arriving by early summer 2016.

Richard Parr

Dersingham

Arrangements for the Christmas season are well in hand starting with our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 28th November from 10am to 1.30pm. There will be stalls, coffees, teas and light lunches. Profits will be divided equally between the charity Sense and church funds.

We shall again be decorating a Christmas tree to be displayed in the Parish Church for their Christmas Tree Festival, this time with decorated stars on which a prayer, favourite carol or verse has been written. The usual monthly lunch will take place on Monday 7th December and will be preceded by the singing of carols. Carols by candlelight will take place this year a little earlier, at **4pm**, not 6pm, on Sunday 20th December and it will be followed by tea or coffee and mince pies. This year we shall also be having a communion service on Christmas Eve at **11.30pm**, a lovely way to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. The Christmas Day service will be at 10.30am and both of these services will be lead by our own minister Rev. Steve Oliver. In the New Year we shall have to wait a while before we can make our annual Covenant as Steve will by taking Covenant services at his other Churches in early January! Our Covenant service, therefore, will take place on Sunday 24th January at 10.30am.

Rosemary Caink

Chicken Foot

Following a request by the editor to know more about this event which takes place at Dersingham every two months Rene Hayward has written the following instructions:

Chicken Foot is played with 91 coloured dominoes. The object of the game is to get rid of all your dominoes, but beware as the double blank counts as 50. Every player takes 7 dominoes. The player with the lowest double goes first laying the first domino in the centre of the grid, and that player may lay up to 6 dominoes around the grid providing that each one has the same number as the centre grid one (the double blank does not count as the lowest). When they have laid as many as they can the person on the left can move. Providing that the 6 dominoes around the grid have been laid, that person can go anywhere but if the 6 have not been laid then they may only go if they can match the centre one. If they cannot go then they have to pick one up but may lay it down if it has one of the numbers on the centre grid. Continue around the table until all 6 dominoes have been laid, and then you play normal dominoes until someone lays a double. All play stops on the other dominoes until 3 dominoes have been laid off the double (this is the foot). This sounds complicated but it is not and is very easy to learn. It is quite hilarious, creates a lot of laughter and, of course, fellowship, and also raises funds for our Chapel and various charities. Why not come and join us at our next one on the 8th January 2016? Tickets are only £3 each which includes food.

Rene Hayward 01485 541035

(Thank you! Ed)

Peter just gets worse!

A three legged dog was looking for a one legged man to make up a foursome!!

A man's wife was before the judge for stealing a tin of pear halves.

"I'll sentence you to eight months, a month for every pear half," said the judge. Her husband, sitting in the courtroom got up and said, "Please, your honour, she stole a tin of peas as well!"

A man in a perfume shop asked for a bottle of Chanel No 5, gift wrapped.

The assistant said, "Just a little surprise gift for Christmas?"

The man replied, "Yes, she's expecting a cruise!"

Worship in Advent with the songs of Taizé
South Wootton Methodist Church Pepper's Green, South Wootton
PE30 3DB

Short (half hour) reflective services on Sunday afternoons.

Sunday 29th November all at 5pm

Sunday 6th December

Sunday 13th December

Sunday 20th December

All welcome!

Churches Together in Downham Market
Carol Singing for Christmas Hampers
At Tesco
Fridays 4th and 11th December
Starting at 7pm

HAPPY NEW (LITURGICAL) YEAR !

No, it's not January 1st just yet but Advent Sunday does mark a new beginning in the Bible readings we shall listen to in our services for the year to come. Following the Christian calendar they will tell the story of Jesus from the anticipation of his coming during Advent to Christmas and Epiphany; his life and teaching through to Lent, Passiontide and Easter; Ascension and the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost; then the story of apostles and martyrs who spread the Christian faith. It is lovely to remember that the same readings are shared by all the major Christian denominations. The lectionary follows a three year cycle with the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke given a year each, with St John interspersed in all three. This year will be devoted to St Luke, which has been described as the most beautiful book in the world.

Luke, who also wrote the Acts of the Apostles, was probably born at Antioch and writes as a non-Jew. His one desire was to offer the gospel as good news for all the world. When the new born Jesus is brought to the temple Simeon sees him as a "light to lighten the Gentiles." He dedicates

both his Gospel and Acts to “Most excellent Theophilus” (meaning ‘lover of God’). who could have been a high ranking Roman officer. Note how very carefully he dates the census and the emergence of John the Baptist as he wants to give the gospel story its proper place in world history. Luke accompanied Paul on his second and third journeys and was with him during his final imprisonment at Rome. He obviously caught the spirit of Paul that the gospel is meant for all. Luke emphasises Christ’s friendship with publicans and sinners, Zaccheus, the prodigal son. He speaks well of Samaritans (the good Samaritan), of Gentiles (a Roman centurion who had such faith as Christ had not found in Israel). Luke ends with the command that the gospel is to be preached to all nations.

Other things to look out for are that this is:

The gospel of women. Elizabeth, the Virgin Mary, Anna, Mary Magdalene, Martha and Mary, Susanna, Joanna, women are given a prominent place. Luke was a doctor. I wonder if he may not have heard the story of the birth of Jesus from Mary herself; she would feel more free to speak of these things to an understanding doctor

A gospel marked by special tenderness. He omits the ambitious request of James and John and the murmuring at the cost of Mary’s precious ointment.

A gospel of the poor. “Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.” The story of Dives and Lazarus is told only in Luke and Christ’s warning against riches is emphasised.

A gospel of Praise. It contains the Magnificat, Benedictus, Gloria in Excelsis, Nunc Dimittis, which have been part of the church’s worship ever since.

A gospel of Prayer. Seven occasions when Jesus prayed are mentioned. Two parables on prayer are mentioned only in Luke, The Unrighteous Judge and The Friend at Midnight.

A gospel of the Holy Spirit. Luke gives prominence to the working of the Holy Spirit, who is mentioned 54 times, (Matthew 5 times, Mark 4).

In Mark, Jesus is an austere, mysterious figure; in Matthew Jesus is the giver of the law; in Luke he is seen in social intercourse with men and

women, revealing in his own attitude to Samaritans, women, sinners, Gentiles the love of God for all.

I am very much looking forward to this year's readings

John Garfoot.

I was there

You say you will never forget where you were when you heard the news on 11th September 2001.

..... I was on the 110th floor in a smoke filled room, with a man who called his wife to say Goodbye. I held his fingers steady as he dialled. I gave him peace to say "Honey, I'm not going to make it, but it's OK."

..... I was with his wife when he telephoned. She was making breakfast for their children. I held her up as she tried to understand his words and as she realised he wasn't coming home that night.

.....I was in the stairwell of the 23rd floor when a woman cried out to me for help. "I have been knocking on the door of your heart for fifty years, of course I will show you the way home."

.....I was at the foot of the building with the priest ministering to the injured. I took him home to tend his flock in heaven. He heard my voice and answered.

.....I was on all four of those planes, in every seat, with every prayer. I was with the crew as they were overtaken. I was in the very hearts of the believers there, comforting and assuring.

.....I was in Texas, Kansas, London and Birmingham. I was standing next to you when you heard the terrible news.

Did you feel my presence?

I want you to know that I saw every face, I knew every name though they did not all know me. Some met me for the first time on the 100th floor. Some sought me out in their last breath. Some couldn't hear me calling them through the smoke and flames and some chose for the final time to ignore me. But I was there.

I did not place you in the Towers that day; you may not know why but I do. However, if you were there in that moment in time, would you have reached out for me?

11th September 2001 was not the end of the journey for you, but some day your journey will end and I will be there for you as well. I will be in the stairwell of your final moments.

The source of these words is not known. There is so much in them for us to think about, great sadness but such reassurance, knowing of God's presence whenever and wherever.

Peter Hewitt

MARHAM METHODIST CAROL
SERVICE

6.00pm

SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER

With PAULINE DRIVER

All Welcome!

Please Support Us!

Christmas Tree Festival

December 4th/5th/6th

At Pott Row Methodist Church

Friday/Saturday 10am - 4pm

Sunday 12 noon - 4pm

Refreshments available

Carol Service

Sunday December 6th

At 6.30pm

Led by Rev. Catherine Dixon

All are welcome

Paul Field Concert

Saturday May 21st

Westminster Central Hall

Tickets £5

**Proceeds in support of MWiB project to empower
and educate Dalit women**

For more details or to book a seat 01553 811867

**Hilgay Silver Band &
Youth Band
Entertainment Concert**

Hilgay Methodist Church
Thursday 10th December 2015
7:30pm - 9:00pm

Free Admission

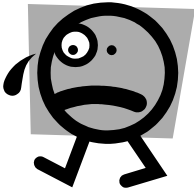
Retiring Collection

Proceeds to be shared equally
between
Hilgay Methodist Church and the
Band.

Christmas Eve at Hilgay

6:30 pm

**Service led by Rev. Maurice
Stafford.**



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!**

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

CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE “METHODIST CHURCH FUND FOR PROPERTY”

Each year Church Councils are asked to consider what will be their contribution to the connexional "Fund for Property". The money we give in this way is used to support property schemes around the country by way of grants to support mission-focused projects. One or two people have asked where the Church contributions should be sent.

The money given from each church should be sent to:-

Mr Andrew McGlynn

38 Gaskell Way

King's Lynn

PE30 3SD

Cheques payable to "Methodist Church Fund for Property".

Thank you.

Andrew Maguire

What Child is 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
Who 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
Who shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud
The babe, the son of Mary.

William Charterton Dix

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary

December 2015 onwards

Friday 4th December Carol Singing at Tesco Downham Market
7pm

Friday/Saturday/Sunday 4th/5th/6th December Pott Row Tree
Festival

Thursday 10th December Hilgay Silver Band and Youth Band
7.30 pm – 9 pm at Hilgay

Friday 11th December Carol Singing at Tesco Downham
Market 7pm

Saturday 12th December Fellowship Breakfast at Pott Row at
8.30 am

Sunday 20th December Marham Carol Service at 6pm

Thursday 24th December Service at Hilgay at 6.30 pm

2016

Saturday 9th January Fellowship Breakfast at Southery at
8.30 am

Saturday 20th February Fellowship Breakfast at Hilgay at
8.30 am

Saturday 21st May Paul Field Concert Westminster Central
Hall