

Rejoice!

March 2016



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

Dear Friends,

I spent much of my recent fortnight off reading. Some of what I read would be categorised as 'work': academic texts for the research I have begun through Wesley House which hopefully, in five or six years time, will lead to my being awarded a DProf (Professional Doctorate). Some was for sheer pleasure – catching up with novels by my favourite crime writers. And some of my reading fell into both camps – reading on spiritual and religious themes that will feed my work as a minister and also me as a Christian. Much of my reading in this category was by the great C.S. Lewis. For the first time I read his classic *Screwtape Letters*, a series of imaginary letters from a senior devil to his nephew. While they are written to be entertaining, they also penetrate to the very heart of the human condition. Not always a comfortable read!

I have also been filling in the gaps in my reading of the *Chronicles of Narnia*. Like many I had read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* then left the story there. The next book in the sequence is *The Horse and His Boy*, the tale of Shasta and the talking horse Bree making their long journey from captivity to freedom, from the lands of the South to Narnia. As I read it struck me as a perfect book for Lent. The journey that Shasta and Bree make is long and often hard. They have a range of encounters and adventures on the road: some of which help them, and some which hinder. At times they have no food or water and still have to go on in the baking heat of the day. At times they enjoy rest and refreshment and companionship in shade and safety. And through it all there is a shadowy figure travelling alongside them, sometimes appearing in the form of a lion. In the story that character is, of course, Aslan, whom C.S. Lewis described as an alternative form of Jesus Christ.

During Lent we seek to walk in the way of Jesus, from the desert of the temptations to the foot of the cross, from the captivity of sin to the freedom of forgiveness and new life. Like the journey made by the characters in *The Horse and His Boy* the way can seem long and hard. Sometimes we may feel discouraged, or want to give up. *The Horse and His Boy*, which many would call a children's book but which I think is a religious fable for all ages, reminds us that in our journeying, in places of darkness and light, of despair and hope, there is a figure travelling alongside us. Yes, we are following in the footsteps of Jesus but through the glory and power of the resurrection he is with us in all things. And as our Lenten journey ends on Easter day, what rejoicing there will be as we proclaim Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

This year we will have the chance to celebrate Easter together at a Circuit service on Saturday 2nd April, 2.30pm at London Road. I do look forward to seeing you all then.

Every blessing,

Catherine

RESURRECTION PRAISE

**A special united Circuit Service on the
afternoon of Saturday 2nd April at 2.30 at
London Road.**

Everybody is welcome and encouraged to join in
this joyful celebration of our faith in the
Resurrection

To be led by the Rev. Stephen Oliver.

We will have a band “Revelation” to lead us in
some favourite Easter hymns.

Revelation was very well received at Heacham’s
recent Radical Hospitality Day. (In fact they were
so well received at Heacham that they will be
returning there in July by popular request – so
don’t miss out on their visit in April!)

Andrew Maguire

**The Minister would appreciate it if the ladies of the
congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the
pancake breakfast next Sunday.**

Praying together in the Circuit

Have reverence for Christ in your hearts and honour Him as Lord.

Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3: 15

Words of Peter, who experienced the grace of Jesus as he met with the risen Christ at the lakeside. How gently and respectfully Jesus dealt with Peter. No condemnation, no accusation. He could have gone back to fishing; he could have lived with the guilt and shame of denying Jesus. Peter was graciously set free from failure and guilt and having experienced the grace of God he would be instrumental in preaching and explaining it to others. Paul wrote extensively about grace, he experienced it and had to share what that meant to him and can mean to everyone. Peter honoured Jesus as Lord and explained the hope he had throughout his ministry. We are encouraged to do that, just where we are, graciously sharing the wonderful good news of the gospel. The covenant of grace. Grace released at the cross. Grace for our past, our present and our future.

For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith.

It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift,
so that no-one can boast. Ephesians 2: 8-9

"How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed".

[John Newton]

Lord, You have touched our lives and dealt graciously with us, empower us by Your Spirit to share with others what You have done. Inspired by Your grace, enveloped in Your love, enabled by your Spirit may we trust You completely and experience the sufficiency of Your grace as You lead us forward into new things.

May we graciously share Your love, the hallmark of our Christian life.

Open the eyes, the understanding, the hearts of those You long to embrace in Your unconditional love.

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. Eve Coles. Ruth Cross, Alan Smales, Mary Cumbers, Pam Fowles as they receive treatment.

Praying for the Circuit. Saturdays at Downham Market 11 am

Ecumenical Taize service for Holy Week

All Saints Church, North Wootton, Monday 21st March 8pm. Contact Daphne Sampson (St Faith's) for more information.

Maundy Thursday There will be a service of Holy Communion led by the Rev. Catherine Dixon at London Road on Thursday 24th March at 7pm as we remember the institution of the Lord's Supper. All welcome.

Women's World Day of Prayer - March 4th 2016

Services to be held at:-

London Road Methodist Church, King's Lynn at 11.00am

Terrington St.Clement Methodist Church at 7.00pm

St Edmund's Church Downham Market at 2pm

WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY 2.30 pm AN INVITE TO ALL

We welcome you to Terrington Methodist Church ladies meeting to hear about and see pictures of projects in Kivuria, mid-Kenya. There will be a bring and buy stall. More details will be in a later 'Rejoice'.

Free to a good home

Three seater garden swing. Too big for my new garden. If anyone would like to come and collect it I would be glad to see it used.

01366 384542

Pam Fowles

Around the churches



Terrington St Clement

Our MWiB (Network) speaker was Ruth Hannay, who spoke about "NAMES". It was surprising how many things were included in this subject. At the birth of a child deciding what name to choose can prove difficult. We often end up with a nick name, some more acceptable than others! Mary read from Luke and Linda read from the Book of Hope .Our small change collection will be going to the Quiddenham Hospice. They are hoping to build a new hospice at Framlingham Earl.

At the next meeting Molly and Jess Hunt projected scenes of Sri Lanka including elephants, tea plantations and paddy fields. The contrast of rich hotels and poor "shanty" villages and shops was immense; magnificent temples for worship and "tut tuts" and chaotic roads, fishermen on stilts and small boats .

Our New Year Party opened with a game of "name the adverts", and a table quiz. There followed various games. Jenny Howling read from Joyce Grenville, Helen, Andrew and Wendy played violin, piano and keyboard. Lots of lovely food was served and everyone had a jolly good time.

On March 19th we will be holding our Easter Coffee Morning at the Chapel from 10 am - 12noon. There will be the usual stalls, raffle and hot cross buns. All are welcome.

May 4th Joan Rushdon will speak at MWiB at 2.30pm about Kenya . This is the same project Helen Maguire is involved with. It will be an open afternoon and everyone is welcome.

Linda Howling

The sLondon Road

e is Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity started with a Service at London Road led by Catherine. She used the material from the Latvian Church as the basis of the session. The theme was based on the barrier, the "Stone" at the tomb was between death and Life.

The Christians in Latvia wished to challenge us about the stones we hold ourselves which stop or hinder Christian Unity.

Everyone was invited to pick up one of the stones provided (Pebbles which Lawrence had gathered) to remind us of our failings.

Catherine had been invited to preach on the Sunday of the Week of Prayer at the Roman Catholic Church on London Road to the congregation of All Saints Anglican Church who meet there during the winter months.

She had asked the Stewards if she could accept this appointment, meaning That London Road would have a CFS.

This was of course readily granted, and all the stewards took part in the CFS.

(I am old enough to realise that in my Youth to have a Female Methodist Minister preaching in a Roman Catholic Church to a congregation of Anglicans would have been considered "Impossible" by Church leaders- Thank goodness times have changed)

The stones that Catherine brought were left for the Sunday Service, The lectionary being the "Water in the Well" where Jesus smashed many stones by

1. Talking to a woman
2. Not judging the woman for having five Husbands
3. As a Jew talking to an "Arabian"

A Journey is made up of thousands of steps – hopefully we have made a few for Christian Unity in 2016.

David Gifford

Telephone 0185 542960

Downham Market

The Ladies Friendship Circle

Our first meeting on the 3rd February went very well with Andy from the Deep Sea Fishermen's Mission. We gave him a cheque for £80, which was raised at a Coffee evening with a bring and buy, he was very grateful for this and we also had a collection for the Mission.

Our next meeting is on March 2nd which is the Annual lunch at the Castle – 12 noon for 12.30pm

As Easter is early this year our Easter evening will be 16th March and the competition is an Easter cake (whatever kind you like to make) and a Quiz.

March 30th Deacon Janet Stafford is coming to talk to us.

Everyone is made welcome.

Margaret Fox

Gradually getting through the Winter with some really lovely bright days. The winds have been rather alarming but there were not many days when the car needed defrosting first thing. With my love of plants and gardening I can't wait for Spring to enjoy the annual miracle of rebirth, though the winter landscape

in the sun is also very beautiful at times, especially our lovely skies and stunning sunsets.

We are quite busy at the moment being in our 50th anniversary year, with a celebratory event planned for each month. Last month, January, we had a 60s evening with games, music and food. Some who dressed in the period were able to get into their daughters' clothes and there was a fair range of hippies, flower people and short skirts and stilettos. We enjoyed spam sandwiches, cheese and pineapple spiked in grapefruit and fruit jelly with evaporated milk. What simple food in those days compared to the bewildering variety now with food of all nations available to all. We enjoyed a sing song. The annual showing of The Sound of Music helped us remember those words. I hadn't realised that Ken Dodd's Happiness was one of the top best sellers. I remember it as the closing song at a Westcliff Church's housebound club I used to entertain sometimes. Last month, February, we had a beetle drive followed by tea and a magic show by the Rev. David Leese who also took the Sunday morning service. (As one non church going Granddaughter remarked, "It was really quite an interesting service!") In March the event is for the youngsters, an hour of Tom and Jerry type cartoons with popcorn. So bring your children along on Saturday 19th March at 10.00 a.m. to be entertained for an hour while you relax with a hot drink and homemade cakes and enjoy a browse round our well stocked stalls and a chat with your friends. If you are decluttering ready for spring cleaning we can recycle your unwanted items so bring them along for our bric a brac stall. Does anyone do spring cleaning these days? It probably dates back to pre-vacuum cleaner days when carpets (not fitted of course) were taken into the garden, put over a clothes line and beaten soundly. I don't spring clean any more. My motto is gardening forever, housework whenever.

As we are now into Lent we shall be taking part in the York course (Mondays at 2.00pm and again at 7.00pm starting on 15th February and finishing on 14th March) all are welcome as we seek to help each other strengthen our faith and prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter. Before Easter we shall have our usual Mothering Sunday service when we traditionally hand out a small posy of daffodils to all ladies present as, though not necessarily mothers, most women in our congregation have contact with and help to influence children. When this service takes place the daffodils which are cheering us at the moment in grass verges everywhere will possibly have died and any still to bloom may not survive what the weather will bring. We shall probably have to rely on imports from the Scilly Isles.

Last month I reported on our recently formed banner making group. We also have a Prayer Shawl Ministry group which was started by our sadly missed friend Sandra Crossley some 6 years ago. They meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 2.00pm and knit or crochet shawls in colours and designs of

their own choice while sharing a prayer time. These shawls are then dedicated and passed to folk who need some comfort or as a memento of a time of rejoicing, i.e. baby shawls are now presented at baptisms. If you knit or crochet do come and join this happy band which has one male member who would welcome other 'handy' men. (Any old sailors around?) Gifts of wool and your prayers for their work very much appreciated. Keep warm, keep well, keep praying and keep rejoicing.

Joan Macey

Downham Market Golden Anniversary

So what's happening at Downham in March?

Do you remember Saturday pictures for children?

Well, we are hoping to recreate this on Saturday morning March 19th from 10.00 - 11.30am.

Children will be entertained to a variety of suitable films for free as long as they are accompanied by an adult who will be charged £1.

The Brownies and Guides will be providing popcorn and squash and it is hoped that there will be much fun and laughter to be had by all.

Why not prise your children or grandchildren away from their computer games and bring them along?

North Lynn

"In with the New, Out with the Old". So goes the saying as you begin a New Year, but in North Lynn we like more "Develop what is Good, Build on the Past". No more so than with the services and activities we have enjoyed in the last two months.

Examining the Sunday themes gave us all opportunity to review how Christ's coming into the world has changed our lives and how that has affected our relationships with our families, friends and the wider community.

The 'Ladies Fellowship' did not meet in January but members joined with those from the Minster and St John's in a more detailed study of the early ministry of Jesus as depicted in art – particularly artworks from Africa, Asia,

South America and recent ones from Western Cultures. A black St Simeon was especially poignant.

Our 'Community Meal' is growing in popularity and a variety of menus are being tried, we are grateful to our 'cooks' for their wonderful ideas of 'tasty meals on a budget'. Naturally we are open to any suggestions to extend our range of offerings.

Linked in to the Community Meal has been the start of our 'Messy Church' activity. By the time this is in print we will have had two such sessions. Families are being encouraged to come earlier before the Community Meal and enjoy the various craft and collective things that are being done.

The planning had been done jointly with St John's Church as Rev.. Becca is leading 'Messy Church' there as well.

The first theme was "Celebrating the New Year, God's forgiveness and a new start". Lots of lovely craft activities were enjoyed, cakes decorated, and symbolically the things from the past discarded as pebbles cast away. Everyone enjoyed singing some songs before the meal.

The second theme is to be one of the 'I am sayings', "I am the good Shepherd" with games, crafts, singing and story focused on the story of the lost sheep. We hope this initiative will encourage families.

Our twice yearly Church Council met at the beginning of February and we were glad to hear our finances were stable and the building now watertight. The second phase of guttering and boarding repairs has been completed and we are delighted how much better the aspect of the church is.

Exciting plans are in hand for the forthcoming months both in the Church and in conjunction with the Circuit and Community, we hope to meet friends and make new ones as we progress this year.

We hope the motto "Develop what is Good, Build on the Past" will hold us in good spirits and we ask God's blessing on all we do.

Neville Posnett

St Faith's

It's a case of all change at St Faith's Church following the recent announcement that Team Vicar, the Rev Dale Gingrich and his wife, Dr Anne Marie Kaarlson, are to leave the parish shortly after Easter. Dale is moving to Oxfordshire where he has been appointed as Vicar in the United Benefice of Bloxham with Milcombe and South Newington, a few miles

from Banbury. He and his wife are to move into the Vicarage which is a large converted barn.

During his eight years at St Faith's, Dale has become a much loved and popular Team Vicar and many have to give thanks to God for his ministry and worship leadership skills. There will be opportunities for a more formal farewell and thank you in early April.

Dale's leaving means that St Faith's will be without a Rector and a Team Vicar and it is likely that in the near future, our Curate, the Rev Zoe Ferguson, will be moving on to pastures new. She has come to the end of her training and is now actively seeking an incumbent's post.

It will be the first time that St Faith's will be without its three main members of the Anglican clergy at the same time but unfortunately that is the way it has happened. Obviously, we still have our Methodist Minister, the Rev. Andrew Maguire, with us, but clearly, there is a limit to how much cover he can provide when he has Circuit wide responsibilities as the Superintendent. The Rev. Catherine Dixon will become more actively involved in the life of St Faith's as will various retired clergy.

During this period of change and uncertainty, please pray for everyone at St Faith's as we face major changes to our clergy personnel and look forward to the arrival of a new Rector.

It had been hoped that a new Rector would have been appointed following interviews at the end of January, but sadly, there were no applicants. The post has been re-advertised with interviews taking place just after Easter. Your prayers are asked for those people who come forward and apply for the post of Rector.

There is a feeling among some of the congregation that change is not necessarily a bad thing. They feel these changes in leadership should be embraced as we wait to see who God will send us to fill our vacant posts of Rector, Team Vicar and Curate.

The latest in the popular Saturday morning coffee mornings is being held on March 5th in the Church Rooms starting at 10.30am. It will be Dale's last coffee morning and our regulars will certainly miss his enthusiastic presence among us over the chat and clinking of tea and coffee cups.

There will be a service to reflect Mothering Sunday on 6th March which will take the form of a Praise God Together style of worship. There will be bunches of daffodils given out during the service.

Following approval by St Faith's Church Council, there is to be a Christmas Tree Festival staged in December this year. It will be the third Festival at Gaywood and organisers are aiming to make it bigger and better than our event in 2014 with new ideas and changes introduced. The event will run from 1st to the 5th of December and will include two concerts. Look out for more details in the coming months.

Saturday 19th March sees St Faith's Spring Fair in Gaywood Church Rooms. This is always a popular event and enables people to get together and pick up a bargain or two while meeting friends over a cup of tea and a piece of cake. There will be usual selection of colourful stalls and anyone who has items they would like to donate should contact the church office on 01553 774916. The fun of the Fair starts at 2pm. and admission is free.

Preparations are continuing by members of St Faith's Outreach committee towards the major Celebrate King's Lynn event in the summer in The Walks Recreation Park which is to involve all the various church communities in King's Lynn. There will be stalls and sideshows and various attractions. The event is also to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. Please contact the Rev Dale Gingrich, via the church office, for more information.

During the current Lent season there will be various opportunities to join courses which are being held at homes of church members both in Gaywood and in the Woottons. Contact the church office, Monday to Friday 9am until 12 noon) for more detailed information.

We begin our observation of the glorious Easter Festival with a service for Palm Sunday on 20th March when it will be a 9.45am Communion service. In the evening there will be a choral service with pieces by the choir.

On 24th March a service for Maundy Thursday, which includes the re-enactment of the Washing of the Disciples' Feet, will be held in St Faith's starting at 7.30pm.

The following day, Good Friday members of St Faith's will meet in church at 10am for prayers and readings before heading off, carrying a large wooden cross, to walk into Lynn for the annual Procession of Witness. In recent years this Act of Witness in the town centre has attracted greater numbers of people. Those taking part process in silence through the town centre stopping at different locations to listen to Bible readings and sing Easter hymns. The procession returns to the Minster where hot cross buns and tea is served. Back at St Faith's, there will be a chance to prayer and reflect on the events of Good Friday in an Hour at the Cross between 2pm and 3 pm.

On Easter Saturday evening, there will be a vigil at the King's Lynn Minster which will include a Confirmation service.

Easter Day at St Faith's will begin for some with an open-air (weather permitting) Dawn service starting at 6am.

This is followed by breakfast in the Church Rooms

There will then be an 8am Holy Communion service. The main celebration of Easter Day will be at 9.45am when there will be Godly Play and items sung by the choir.

The following Sunday, 3rd April the Methodist District Chair, Julian Pursehouse, will be attending the service. That afternoon will see a farewell party for Dale followed by his final service starting at 6.30pm. All are warmly welcome to

attend these two events and say their goodbyes to Dale as he and his wife head off to their new parishes in Oxfordshire.

It is hoped that some folk from St Faith's will travel to Oxfordshire on 11th April when Dale will be licensed into his new post. More details of the travel arrangements will be announced later.

Richard Parr

Dersingham

Another month gone and as I write we are about to experience the joys or inconveniences of the Mart and its accompanying cold, windy weather! A very successful Coffee Morning at the end of January raised £317.54. The March Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 19th March, earlier in the month because of Easter, and will raise money for the Stroke Association. As well as the Diocesan Lent meetings mentioned in the last Newsletter, Dersingham Methodists will be joining with their Anglican friends from St. Nicholas Church for joint Lent meetings on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. at the Methodist Church.

On Good Friday Rev. Steve will lead a meditation at 10 a.m. at the Methodist Church and at 10.35 a.m. there will be the usual Walk of Witness through the village ending up at St. Nicholas' Church Hall for hot drinks and hot cross buns. The morning service on Easter Day at 10.30 a.m. will be led by Mr. Dudley Pickston from Wereham and we expect, as usual, to welcome about 30 scouts and their leaders from Wisbech who will be camping at Sandringham.

The institution of the new Rector of Dersingham, the Rev. Mark Capron, will take place on Monday 11th April at 7 p.m. at St. Nicholas Church and as we welcome him into our midst we pray for many years of sharing the Christian witness and ministry in and around the village of Dersingham.

Flowers have not really ceased to blossom in our gardens this winter and so we look forward to another Flower Festival from the 26th – 29th May. This year the theme is "Have you heard the story about" and many familiar and perhaps not so familiar parables will be depicted in flowers and foliage, and we shall welcome friends from far and wide as we celebrate the Church Anniversary over the weekend. The Rev. Kim Nally will lead the morning service on the Sunday and the Rev. Steve Oliver the evening Songs of Praise.

Rosemary Caink

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

I came across this reflection in Adrian Plass's book 'When you walk'. No comment is needed except, perhaps, to ask if we have the eyes of a child.

THE EYES OF A CHILD

Matthew 18:2-3 (RSV)

And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them, and said. 'Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

Jesus seems to be saying here that the reality of heavenly things is more, apparent to childlike eyes than to the eyes of sophistication and grownupness'.

Some time ago we took our bicycles down to Newhaven, crossed on the ferry to northern France, and spent a few very enjoyable days pedalling from town to town along the river valleys. Our last day was set aside to explore the port of Dieppe before re-crossing the Channel that evening.

Just after lunch we entered the cool interior of a big church near the centre of town. I lost touch with the others for a while. but after a few minutes I discovered Katy, aged four at the time, staring silently at a life-size sculpture of Mary, the mother of Jesus, holding her son's dead body in her arms. and looking into his face with an expression of real pain and loss. Katy turned and saw me.

'Daddy.' she asked, 'why has Jesus got a hole in his side?' Stumbling I explained that a Roman spear had been responsible. Katy was horrified She studied the sculpture again. 'Daddy, he's got holes in his feet. Why has he got holes in his feet?'

'Look.' I pointed to a small crucifix on the wall above us. 'They nailed his feet to that piece of wood called a cross, and those are the holes where the nails were.' 'Nailed his feet?!' She turned to look at the stone figures again. Her voice broke a little as she spoke. 'Daddy, he's got holes in his hands as well. They didn't nail his hands as well, did they?' Sadly, I explained. Katy moved closer to the sculpture, put her arm around Jesus and rested her face down on his knee.

Suddenly I longed to go back to the time when I first understood that Jesus died for me and it really hurt, before I covered my faith in words and worries. I wanted to be like a child again.

Father, give me the eyes of a child.

John Miles

Methodist Church
Terrington St. Clement
EASTER
COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 19th March
10 a.m — 12 noon
Coffee, cakes, raffle,
games, bric-a-brac
plants and gifts.
All are very welcome

BACK IN TIME FOR THE WEEKEND

I am going to love this new series. At my age I try not to live in the past but I do have a lot of memories and these programmes are bound to remind me of some of them. The first episode showed a family giving up their 21st century gadgets and going back to a way of life as it was in the 1950s, no TV, computers, white goods, smart phones. That is certainly what manse life was like. Wash day on Mondays with dolly tub and mangle; we had our first television for the Coronation, a tiny 12inch screen in a large box, black and white of course. I could go on reminiscing but I really want to look back at what church life was like.

The programme said that respectable people went to church on Sundays and 50% of children attended Sunday school compared with 5% today. I think the large numbers of children and young people were the most noticeable difference, 800 in my present Circuit. Nearly every church had a Sunday School and that kept the minister's diary full with Sunday School anniversaries, prizegivings, parties several times over. A Circuit Youth Week involved a lot of preparation for eisteddfods, pageants, Bible quizzes, films.. That was another thing. Before the television age, the Joseph Rank Organisation was prepared to loan us a 16mm projector for showing religious films, quite popular for Sunday evening services. They were also very useful for Missionary Meetings, Home and Overseas. Each church was required to have a midweek meeting on behalf of both, together with a Sunday service (and collection!). There were also boxes on behalf of these good causes. Sometimes we had a deputation, e.g. a missionary on furlough as a special speaker. Christian Citizenship also had its special Sunday and midweek services. Ministers were planned out in their Chapels Monday to Thursday, except for the summer months; some of the statutory meetings could be worked in on these occasions, also business meetings. There was a certain amount of duplication in these as Leaders and Trustees meetings were still distinct. Friday night would often mean going into a youth club. That was the most difficult task of the week. In the afternoons there were far more women's meetings than there seem to be nowadays. We were planned out three times on Sundays. At plan making there would be an argument as to whose turn it was to have an afternoon off.

Later in the `50s I was appointed District Chapel Secretary so got to know what was going on in the wider church. Although Methodist Union was a couple of decades away some had not yet quite got used to the idea. Chapels were known as ex-Wesleyan, ex-Primitive or ex-UM and liked to cling to their old traditions. For instance, at a chapel that shall be nameless, I handed a little pile of communion service books for a steward to hand out and he literally threw them back at me – “We don't want them here.” I must say that although I was brought up as a Wesleyan, I learned to appreciate all that was good in the other traditions and I

firmly believe that it is valuable to retain some of our historical diversity in church life today. At the time of Methodist Union many chapels close together were amalgamated but two decades later there were still a few cases of redundancy to deal with. At Downham Market there were three churches clinging to their old traditions, until we managed to persuade them all to close and join together to build the present fine church which, before long, became the best attended church in rural Methodism. Then in the post war years there was a big move of population away from town and city centres, with families living above the shops moving out to leafy suburbs. I think of a big central church at Lowestoft going back to Wesley's day then left high and dry. But its site was so desirable and valuable for building a supermarket. With the proceeds we were able to build one of the most beautiful churches in the District. Then again it was a time when a lot of new council estates were springing up. It was up to us to go where the people were. In our own Circuit pioneer Sunday School work was started in a day school at North Lynn, with house to house visitation to gather together the nucleus of a congregation until we could build a church.

Such then are some of the memories this Backward in Time programme has stirred up in me. Today we hear far too much of church closures, declining and ageing congregations. I hope that in some similar programme in another 50 years some of you will write about all the good things that were going on in your younger days. And there will be lots to record. At St Faith's I am enormously encouraged by what is taking place, ecumenical progress, messy church, café style worship, prayer shawl ministry (over 860 knitted to date). When Dale joined our LEP the first thing he did was count the good things that were happening and he listed dozens. Our Synod usually has a session for sharing good news. On the day I wrote this I opened up my iPad and two things online really cheered me. One was that the Churches National Trust has found that more than half the adult population of Britain visited a church last year and 84 % of those questioned considered that churches, chapels and meeting houses are important for our heritage and history.

I had the privilege of being trained at Richmond. The college war cry was in Greek, but my computer isn't up to that, so here it is in English:

“Rejoice, fellow citizens, we conquer!” (Just right for this Olympics year)

John Garfoot : *heather38@tiscali*

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM –
prayer and medication to follow.

MWiB – Easter Offering

No sooner is Christmas behind us we have Lent coming up with Easter on the horizon. Time then to mention 'Easter Offerings' and the Dedication Service which is to be held at London Road on 11th May at 2.30 pm lead by Rev Catherine Dixon.

The title for this year's service is "Child, get up" inspired by the words of Jesus in John 10:10 in that God created each child with the potential to use their talents and gifts to the full and will focus on Dalit women and girls in India who suffer from discrimination on account of their caste status and gender. Collection envelopes and promotional material will be distributed at the Circuit Meeting to be held at Gaywood on 16th March. All donations received are paid into a separate account and **all** monies go to World Mission ie funding Nationals in Mission Appointments and in grants to overseas churches including the Dalit Solidarity Network UK.

Thanks to all who have supported us generously in the past; £1,853-4 from this Circuit last year and over £400,000 nationwide.

Note to Church Treasurers:- There is some updated information re opening Envelopes and concerning 'Gift Aid' copies of which will also be available at the Circuit Meeting. Thank you again.

Mary Uttin

THURSFORD SONGS OF PRAISE - SUNDAY 13th MARCH

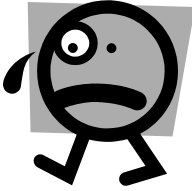
There are still a few seats left on the coach for this event.

The coach will pick up at Downham Market, King's Lynn and Hunstanton, leaving Downham Market at 12.15 pm, pick up in King's Lynn at London Road 12.45pm and Hunstanton Methodist Church at 1.15pm. 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.

Those who went last year thought it a very moving service.

We have reserved 60 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. Tel. 01553 811867. Email rabbit1308@btinternet.com.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.



Any items for the **April** edition should be with the editor by **March 12th**, earlier if possible.

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

**RADICAL HOSPITALITY
FRIDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT**

WHERE: Snettisham Methodist Church

**WHAT: Inspiring and joyful music for
heart and soul by the
WEST NORFOLK SINGERS
DAVID GODFREY
 (Pipe Organ)
 (One other to be confirmed)
 Free food and refreshments**

WHEN: APRIL 22ND BEGINNING 7PM

**THIS IS AN INVITATION TO:
Be inspired and fed**

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary

March 2016 onwards

Friday 4th March Women's World Day of Prayer

Monday 7th March Daffodil Day at Central Hall Westminster

Saturday 12th March Fellowship Breakfast at Wimbotsham
at 8.30 am

Sunday 13th March Songs of Praise at Thursford

Wednesday 16th March – Circuit Meeting at Gaywood Church
Rooms at 7pm

Saturday 19th March Spring Fair at St Faith's Gaywood

Saturday 19th March Easter Coffee Morning at Terrington St
Clement 10am – noon

Sunday 2nd April A special United Circuit Service at 2.30 pm at
London Road

Saturday 9th April Fellowship Breakfast at St. Germans
at 8.30 am

Friday 22nd April Radical Hospitality at Snettisham 7pm

Wednesday 4th May Ladies' Meeting about Kivyria Projects
2.30pm at Terrington St. Clement

Saturday 14th May Fellowship Breakfast at Marham
at 8.30 am

Saturday 21st May Paul Field Concert Westminster Central Hall

Saturday 11th June Fellowship Breakfast at Downham at 8.30am

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

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