

Rejoice!

June 2016



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

Dear Friends,

Take a deep breath...

I found myself saying these words to a lovely couple, their eyes shining with tears of joy, as they stood before me at the start of their wedding a few weeks ago. When we know we are about to do something new, something big, something exciting, we take a deep breath and plunge in.

Sometimes it is like that in the church year. There are busy times. September is a 'deep breath' moment as the Methodist year begins and brings with it a whole host of meetings as we begin the journey into the new year. This year Easter came very early, so we had barely had a chance to recover from Advent and Christmas before we were drawing another deep breath for the journey through Lent, to Passiontide and Easter, and beyond to Ascension and Pentecost.

As this edition of *Rejoice!* is published, it is time to exhale. The last Sunday in May is both a Bank Holiday weekend – a time for rest and refreshment in itself (as the Principal of Wesley House reminded those of us who listen Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' recently) – but also the beginning of Ordinary Time. From now until Advent we are in the 'ordinary' time of the church. There will be a few high days and holy-days, and of course Harvest Festivals, to look forward to. But this is the time for getting on with the business of being the church.

I confess that I once found the prospect of ordinary time stretching out for so many months, with no special celebrations to look forward to, a dull prospect. As I have journeyed in faith, and into ministry, I have come to appreciate ordinary time. There is, of course, nothing ordinary about it. It is still God's time. And just because we are not directly celebrating the incarnation, the resurrection, or the gift of the Holy Spirit, we still experience those things in our lives and worship. We are still shaped by the way our relationship with our creator God was transformed in God's coming among us in Jesus, in his living and dying and rising again, and by God's continued presence and power with us in the Spirit. Ordinary time gives us a chance to deepen and develop our understanding of what that means, to grow into maturity in our relationship with God, to take time to listen and discern the Spirit at work in us. And having had this 'time out' from celebrating, how much greater will our rejoicing be when the great festivals of the church come round again, and we breathe in once more, and plunge into them, with a renewed sense of engagement, and, in the words of Charles Wesley, are 'lost in wonder, love and praise'.

As we journey through Ordinary Time, may it be an extraordinary time of blessing and enrichment for us all.

Every blessing,
Catherine

SANKEY AFTERNOON

The next Sankey service at Highgate will be on Sunday 19th June at 3pm. All welcome for a Songs of Praise style service featuring some old favourites. If you have a hymn from 'Sacred Songs and Solos' you would like included, please let Rev. Catherine know (01553 676918, revcdixon@gmail.com)

100th Birthday Celebration for the Rev John Garfoot

The Rev. John Garfoot will celebrate his 100th birthday on Wednesday 15th June. This special occasion will be marked by a birthday tea (buffet style) in the Church Rooms at St Faith's (4pm), followed by a service in church at 6pm. There is an open invitation to the tea and service to friends around the Circuit. It would be helpful, please, if Church Stewards could give a rough indication by the end of May of how many from their churches are likely to be attending the tea. Please contact Joan Greening – 01553 761040 - david.greening@btinternet.com
We look forward to this wonderful occasion.

The Rev. Rebecca Rogers

The Rev. Rebecca Rogers was welcomed to King's Lynn last summer. She is working at St John's in the centre of King's Lynn and also with St Margaret's (The Minster). An important part of her role is working alongside us at North Lynn (which is in the St Margaret's Parish). Becca has been leading worship regularly at North Lynn and sharing in pastoral, community and outreach work. One of our hopes has been that Becca should be "authorised to serve as a Methodist Presbyter". This role can be given to ministers of other denominations who work closely with us in a particular situation. We completed all the necessary forms and sent them to the "Methodist Conference Office" with the approval of the District Policy Committee, the Chair of District and the Bishop of Lynn. We are delighted that, at the end of April, Becca received her formal letter from the President of Conference confirming that she is now officially "authorised to serve" in this way.

Andrew Maguire

Praying together in the Circuit

The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body.

Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts.

Teach and instruct each other in all wisdom.

Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs;

sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts.

Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father. Col.3:15-17

Paul encourages the Colossian Christians throughout his epistle in their new life in Christ, individually and as the body of Christ. For the new covenant life we are given a new heart, a new mind and The Holy Spirit within us. Our motivation to live the new life - love, appreciation, gratitude for God who has loved us with an everlasting love demonstrated by giving His Son to be our Saviour, Redeemer and Lord. Our minds - not conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of our mind, so that we may prove what is the will of God, that which is good, acceptable and perfect. The Holy Spirit fills us with life anew ... and sustains, equips, empowers our redeemed lives.

Sovereign God, may worship increase in our hearts and lives throughout every day. Even when our lips are silent may our hearts be full of adoration and reverence for You and our lives an offering of devotion. Every thought, every word we speak, everything we do, honouring You. We give thanks for our Circuit churches, our ministers and the whole body of Christ and celebrate the presence and ministry of each church in the places they have been planted. For Chapel Anniversaries celebrating years of worship and witness and service. For every seed sown in faith and expectation in the past. For the new things You are doing now, for Your provision for future ministry and outreach. For our co-operation with You in Your purpose to seek and

save the lost and that great celebration when one by one people say, "I am the Lord's" Isaiah 44: 5

We pray for 'Celebrate King's Lynn' on Saturday 11th June. For those involved in planning and presenting the event and all involved on the day. For those who will come to find out what is happening, for them to feel Your living presence, enjoy and experience Christian love and fellowship, fun and friendship and be blessed.

We celebrate 'The Servant Queen and the King she serves' a short book in which our Queen describes her faith in God. We give thanks for her witness and join in celebrations for her birthday. Free copies of the book are available from the Bible Society.

Hear our prayers for all who serve in Government. For your guidance for our nation, for us to make the right decisions as we vote on 23rd June in the EU referendum.

For children and young people facing exams and new phases of their education, that You Lord would guide and direct their path into Your perfect will for them.

Prayers have been requested for:-

Derek + Viv, Stephanie, Janice, Amy, Trisha, Linda, Andrew, Mavis, Julia, Rachel, Judy, Dulcie + Neill. Kelly, Kath, Stephen + Victoria, William, Tom. Ken and Norma. Brian Osborne.

Rev Marie Whitcombe, Janet. Eve, Ruth.

My wife seems funny to me. I think she is a psychopath; she rides her bike on the footpath!!

A man knocked on my front door, with a beard. Tis a wonder I heard him!

(From Guess who!)

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

Downham Market Methodist Church

50th Year Anniversary

Flower Festival

**Come Celebrate With Us
15th, 16th and 17th July 2016**

Friday 15th 10am to 5pm

Saturday 16th 10am to 5pm

Sunday 17th 2pm to 4pm

**Sunday Services 10am &
6.30pm**

**Preacher Rev. Graham
Thompson**

All welcome and bring your friends

Southery

On Wednesday 27th April, Southery Methodist Chapel held another of its friendship meals. This was enjoyed by over 40 people from Southery, Stoke Ferry and various other places. The Rev. Maurice Stafford said prayers and then out came a piping hot cottage pie with veg followed by a scrumptious treacle tart and custard. This was all finished off with tea and coffee.

The entertainment was a sing-a-long to Mr. Harrison on his piano accordion followed by a raffle with some excellent prizes. Many thanks to the excellent cooks who had all worked so hard. Thanks also to all who had donated raffle prizes and to all who came along to make it once again such a successful evening. See you all at the Harvest Supper on 5th September.

God Bless you all,

Gwen Dearsley

Terrington St Clement

We are looking forward to our anniversary tea on Saturday 18th June. (Please note the deliberate mistake in last month's Rejoice!)

At our Network [MWiB] meeting speaker Rev. Catherine Dixon spoke on "Our lives in three words: "Eat, Pray and Love". Very inspiring.

At our next meeting Joan Rushden spoke on the work of "Peace Makers International" Helen Maguire and Joan taught at the same school and their Headmistress retired and moved to Kenya in 2010 to help with the project. Joan and Helen have visited several times and saw the money raised being put to good use. First to be finished was the Prayer house, then a guest house followed by a school, kitchen and water tower. Many plants and vegetables are grown and the animals include goats, pigs and chickens. Many pictures of the work in Kenya were projected onto the screen. Money collected at various events was presented to Joan for the project and she was thanked very much for her visit.

Linda

Downham Market

Summer has suddenly arrived with very high temperatures. Two weeks ago when I started the plant stall outside Church I was frozen: last week was so hot and all the plants left in the Church garden had wilted badly. It was not going to be a good sale. However, after dunking and draining all the pots the plants revived beautifully in time to be sold. This brought to mind the water of life and how we sometimes wilt with so much stress that we need a spiritual baptism. I was greatly helped by a fairly new member of our congregation, Sandy, who calmly carried on remedying the situation where by myself I might have panicked and given up, another lesson that with someone who is always with us helping we can get through all setbacks. All aspects of the miracle of Spring and the wonders of our Earth teach us lessons, whereas, non believers take everything for granted.

Nearly half way through our anniversary year now and apart from our special celebrations our regular events carry on as usual, especially our weekly Saturday coffee mornings which continue to attract new friends. I think the recent hot spell meant more cold drinks were needed but there is no substitute for the delicious homemade cakes which our hard working cooks make each week, with a variety to tempt the most dedicated slimmers. The bric-a-brac stall is well supported and fresh items are always welcome.

Our April celebratory event, a choir festival, was a huge success enjoyed by all who attended. In the afternoon three schools Downham Preparatory, Hillcrest Primary and Nelson Academy took part, supported by parents and friends. As Downham Academy had to pull out after the programmes had been printed Janet Stafford, who introduced the afternoon, decided that everyone would sing the three well known songs they had entered, "Swing Lo Sweet Chariot", "When the Saints Go Marching in" and "I wanna sing". So under her leadership, with the M.C John Miles and accompanist Meg Harrison, the choirs and audience were divided into three blocks and all sang the three songs as a round. So with audience participation everyone had great fun and felt better for a good sing. The evening event of adult

choirs was a more sedate affair but just as enjoyable. Choirs taking part were:- Singers Inspired, Magdalen Village choir, Singing for Pleasure, Fincham Chorus, London Road Methodist Church choir, Downham Singers, Anglian Accents and our own Church choir. We started by all singing 'Sing', as had the children in the afternoon. Considering we had all practised separately at different speeds it all went very well. Each choir then sang one piece of music before the interval and one after and we finished off with a rousing rendition of Abba's Thank you for the music, as had the children in the afternoon. The items chosen covered a wide range from sad to comic to worshipful, with several pieces unaccompanied and even some with actions. Everyone voted the occasion a huge success and asked if we could do it every year, but I think our accompanist, Meg, who organised the whole thing would like a rest and time for her hair to grow back before she thinks about it! Our thanks go to all the choirs who took part and anyone who helped in any way to make our April celebration such a happy event. We now look forward to our May event, an in house talent evening. Should be fun; will let you know how it went next month. In June we are planning a Garden Party on 25th. There will be fun and games for all ages with stalls, musical entertainment and of course traditional strawberry fare. Do join us and pray for the sun to shine. Our July event will be a Flower Festival with the theme of Golden Years Anniversary. It will run from Friday 15th to Sunday 17th and there will be an art exhibition in the main hall on the Saturday. Do book the date in your diary and come to help us celebrate fifty years of worship in our Church.

While praying for sunshine for all our events, I hope it will not be as hot as that sudden spell which nearly killed all my plants stone dead. Talking of death, I found the following article; again lifted from the magazine of my previous URC which I think is worth sharing.

What is on the other side? A sick man leaving the doctor's surgery turns to him saying "Doctor, I am afraid of dying, tell me what lies on the other side". Very quietly the doctor replies "I don't know". "You don't know, you're a Christian and you don't know". The doctor was

holding the handle of the door when from the other side came scratching and whining. As he opened the door a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to his patient the doctor asked "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what's inside it. He knew nothing except his master was here and when the door opened he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death but I do know one thing. I know my Master will be there and that's enough for me. May we all increase our faith not to worry about death but make the most of every God given day granted to us.

Joan Macey

Ladies Friendship Circle News

Our April meetings went very well with an average of 20 members at each meeting. Brian gave a very interesting talk about Bangladesh and the friends he has there; he also brought photographs to show us.

The "pinked" theme Bring and Buy sale was a great success. It was very pretty and surprising what items you could buy coloured pink.

The proceeds have gone into our own funds.

Our June meetings; OPEN EVENING June 8th is open to everyone.

We are being entertained by the Denver Handbell Ringers; there is also a buffet supper, a wrapped parcel for £1.00. This meeting starts at 7pm. The cost is £2.00.

June 22nd is our Annual Outing to Wroxham

Margaret Fox

South Wootton

It's celebration time!

We will be having an afternoon tea on Saturday June 11th at 3.30 pm, not just for the Queen's birthday but a 90/90 celebration in aid of Action for Children.

If you'd like to come and join us let me know. 01553 671288. There will be traditional songs to entertain.

Phyllis Bowman

Stow Bridge

It was good to read in Grapevine that a Methodist Minister has been invited to preach in a Muslim Mosque. Can't be bad. We are not all painted with the same brush. Nor are they. And as we know Jesus had the good and the sinners to deal with.

I see we have our new village "Gates" in Wimbotsham. I hope no one shuts them at night or I cannot get back into the village!

Isn't it good that we can dispose of our unwanted clothes and 101 other things to either family, friends, to our own rubbish bins, the council tip or to charities. Much of the stuff we cast aside is of good quality and has much life left for further use. Many items cast aside are thought to be of little value and yet when offered for sale in an auction can fetch hundreds of pounds. Items that are kept for years in the back of the cupboard, the garage or loft are brought into the light and find a real value.

Perhaps it's a bit like folk who hear the story and life of Jesus and shelve it till later years. Maybe when they were younger many of us could manage without thinking about religion. Why do I need to go to church? Yet when something comes along in life and we need help or comfort this old, old story of Jesus comes to life and we find it of great value.

And so something we have cast aside is of use to us again or is passed on to one who appreciate what others have no use for, or so they think. Have I or you something to pass on?

Peter Hewitt

North Lynn

The highlight of the last month has been the gathering together of our Lent Collection monies and sending them away.

At the suggestion of one member we asked everybody to save their small change each week during Lent and put it in an envelope. We agreed to collect the monies in at the end of April and post them. And for what purpose were the monies collected? For the Leprosy Mission 'Nepal Earthquake' fund.

As many will remember in April 2015, a major Earthquake hit Nepal, homes were destroyed and lives changed. For many, already disabled by leprosy, life became desperately hard. Although families were given temporary shelter, it could not protect them from the weather, be it rain or shine. For those affected by Leprosy the focus was to help them rebuild homes and lives.

In particular £5 could buy a set of new clothes for someone devastated by the earthquake

£10 will provide a toilet and sink for a new home and £55 could help buy a pallet of bricks to help start construction of a new, earthquake-proof house.

After we closed the appeal we were delighted to find we had collected £120 and this was sent immediately.

Back came a lovely letter of thanks from the local representative in Nepal and a poster to display.

Whilst the Leprosy Mission is a worldwide organisation aiding people with leprosy in a variety of ways, their Nepal Earthquake Appeal is targeted at the specific needs of leprosy sufferers in the areas of Nepal affected by the earthquake. The congregation had received regular information about life after the earthquake and we were able to watch a short video as well.

Otherwise we have enjoyed a busy springtime at our regular activities and now look forward to playing a part in the 'Celebrate King's Lynn' on June 11th in The Walks.

Neville Posnett

Clenchwarton

Marjorie Bocking part 2!!!!!!! (A continuation of last month!)

Dressmaking.

Our mind is our scissors. To make a garment we have to cut away pieces of material that are not wanted and thrown away. So it is with life; we must throw away unwanted pieces; unkind thoughts, greediness and laziness, and other useless things we may be guilty of. Scissors are used to snip off pieces of cotton, right until the garment is complete; and so it is with life.

The next stage is to sew up the garment. We need a needle and thread. Our spiritual needle could be anyone who is a leader; a minister, schoolteacher, even a relative. Our most important leader is God. If we obey him we need have no fear. To finish off the garment we need to check it is evenly sewn. Time is our measuring stick and how we live each moment is important. Before we wear our garment it should be ironed to smooth out creases or roughness. Prayer is our iron. With our garment completed and if our pattern is a good one then our life will be good. If we pattern our lives on the life of Jesus how can we fail?

Thanks to Harold Smith

(Why not find last month's Rejoice, page 19, and read the whole article in one go!!?)

Gaywood St Faith's

To quote the opening line from the 1956 film version of the musical, *Carousel*, "June is bustin' out all over"well it is certainly all go this month at St Faith's.

One of the year's biggest fund-raising and social events of St Faith's year, the Summer Fete, is being staged in the Gaywood Church Rooms on June 18th starting at 2pm and running for a couple of hours.

The next day, June 19th, will be tinged with sadness for us at St Faith's because we will be saying our farewells to our popular curate, the Rev Zoe Ferguson. It will be quite a day, because as well as being her final service with us, it is also Zoe's birthday.

Zoe has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of Mundford with West Tofts Benefice. Although she has only been with us for just over two years, she has certainly left her mark with her enthusiastic, vibrant and lively style of worship leadership.

Zoe will be presiding at her final service at the 9.45am and the Rev. Andrew Maguire will preach.

Following the service there will be an opportunity to share with Zoe and her family in a slice of cake and chat together over a glass of wine or juice.

The following Saturday, June 25th, we will be climbing aboard a luxury coach which is to take us on our third annual Parish Outing. This year, following previous successful outings to Ely and Bury St Edmunds, we will be heading to the lively and bustling university city of Cambridge.

With its beautiful university buildings and wonderful architecture, its eclectic mix of shops, restaurants and tea shops, there is much to keep visitors occupied for a few hours. As has become a tradition, we are again hoping to attend a short service of evening worship in Cambridge before making our way home.

Tickets are £10 per seat payable to Betty Guy with a £5 deposit.

There is a sign-up sheet on the church notice board for people to add to their names. If you haven't been on the two previous Parish outings why not book the date of June 25th in your diary, I am sure you will not be disappointed.

The next day at St Faith's we will be saying our farewells to the Rev Kathleen Lees who, after many years of loyal and faithful service to St Faith's, is leaving Gaywood to make her home in Sussex where she will be closer to her relatives. Everyone at St Faith's has really appreciated Kathleen's ministry over the years, particularly her pastoral ministry, and we hope many people will be at the service when they can give thanks for her ministry among us and wish her well for her new life.

The new Rector of St Faith's Church is to be the Rev Julie Boyd.

Julie will be licensed into her new role by the Bishop of Lynn during a special service of welcome at St Faith's on July 4th at 7.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend this service when we will see Julie installed. Julie, her husband, Matthew and their son, Andrew, moved into the Rectory in May and have been busy settling in and preparing for Julie's new role. There will be refreshments following the service. The Rev Zoe Ferguson's licensing service will be later the same week, on July 7th at 7pm (note start time) at St Leonard's Church, Mundford. We are hoping that a sizeable number of St Faith's members will attend this important service for Zoe which marks the

start of her new ministry as a Priest-in-Charge of a Benefice. We all wish her and her family every joy and happiness in their new ministry. On June 11th St Faith's will be represented, together with other church communities in West Norfolk, at the Celebrate King's Lynn event.

This is a free, family fun day from 10am until 4pm and the Walks will be covered with stalls, sideshows. Volunteers are needed to help run the three game stalls for which St Faith's is responsible. Please contact Julie Swinton on 01553 772208 for more details.

Three ladies from St Faith's, who are all celebrating their 90th birthdays this year, have been invited to attend a special service marking the Queen's own 90th birthday at Norwich Cathedral on June 12th. Audrey Mark, Jean Deas and Margaret Frary will be among their fellow 90-year-olds from across the Norwich Diocese attending the service. After the service, there is to be a picnic in the Cathedral Close during which the birthday people will help the Lord Bishop of Norwich cut a giant royal birthday cake. We wish Audrey, Jean and Margaret very happy birthdays.

Richard Parr.

My Gremlins

Where do all the teaspoons go when you're hunting in the drawer?

I started with a set of six and now I can't find four!

It's just the same with ballpoints. I buy a pack of ten.

None gets the chance to run out; I've lost them all by then

I think my house has gremlins that come out now and when

They take away my pens and spoons they hide them in their den.

They really irritate me for these gremlins have the knack

When I buy some new things of putting my old ones back

Kendra Quinn Redcar Thanks to Joan

Thank you for the music

Thank you indeed. What a brilliant double bill! Snettisham's Radical Hospitality was brilliant. Terry and I have liked John Barker and his trumpet since we heard him outside Boots in Lynn several years ago. He was just one of the entertainers. The North Norfolk Singers

made a lovely sound and also had a very entertaining MD! Amongst others they sang "The Goslings", a song I hadn't heard for years, which has a very sad ending! Sheila Johnson used her beautiful voice to Mike Warne's accompanying.

Then the Choir festival at Downham the next day. Joan has listed the eight choirs, all singing very different styles, and London Road sang my Gosling song! It was amazing how many people sang in more than one choir! The singing of "Thank you for the Music" blew us away.

Thank you anniversary committee for having the idea and Meg Harrison for coordinating it all. Perhaps not every year but bi-annually would be great.

Barbara Foster

THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of...or time had begun,
God stuck the U in the name of His Son.
And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.
You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.
And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.
Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?
The stones split away; the gold trUmpetblew,
And this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.
When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.
"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all - Just like I love U."

When Jesus died on the Cross, He was thinking of U!

"They celebrate
Your abundant
goodness
and joyfully
sing of Your
righteousness."

Psalms 145:7

a **free** event
full day of activities
ranging from fete
type stalls, youth and
children's work,
Centre stage
with entertainment
bouncy castle,
and much
more!

celebrate king's lynn

10am-
6pm
saturday
11th june
2016
the Walks

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM HER MAJESTY

About two months before my birthday I was surprised to receive a letter from the Department of Work and Pensions. Apparently they wanted to send someone round to talk to me. I wondered what that could be all about. In due course their representative came and it was all very informal and friendly. The first thing he asked was whether I would like to receive a birthday greeting from the Queen. I suppose republicans might not want to. He wanted to make sure they had got the right date and fortunately I was able to produce a copy of my birth certificate. He also needed to confirm that I was a British citizen; Commonwealth citizens have their cards signed by the Secretary of State. We then arranged a day when it would be convenient for the card to arrive, which could be up to five days beforehand. They used to be Greetings Telegrams but these were discontinued by the GPO in 1982 so nowadays they come by courier.

Apparently there has been such a dramatic increase in the number of people reaching 100 years, 70% in the last decade, that they have had to take on extra staff for the Centenarian Team. There are a staggering 104,900 First World War babies still alive and about 3,500 cards are sent each year.

The cards are laser printed with a picture of a smiling Queen, taken at Sandringham and bear the message:

“I am pleased to know that you are celebrating your 100th birthday. I send my congratulations and best wishes to you on such a special occasion.”

So now you know when you get to be a hundred.

John Garfoot

Deacon Irene Tafirenyika

We are looking forward to Deacon Irene joining our Circuit Staff team from September this year. She will focus on outreach work with young people and families at Hilgay and Downham Market. Her welcome service will be on Wednesday 31st August – details of time and venue are still to be confirmed, but please put the date in your diaries!

Andrew Maguire

The George Edwards Memorial Lectures – 25th June 2016

Church and Union -
responses to rural deprivation 'then and now'

Every year the East Anglia District of the **Methodist Church** joins with the Norfolk Branch of the Rural Section of **UNITE** to commemorate the life and work of **Sir George Edwards O.B.E.**, the Methodist founder of the **National Union of Agricultural Workers**. The 2016 event will be held on Saturday **25th June** (2.00 - 4.00 p.m.), in the workhouse chapel at the **Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum of Norfolk Life** near Dereham. This year the focus will be on past and present church responses to the problems of rural deprivation and the exploitation of agricultural workers. The speakers will be Canon **Graham Hedger**, Anglican minister and member of Unite, and Canon **Alan Robson**, ecumenical Agricultural Chaplain in Lincolnshire.

Speaking to the title “**Religion and Power**” Graham will compare the attitudes of the Anglican and Nonconformist churches to the growth of rural trades unions in Norfolk and Suffolk during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Alan’s biblical title, “**You shall not stand idly by ...**” (Leviticus 19 v. 16), is a challenge to us not to ignore the poverty and exploitation which, particularly amongst migrant workers, can still be encountered in the countryside of today. “*George Edwards*,” he says, “*didn’t ‘stand idly by’ - so what about us?*”

The meeting will be chaired by **Margaret Holmes** of Unite. There will be an exhibit by the Wesley Historical Society, and a *Traidcraft* stall will offer fairly traded goods from Third World producers.

The museum’s normal entrance fee will cover attendance of the meeting. For those attending the event only, a fee of **£2.50** will allow admission to site **after 12.00 noon**.

Additional information

Born in 1850, George Edwards was the youngest child of a Norfolk farm worker. Obligated by his family’s poverty to start work (scaring crows) at the age of six, he was deprived of any formal education.

When he was first accepted as a Primitive Methodist preacher he could neither read nor write and his young wife had to teach him the scripture lessons by rote. He nevertheless went on to achieve national acclaim as a union leader. He was twice elected to Parliament as Labour M.P for South Norfolk.

When he was four years old George, with his mother and siblings, had to spend the winter in a workhouse when his father was imprisoned for stealing turnips from his employer's field. It is fitting, therefore that the annual events to commemorate him are always held in the chapel of Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum of Norfolk Life. The events seek to provide an historical context for issues affecting land workers in the rapidly changing agricultural industry of the 21st century.

Downham Market - Golden Anniversary

Our events for June and July are as follows;

June 25th 2-4pm.

We will be holding a Garden Party and Strawberry Tea. It will be opened by Rev. Geoffrey Walton-Pratt and the afternoon will feature music from Hilgay Junior Silver Band and the clarinet trio Clarinetti Cantabile. There will be stalls and side shows plus games and races if the weather holds.

Do come along, have fun and indulge in a strawberry tea.

July 15th - 17th

There will be a Flower Festival open from 10am - 5pm on the Friday and Saturday and from 2pm-4pm on the Sunday.

Also on Saturday 16th there will be an Art Exhibition with displays of works by local artists.

Light refreshments will be available and on Friday and Saturday lunches from 12pm -1pm.

This is the anniversary weekend and we will be led in worship on the Sunday at 10.00am and 6.30pm by Rev. Graham Thompson a former chair of East Anglia District.

July 23rd - time to be finalised

We will be hosting an evening with DADS and DADS KIDDS. (Downham Amateur Dramatic Society & Kids in Downham Dramatic Society).

They will be sharing 2 one act plays and we can guarantee a most entertaining time.

Tickets will be available but it may be possible to pay at the door.

Time still to be finalised but we expect to start at about 7pm. Watch this space for further news!

RADIO HEACHAM GOSPEL HOUR

On Sunday 1st May I became a new DJ for Radio Heacham. This was not my initial intention but soon realised this was a way of spreading the Gospel. So now on a Sunday evening between 9pm and 10pm I host the Gospel Hour.

At present the station can be picked up on the internet via www.radioheacham.org but will be available on FM sometime after the summer.

The Gospel Hour is a mixture of traditional and modern Christian songs and hymns, prayer, readings and thoughts, but it is your station and I would welcome requests and reasons for that request. Please make your request on either the website (www.radioheacham.org) or email me on revoliver@radioheacham.org

If you know of anyone who would value a time of quiet reflection and inspirational music please give them the details.

The Gospel Hour is another opportunity for the community we live in to hear the Good News of Jesus

I look forward to joining with you.

Steve (Rev)



Any items for the **JULY/AUGUST** edition should be with **DEREK** by **JUNE 12th**, earlier if possible.

Derek Marlow
The Willows, 40 Avon Road,
King's Lynn,
PE30 3LS
Email Derekmarlow@aol.com
Telephone: 01553 672302

STEP OUT FOR CHILDREN 2016

Saturday, July 23rd

10 a.m. start

Starting and finishing at

Hilgay Methodist Church

More details next month.

Flower Festival

"I am..."

7th. - 10th. July 2016

*Stalls - Refreshments - Music
Admission & Programme Free*

**Thurs/Fri/Sat 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 noon - 4 p.m.**

(N.B. Cafeteria closes 4pm daily)

Festival Worship

Friday 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion
Sunday 10.30 a.m. Festival Worship

Proceeds for Church Funds
and a donation to 'The Nook Appeal' for EACH
(East Anglia Children's Hospices)

**St. Andrew's Methodist Church
Sheringham, NR26 8SA**

www.sheringhammethodist.org.uk

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary

June 2016 onwards

Saturday 11th June Fellowship Breakfast at Downham at 8.30am

Sunday 12th June Deadline for July/August Rejoice!

Wednesday 15th June Rev. John Garfoot is 100 years young

Saturday 18th June Anniversary Tea at Terrington 3-5pm

Sunday 19th June Sankey Afternoon at Highgate 3pm

Saturday 25th June Garden Party and Strawberry Tea at Downham Market 2-4pm

Saturday 9th July Fellowship Breakfast at Pott Row at 8.30 am

Friday 15th/Sunday 17th July Flower Festival at Downham Market

Saturday 23rd July Step out for Action for Children

Saturday 23rd July An evening with D.A.D.s at Downham Market

Saturday 13th August Fellowship Breakfast at Barbara and Terry Foster's at 8.30am

Wednesday 31st August Welcome service for Deacon Irene

Thursday 6th October MWiB Autumn Day at South Lowestoft