

Rejoice!

May 2016



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

Dear Friends,

In May we will celebrate two of the great festivals of the Church: Ascension (Thursday 5th) and Pentecost (Sunday 15th). Possibly more attention is given to Pentecost as we remember how the disciples experienced the life-transforming power of the Holy Spirit. It is important too that we celebrate Ascensiontide.

It is then that we celebrate Christ in glory – how our Lord who lived and died on earth has now been raised from death and is with God The Father and God The Holy Spirit in the glory of heaven. Some depictions in art of Christ's ascension into heaven may be a little unconvincing as we see feet dangling from underneath a cloud while Jesus is lifted upwards. Far more moving, to my mind, are the depictions of Christ in glory which can be seen in some of the world's great churches. One of the most impressive is in the cathedral of Monreale in Sicily where a dignified and bearded Christ with flowing hair and beautifully coloured flowing robes looks down at us from on high at the front of the church, surrounded by bright gold mosaics.

Some may feel almost a little embarrassed at the splendour, but we must remember what Paul wrote in the letter to the Philippians. He writes here about Christ's humility, his servanthood and his obedience even to death and then says "Therefore" God exalted him.

The image of Christ exalted in glory reminds us that the purposes of God can never finally be defeated. When Jesus was nailed to the cross and all his disciples ran away it looked as though everything he stood for had come to nothing and the disciples must have thought that his life and teaching would be forgotten. The Christ who is now in glory reminds us that nothing could be further from the truth. So even in the most difficult of circumstances we continue to live in hope.

Another important theme of Ascensiontide is how Jesus leads us on to where he has already gone. As ever Charles Wesley puts it beautifully and poetically in his great Easter morning hymn: "Soar we now where Christ has led, following our exalted head". Graham Kendrick in a more modern hymn follows a similar theme: "Lord of infinity, Stooping so tenderly, Lifts our humanity To the heights of His throne." What more inspiring and hopeful vision could there be for us? So let us joyfully remember and celebrate the Ascension of our Lord.

Andrew Maguire

Praying together in the Circuit

I wish I had wings like a dove. I would fly away and find rest. Ps. 55:6
Mendelssohn composed music beautifully engaging with these words.
Reading Psalm 55 we understand something of what David was going through. He expressed despair; he longed to get away from all his problems, and those causing them. Ideally he wanted to escape to a place of peace and be at rest. Then, his trust in God broke through again, he knew that God heard his prayers and would deliver him in His own way. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, My father, if it is possible take this cup of suffering from me! Yet not what I want but what you want. Accepting God's perfect will Jesus made peace with God for us by His sacrificial death. He is the source of our peace and ministers deep peace and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit to all believers. We don't need to fly away to try and find peace and rest - He puts it deep within us. The dove is symbolic of the Holy Spirit and peace in the Bible. The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus 'as a dove' at his baptism. Our risen Lord Jesus spoke to his disciples "Peace be with you". He breathed on them and said "Receive the Holy Spirit". On the day of Pentecost His disciples united in love and purpose received their promised empowering, our exalted, glorified Lord released the gift which was vital to the newly emerging church. It is essential for us as Church today.

Spirit divine attend our prayers, make this lost world your home,
descend with all your mighty powers, O come great Spirit come.

[Andrew Reed 1787 - 1862]

Touch each believer; increase our love and obedience to your will.

Empower us to serve you with confidence and joy.

Produce in us the fruit of Your Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, self control.

We pray for those seeking havens of peace, new beginnings, hope and a future. For those who are troubled and overwhelmed with problems. Comforter, Holy Spirit draw near, bring the calming peace of your

presence. Make us channels of Your peace.... where there is despair help us to share the hope we have in You Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace.

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.

Doreen, Eve, Ruth, Ron, Ruby, Margaret.

Rev. Marie Whitcombe.

Praying for the Circuit. Saturdays at Downham Market 11 am
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Help please!

We have a missing Baptismal Register from the safe at Downham. The current one begins September 2007, the previous one which runs 1997 - 2007, we cannot locate. So can you help us reconstruct it. The cradle roll runs out in 1999, so the missing years are 1999 - 2007.

This register was for the old circuit now the present Downham section not just Downham. If you can help or know where the register might be, please get in touch.

Sincerely Maurice

MWiB

Autumn District Day October 6th 2016 at South Lowestoft - the speaker will be Rev. Michaela Youngson.

DERSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL

**HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORY ABOUT
.....?**

**26th 27th and 28th May
10.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.
Sunday 29th May
2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

**Books + Cakes + Cards + Gifts
Plants + Fair Trade products**

Coffee + Lunches + Teas

**Sunday Service 10.30 a.m.
Songs of Praise 6.00 p.m.**

**Proceeds for Church Funds and
Norfolk Accident Rescue Service**

Around the churches



Terrington St Clement

TRIO CONCERT AT TERRINGTON ST. CLEMENT METHODIST CHURCH 9TH APRIL 2016

Nearly thirty of us were treated to a very enjoyable concert of Baroque and early Classical music, along with some more modern piano duets and finally a Gershwin clarinet and piano duet. This very talented trio is Sandra Woods who plays the piano, Sue Davis who plays the Recorder and piano and Jacob Keet on violin and clarinet.

The trio played music by Telemann, Pepusch, and Haydn and piano duets by Puzs, Scott Joplin and Thiman were played by Sandra and Sue. Jacob played a Rachmaninov piece that had been originally written for one voice.

Then for a surprise, foot tapping encore we were serenaded by Jacob as he moved around the Church playing the wonderful, gypsy style well known Hungarian dance, 'Czardas' by Vittorio Monti.

Altogether, we are very pleased that donations totalled £137 which is being shared between the Church and 'Peacemakers International' projects in Kivuria, mid-Kenya.

Helen Maguire

WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY 2.30 pm AN INVITE TO ALL

We also welcome you to Terrington ladies meeting to hear about and see pictures of projects in Kivuria, mid-Kenya. There will be a bring and buy stall. Tea and food as well!

MWiB [network] The Easter meeting included readings by members about Easter and Spring and Easter hymns. We had hot cross buns with our cup of tea. At the next meeting we welcomed Joella Nash to speak. She included the wedding at Cana, the first miracle performed by Jesus.

She also told us about her daughter's wedding and showed us two hats!

Our Chapel Anniversary on June 5th will be an Afternoon Tea 3-5 pm.

London Road

O What a Morning!

Palm Sunday

Sunday Club in attendance, marching around the church with a donkey's head and Palm Branches (A la Blue Peter), Palm Crosses are handed out and Catherine telling the children about the events Holy Week finishing with the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, and washing the feet of all the Sunday club members - despite one young man protesting that he had washed his feet the night before!

The celebration of Palm Sunday gave way to the remembrance of the Last Supper with a service of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday which was well attended.

Everyone formed a circle to receive the Sacrament as a family eating a meal. Catherine was well supported by her mother, which lessened the strain on her failing voice. At Catherine's mother's request the alterations to the furniture were left in place until Easter Sunday.

A contemplative service was held on Good Friday afternoon, with a selection of well known Good Friday hymns. The cross on the communion Table had a ring of barbed wire over it along with a purple robe.

Easter Sunday Praise and Communion was led by Catherine's mum, who had already had an early morning service at Pott Row (how to enjoy your retirement in Norfolk!). The church as usual on Easter Sunday looked superb, demonstrating the skills of the ladies of our Flower Committee with baskets on all the window ledges, which were distributed by Pastoral visitors after the service.

The church was full and Catherine's mum was supported by a large contingent of St Perrin's Army with Rev Ray Trudgian, Angie and family. The hymns for the service were chosen by Lesley Evans, who had studied the responses to the worship survey and included many favourite Easter Hymns along with a new favourite written by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty "See what a morning!" also featured in "Songs of Praise" on Easter Sunday.

Catherine's Mum had brought along an Easter Egg and Chocolate Easter Bunny, which were broken up after the service so everyone could indulge in chocolate.

So on to Saturday April 2nd when the Circuit celebrated "Resurrection Praise" We are aware of the criticism about temperature that London Road is always getting; however the combination of one of the hottest days of the year and extended hours of heating meant that the service took place with all the doors open to ensure a breeze. It was a surprise that no one entered the opened doors of the church during the enthusiastic singing, accompanied by a superb band of musicians from Lakenheath "Revelation", to see what was going on.

The Praise service was led by our Circuit Ministry team. Fellowship continued with a Bring and Share tea after the service.

After the “mountain tops” of the Resurrection Praise service it was back to the “Plains” on Sunday with a CFS.

The theme of the service was the events of the Resurrection as they affected Thomas (the Patron Saint of all those who experience doubts) – however another chance to sing more of the Easter Hymns including “Now the Green Blade rises”, written in 1928 by the delightfully named Scotsman, John MacLeod Campbell Crum .

Our Reflection on John 20, the story of Thomas was obtained from the United Methodist Community. All our prayers, with Thomas in mind were written by Obadiah Ballinger a student at Yale Divinity School.

And yes we did sing “See what a morning” again.

During Lent our collections for the Zimbabwe Victim’s Support Group raised £271.61.

David Gifford

North Lynn

If you remember our April article about moles you may wonder if we have continued to work beneath the surface encouraging one another in the love and peace that comes from God.

Well we hope we have. For at North Lynn, over the last month, we have been busy engaging with both our community and our congregation.

In mid March the ‘Community Café’ hosted a publicity morning for the campaign to widen knowledge of the dangers of being involved with people who will loan others money at exorbitant rates and threaten people if the loans are not repaid – the work of the so called ‘Loan Sharks’. We encouraged people to come and join us as we were paid a visit by ‘Sid the Shark’ Dressed in a fuzzy shark costume, he tried to entice us with attractive propositions of going home to pay off our debts with money he could lend us, which we could borrow at up to 400% and more interest rates. Everyone declined the offer especially when he was made to reveal the rates and the methods he might use to get his money back. A kind photographer from the newspapers came to provide a news story for the local paper and we hope as a result the message gets spread around not to trust those who offer money to pay off debts on the doorstep. We intend to invite Sid back again (especially as the children liked his costume) to reveal more of his devious ways as a means of deterring those who might be tempted to take out a loan on the doorstep.

Then on Maundy Thursday we held a different event. Becca helped those who went to the Community Meal learn more about the Passover Meal. Everyone

experienced the various parts of the meal and heard of their meaning. Then we all enjoyed a lamb or vegetarian based meal together – delicious!! Being a small congregation we shared Good Friday with other congregations – Stanhoe, London Road and others joined the Walk of Witness through King's Lynn.

And so to Easter Day! How shall we celebrate the Risen Christ! Certainly together and certainly with joy! As Becca needed to be both at St. John's and North Lynn we opted to have our service later and to 'fill in' the time we joined together for breakfast in our hall – featuring lovely bacon rolls! Then we celebrated together, sharing the lasting effects of Easter as described in the Epistles, illustrated by significant texts we each took home. We concluded by sharing communion together. But Easter isn't complete without an Easter Egg is it?! And to this end each of the texts we took home came attached to a hollow Easter Egg emphasising the empty tomb.

Thus the climax of Easter was reached but we hope that the spirit and joy of Easter will stay with us for some time – initially at least for the Easter Season right up to Pentecost.

We have afforded ourselves a short break from weekly activities but they will all resume as the schools return. We hear our Brownies and Guides are planning another 'sleepover' and our 'Coffee on the Couch' will be hosting other community events.

So we continue to work above and below the surface as we spread the 'Good News' of Jesus in North Lynn.

Neville Posnett

Downham Market

LADIES FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Our first meeting is 11th May. Mr Nigel Bruen is coming to talk to about the "Family Tree" which should be very interesting.

25th May will be a talk by Chaplain to the MHA Frank Reinbold.

Our last two meetings went very well with the average of 18 members. We had Easter hymns and readings followed by the sale of all the lovely cakes members had made and we made the grand sum of £32.50.

Deacon Janet Stafford came and entertained us with talk about items she had in her handbag this was very funny at times but it all related to passages from the Bible and was very interesting.

We are going on our Annual Outing this year to Wroxham for lunch and then to Wroxham Barns on Wednesday 22nd June.

The coach will leave the Hollies at 9.30am. The fare will be £12.00 for members and visitors £13.00. Everyone welcome.

Margaret Fox

Spring has really arrived with lovely sunny days interspersed by some April showers ; excellent growing weather, but it does seem to rain on Saturday mornings making it not worth while setting up the gazebo in the front of the Church and getting out and then repositioning all the plants. We still have to keep an eye on overnight temperatures and put hardening off plants in a sheltered place when frost is forecast, but, oh, the sun is so very welcome. Later in the height of Summer it can be too hot for comfort but spring, autumn and winter sun cheers us as well as warming us. The spring miracle is happening too with dead looking twigs and roots producing new leaves and shoots, a symbol of new life in which we share with Christ's resurrection. Our Easter celebrations were very meaningful and on Easter Day joyous. The Walk of Witness around Downham was blessed with bright sunshine and this was followed by hot cross buns and fellowship before our solemn service. In the evening our choir contributed to the service at Southery with some beautiful music our choir leaders Meg and John had chosen for us. We have so enjoyed learning these quite dramatic and melodious pieces and, having sung for our suppers, were rewarded with more hot cross buns. On the Saturday morning, while some manned the stalls at our usual coffee morning, others helped decorate our thirteen window sills ready for Easter Day's joyous service.

Mentioning our coffee mornings which remain very popular we have recently had some younger folk joining us as several long distance cyclists have dropped in for refreshment, not even knowing that we were there or that the Church is open on Saturday mornings. We have made them welcome, refreshed them and sent them on their way with renewed vigour, hoping that they will spread the word.

Speaking of Spring and renewal, helping to bring new life to our Church are the Messy Church organisers and helpers. The April session theme was 'Who is God?'. The families made biscuits, painted flowers and starbursts,(God's creation), arranged flowers to make a table decoration and made seed pictures. They also made together a sunrise collage and several made junk spaceships. After the celebration they shared a meal of sausage and mash, followed by jam tarts. As it was school holidays, they enjoyed the help and company of some of the team's children and grandchildren. Thanks to everyone for every kind of support.' If you feel you could help this outreach in any way please contact Hazel Miles.

Our 50th anniversary celebration for April is a choir festival on 23rd April when we look forward to junior choirs filling our Church in the afternoon at 2.30 and

senior choirs in the evening at 7.00. The May event is on Friday 27th May and is an Opportunity Knocks evening with in house talent. There are a few spaces left so if you would like to share your talent to entertain please give Meg Cooper a ring on 01366 387017. Otherwise just come along and enjoy a fun evening.

I do enjoy reading about church activities in our Circuit and especially appreciated last month's poem on dust. The fridge magnet my daughter bought me 'gardening forever, housework whenever' has the same theme of concentrating on the important things of life; an important one of which is humour. So perhaps these dreadful Christmas cracker jokes, lifted from the magazine of my previous URC in Southend might raise a smile if not a grimace. Headed 'excuse me teacher' they run:-

Teacher; 'How old is your father?

Child: 6 years'.

Teacher: How is that possible?

Child: He became a father when I was born.

T. Maria, go to the map and find America

M. Here it is.

T. Who discovered America?

Class. Maria

T. David, how do you spell crocodile?

J. K R O K O D I A L

T. No, wrong.

J. It may be, but you asked me how I spelt it

.

T. Robert, what's the chemical formula for water?

R. H I J K L M N O.

T. What are you talking about?

R. You said yesterday that the formula is H to O.

God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in every corner of the world. Then he made the world round and laughed and laughed and laughed.

Lord give me a sense of humour

Give me the grace to see a joke

To get some humour out of life

And pass it on to other folk.

Keep laughing, it's good for your health.

Joan Macey

Pott Row

Its Quiz time again, to start our fund raising year. This will take place on Friday May 20th at 7.30pm. Teams of up to six at £2.50 per person, to include tea/coffee and biscuits. Ricky will be our quiz master again. He picks the questions hard enough to make you think, but easy enough to be fun. We look forward to seeing you all again (or for the first time?) To book your team, please ring Jenny on 01553 630369.

A Joyful Easter Tide Good Friday

It was good to see the traditional walk take place again with a small group carrying a cross around the village to commemorate Jesus' walk to the cross; a few more folk joined the walkers at the church to take part in a short service of meditation and praise.

We then made our way to Pott Row Methodist church. When we opened the door the smell of fish gently cooking encouraged us to go into the schoolroom where tables were set out for about twenty four people, with the usual variety of salt and pepper pots from Jan Willson's collection. There were also baskets of homemade bread, different cheeses and fruit. We were then served with bowls of fish with white sauce and as we enjoyed the food it was good to hear so much friendly chatting. It was also lovely to have a little child keeping her Granny busy attending to her and sharing in the meal.

We must thank the team and helpers for all their hard work to make the fish lunch such a success.

Time waits for nobody, so all was cleared away ready for the service led by Peter Worrell, with different people sharing the readings. It was a very moving service, especially when Peter took up his violin and played 'God So Loved The World' at just the right place.

After the service we shared fellowship together as we enjoyed hot cross buns and drinks.

Easter Day

Easter Day started early with 8.30 communion - it was good to welcome Catherine's Mother, who at short notice, owing to Catherine's illness, came to take the service for us.

Unfortunately she had other services to help with and so could not stay for breakfast.

Gathering in the back room a full English breakfast was soon to be served. As usual Beryl surprised us - last year she made small tapestry coloured crosses for everyone, and this year we each had a small folded yellow card with a Communion symbol on the front, and inside a silver cross. After Alison's father had blessed the food, we enjoyed a hearty breakfast before it was time to get ready for the morning service.

Again we must thank all the workers in the kitchen team serving up such a good breakfast, keeping up the traditions of Pott Row Saturday breakfasts, and clearing up afterwards.

More people were beginning to arrive as Barbara was getting ready to lead the service of praise and thanksgiving for the first Easter morning. It was great to welcome a family with three children, and Barbara was able to use pictures (and her teaching skills!) to help them understand her talk.

It was a truly joyful service, with great singing and music much enhanced by Peter's violin playing.

Bill Hone

St Faith's Gaywood

As you may have seen in the local newspapers, a new Rector has been appointed to head the Anglican clergy team at St Faith's Church. Everyone at St Faith's is looking forward to welcoming the Rev Julie Boyd, currently serving as a curate at the Dersingham Group of Parishes, to St Faith's later this summer.

The Rev Boyd's appointment will fill the vacancy left by the early retirement in July 2015 of the previous Rector, the Rev Canon Beryl Wood.

The Rev Boyd, who is married to Matthew and has two grown-up children, is very much looking forward to starting her new ministry at St Faith's and the wider community across King's Lynn.

While we will be welcoming the new Rector's arrival, we will also be saying farewell to our curate, the Rev Zoe Ferguson. We offer her our warmest congratulations following her appointment as the new Priest-in-Charge of the Mundford with West Tofts Benefice.

These appointments mean that St Faith's is to have a completely new Anglican clergy team while the Methodist Minister, the Rev Andrew Maguire will continue in his present role as Methodist Minister at St Faith's.

As many Rejoice! readers will be aware, St Faith's has recently said goodbye to its popular Team Vicar, Rev Dale Gingrich, who has left Gaywood for a new post in Oxfordshire.

At Rev Gingrich's English afternoon tea leaving party, as St Faith's churchwarden, I said how much church members would miss Dale's presence in the church and wider community. Dale had become known as the man who never said "No" to any task asked of him, however minor that might be.

We are going to miss Dale greatly and this mild-mannered, kind and softly-spoken American had made a significant contribution to the spiritual development and growth of church members during his eight years in the parish. Some amusement was caused when I referred to how much church members would also miss Dale's famous red trolley which had been used for countless purposes over the years. The truck, given to Dale as a Christmas gift

by his wife, Anne-Marie, has carried everything from church pews, Bibles, food parcels for the Foodbank, Christmas trees and Harvest Festival products. At the presentation Dale was given a cheque subscribed to by church members and an inscribed leather-bound Methodist Worship book. His wife, Anne-Marie was given a floral gift.

After the tea, produced by St Faith's caterers Gill Hiles and Joan Greening and their hard-working team of volunteers, most people moved to the church for Dale's final service during which Rev Catherine Dixon preached. Right at the end of the service everyone stood up when the Star Spangled Banner played. Please keep the church members of St Faith's and their new Rector in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare for a new phase in the life and worship of St Faith's Church. There will be a variety of challenges in the years ahead but with God's loving guidance and support they will be met and faced. A major event this month is the 50th anniversary celebrations for the Forget-Me-Not lunch club.

A wonderful golden celebration is in prospect for 27th April when former members and special guests have been invited to share in the celebrations. . It is amazing to think that the club that offers senior citizens a hot two-course lunch on a Wednesday in the Church Rooms has been running for 50 years. At the special anniversary event, prayers will be said in thanksgiving for such a wonderful venture which, of course, is not just about food but, perhaps more importantly, about the companionship and social interaction among its members.

During the lunch people will have a chance to hear of the history of the club and there will be references to the sterling work of all those people who have helped run the club and been a volunteer over the years. Clubs like this only survive because of the time and energy volunteers put into it. As we say Happy Golden Anniversary to the Club we also say long may it continue to fill a social need in our community at Gaywood.

Retired Methodist Minister, Rev John Garfoot, is heading toward a a major celebration of his own next month when he will be 100. Plans are well underway to mark this amazing centenary with a party and service on the day of his 100th birthday on June 15th.

As many of you know, John is a remarkable man of God. He first embraced the computer when he was 83 and still writes articles for the Together and Rejoice magazines.

Among his many congratulation cards, of course, will be a rather special one from Her Majesty the Queen.

Even as he approaches this milestone, John is a regular attender at St Faith's Sunday by Sunday and seeing him make his way to his pew, it is sometimes hard to realise that he is weeks away from his centenary.

Everyone connected to the Anglican and Methodist Churches in West Norfolk will want to join together to say happy 100th birthday, John. Following a successful Spring Fair in March members of St Faith's fund-raising committee, under the chairmanship of Ann Ess, are now looking towards the Summer Fete which is being held on the third Saturday in June. The summer fete is one of St Faith's major fund-raising events of the year and the fund-raising committee works hard to plan the event and make it as enjoyable as it can be for large number of people it attracts. Thought has also been given to the destination for this year's Parish Outing which is likely to be on the Saturday following the June fete. A number of places have been put forward as possible locations for this year's Outing and these include Southwold and Lincoln. Details of date and location for the trip will be announced soon so look out for details and consider joining us on the trip. The last two Parish Outings to Ely and to Bury St Edmunds have been most enjoyable and we are looking forward to an equally enjoyable day out this year.

Richard Parr.

Stanhoe

On Good Friday, we had our usual visit from a band of pilgrims, part of the Student Cross organisation, who had walked from Leicester, carrying a heavy wooden Cross, and were due in Walsingham that same evening. We offered them hot cross buns and drinks, and spiritual nourishment in the form of a short time of shared worship. We are always encouraged by their fervour and commitment to the Christian faith, and singing hymns in a full church and in such company is inspirational.

Later on Good Friday, we had our own, quieter, worship service, led by Rev. Steve, and well supported by Burnham Market Methodists, as well as many from the local Anglican community, including the rector, Rev. Peter Cook. Once again, we served hot cross buns and had a time of fellowship following the service.

On Easter Sunday, we joined with our friends from Burnham Market for morning worship, led by Brian Ogden, formerly one of our members, and now a Local Preacher in the Central Norfolk Circuit. Brian and his wife, Pat, were welcomed as always, and we already look forward to another visit from them in the Autumn.

At our last Harvest Festival service in September, we were each given a daffodil bulb and a small flower pot by Rev. Steve. The idea was for each one of us to find an opportunity to witness the gospel of Jesus Christ to someone

outside the church, and then to plant our bulb and watch it grow, just as we hope that the seed we plant when we witness to others, will grow. We (those of us who remembered) brought our bulbs back to our Communion Service with Steve on 10th April, and lined them up in the front of the church - we had a wide variety of results - there was the bent one, leaning towards the kitchen window, said its owner; there was the one which arrived late, as its owner had forgotten, and had to go home to fetch it; there was the one which had flowered two weeks before, and since died; and there were several still in the early stages of development, showing nothing more than shoots of green; and finally there were the two perfect blooms, which had peaked at just the right moment! I'm sure that there's another parable in there somewhere.

Now, Easter is over and we are looking forward to our next big excitement, which is a proposed Flower Festival on the first weekend in September - more news on this later! This is a further effort to evangelise in the village of Stanhoe - not an easy task when 60% of the houses are holiday homes - but we'd welcome support from across the Circuit. In the meantime, we shall enjoy the summer months, with holidaymakers joining in our services, and the opportunities to be out and about more and appreciate the beauty of our countryside and beaches, as well as time with families and friends.

Elizabeth MacLeod

Hilgay

On Sunday April 3rd we, as a congregation were pleased to share in celebrations with Mr and Mrs Gordon and Mona Kisby on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding. The first hymn at morning worship was one sung on their Wedding Day at Holt Methodist Church.

Mona and Gordon were presented with cards and an arrangement of flowers from Church members.

After the service everyone was invited to share in coffee, tea and cake. Photographs of their wedding were on display for people to see. Many congratulations to you both on 60 years of marriage.

On Sunday May 8th Hilgay Methodist Church will celebrate the **Chapel Anniversary (145years)**. The preacher on this occasion will be Rev. Christopher Bishop, past minister of this church. **Service at 10:00am.**

A new venture is being introduced at Hilgay with a quarterly Cafe Church. The first, hopefully took place on April 24th and the next one will be held on Sunday July 10th at 10:00am.

Pauline Driver.

Dersingham

On Easter Sunday we welcomed about thirty scouts and their leaders who were camping at Sandringham for the weekend. This has become an annual event for us and each year we are impressed with how polite and well-behaved the scouts are. This year two girls were amongst the troop - a sign of the times! How my daughter would have loved to have been a cub and a scout, but she was born too soon! Our preacher, Dudley Pickston, led a thought-provoking and challenging service based on the Easter story and then they tucked into hot or cold drinks and biscuits before returning to camp. In the evening our minister Steve took a Songs of Praise service and we made our Easter Communion.

We now are preparing for our annual Flower Festival at the end of May, details of which you will find elsewhere in Rejoice!, and we look forward to welcoming friends from around the Circuit.

Rosemary Caink

Dersingham Methodist Church Annual Flower Festival Thursday 26th to Sunday 29th May

We look forward to welcoming you to our Flower Festival, the theme is 'Have you heard the story about? Each of the displays depicts a parable as told by Jesus. The festival is held from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Thursday – Saturday. Children from Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School will sing at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday and Friday. You will be able to purchase items from various stalls - cards, books, gifts, cakes, plants, Fair Trade products, not forgetting coffee, excellent lunches and teas, and of course the usual mouth watering selection of cakes. The festival is also open on Sunday 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. for people to enjoy the flowers and a cup of tea and a piece of cake; stalls will not be available.

Proceeds from the Festival are for Church funds and the Norfolk Accident Rescue Service (NARS).

The flower festival continues with services on Sunday at 10.30 a.m. led by the Rev Kim Nally, and a United Songs of Praise at 6.00 p.m. led by Rev Steve Oliver.

Come along and enjoy the wonderful displays, excellent company and fellowship. Further information from Elizabeth Batstone tel: 01485 541068.

Downham Market Golden Anniversary

What's on in May?

How quickly time passes and we are already preparing our next few events and beyond!

On Sunday May 15th at 4pm we are having a prayer walk around Downham Market instead of our Cafe Church (though light refreshments will be available afterwards).

For those who cannot walk any distance or don't want to walk there will be an opportunity to remain in church and do the walk virtually. Oh the wonders of modern technology!

Then on May 27th we will have a fun time with our own DMMC's Got Talent show from 6.30pm. Live entertainment from members of the congregation and so much better than the telly.

Looking into June please put the date of our Garden Party and Strawberry Tea in your diaries. Saturday June 25th from 2-4pm. The event will be opened by Rev. Geoffrey Walton-Pratt (one of the former Circuit ministers) who will also preach on the Sunday. There will be games and races (weather permitting), stalls and side shows and musical entertainment as well as lashings of strawberry goodies.

Do come along and share in our joy.

And a bit more fun!

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words. I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

I used to think I was indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.

Dress Making by Marjorie Bocking

The first thing you need is a pattern. From the moment of our birth our parents have our lives patterned out for us. Some parents have dreams of their child becoming famous like a brain surgeon or even Prime Minister, of becoming a model or film star. The wishful thinking is the start of pattern making. Parents soon realise that their child is just the same as any other baby, sometimes sweet and angelic, sometimes fretful and bad tempered. It is then that serious training and character forming begins. This then is the real pattern taking shape. I am convinced if we are shaped into the correct pattern when we are small then it will be up to us to keep to that pattern as we grow older and wiser in years.

Some of us were blessed with parents or relatives who could help us in this struggle against the so called worldly ones. It is far easier for a child to say yes to peer pressure than to say no to drugs and the like and have to suffer jeers or even a beating.

If the pattern has been laid on the material correctly then the temptations are easier to resist. Pinning the pattern to the material is the next step.

Pins are the representations of all the niggling doubts and fears and fears which we seem to get, mostly in our teenage years, although they do seem to pop up now and then as we get older! Having had a teenage daughter of my own I can remember how difficult life can be for them at this time. One day they can be sweet and helpful, the next miserable and moody- for no apparent reason! They are told to behave like grownups when they try to assert themselves a little they are slapped down and made to feel small again. With some youngsters the pattern gets torn as the pins are inserted and they drift into the wrong way of life.

I am never alone

God's always with me, though I sometimes forget
When the pressures of life get me down,
When everything's the darkest, that's when I forget.
The dear Lord is somewhere around.
God's always with me through the bad times and good,
Sharing each joy and each pain.
And I try to remember, as everyone should,
He will help me again and again.
God is always with me, I am never alone
Though sometimes it seems to be true.
So, I stumble along, with my hand in his own
For there is nothing that God cannot do.
Some day he will answer the questions I've asked
And I'll know why some things had to be.
Right now it's enough to take him in Faith
And to know he is always with me.
I am never alone.

Thanks to Gwen Dearsley

Early notice.

The July/August edition of the magazine will be produced by

Derek Marlow

The Willows, 40 Avon Road,

King's Lynn,

PE30 3LS

Email Derekmarlow@aol.com

(Many thanks in advance Derek. I wonder how many people will read this.....and then send copy for June to you!!!!!!!)

**East Anglia District
of the Methodist Church**

invites you to come and celebrate ministry
during an

**Ordinand's
Testimony
Service**

at

*Trinity Methodist Bury St. Edmunds
on Tuesday 24th. May 2016 at 7pm.*

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Jane Leach

Ordinands – Rev. Rita Carr and

Rev. Sang Woo Seo

Everyone expected! Everyone welcome!



The theme of the 2016 Methodist Homes Sunday Appeal is “Creating Communities that Care”

And echoes what we see as one of the core purposes of everything MHA is involved in, whether in residential work, the activities of the Live at Home Schemes or in a growing desire to join with others in campaigning for a fairer society for older people.

We owe immense gratitude to our supporters and by holding a Methodist Homes Sunday Service, your Church helps us to do practical things that help older people not just survive but to thrive. Your support helps us to develop and increase our facilities and provide life enhancing services such as chaplaincy, music therapy for people with dementia and support services in our Live at Home Schemes.

We hope you will join us on our special Sunday and make use of the Order of Service contained within our Spring Heart & Soul magazine. You can also download a copy at www.mha.org.uk or contact Lesley France on 01332 296200 or email lesley.france@mha.org.uk

The suggested date for your service is 12th June but if this is not possible, please remember the work of MHA at any time in 2016.

(Envelopes containing all the information for MHA Sunday were distributed to each church at the recent Circuit Meeting. Some churches have found that this service has proved very useful for a CFS.)

Your local MHA representative is:

**Heather Titcomb
8 Paige's Close
Dersingham
PE31 6UF
01485 542960
heather38@tiscali.co.uk**

AFTERNOON TEA AND QUIZ

SATURDAY 21ST MAY AT 2.30pm

UP TO 6 PEOPLE PER TEAM

£3.50 ENTRY FEE PER PERSON

PRIZE FOR WINNING TEAM

ALSO BOOBY PRIZE AND RAFFLE

**VENUE : THE SCHOOLROOM AT
CLENCHWARTON METHODIST CHAPEL**

In aid of Chapel Funds

To register your team please call Stephanie

On 01553 769301

Churches Together in King's Lynn

**Thinking Things Through:
Christian Perspectives on Assisted Dying**

A talk and discussion led by the Rev. Catherine Dixon

*Catherine is acting moderator of Churches Together.
She is engaged in doctoral research through Wesley House, Cambridge, on the
area of ministry to the dying.*

**London Road Methodist Church
Wednesday 1st June 2016, 7.30pm
Refreshments from 7pm**

All welcome

PRIMITIVE METHODISM IN KING`S LYNN

From its beginning at Mow Cop on 31st May 1807 the Primitive Methodist movement grew and grew. Churches were established up and down the country and by 1820 there were 7842 members. In 1821 two of the pioneer missionaries, Oscroft and Charlton, came to Lynn. The first Camp Meeting took place outside the South Gates and services held in a sail-maker`s loft in St Nicholas Street, the spot now marked by a plaque. Within ten months of the arrival of the preachers they printed a Plan (April 1822) in which appeared no less than 57 villages where services were held. There was reference in a letter to the fact that the Primitives were carrying all before them.

The work was consolidated when Rev GW Belham, a native of the town, was appointed in 1825. He extended the bounds of the Circuit by missioning Swaffham, Litcham and other places. The area thus missioned became the Swaffham Circuit, from where, at Sporle, Robert Ward went as a pioneer missionary to New Zealand.

A Sunday School was started in the building known as the Greenland Fishery. In the early days the preachers had barely enough to live on. Single men were paid £4 a week and were not allowed to bring in any bills for food, drink, washing, lodging or medical aid. Married men, 14 shillings a week. No wonder they were all teetotallers.

The first preaching house was soon far too small. It was likewise dangerous. On two occasions the congregation was alarmed by the props supporting the upper room giving way. So they got a plot of land in London Road and started to raise money to build a chapel. Children were encouraged to collect farthings, which created quite a shortage of them in the area! One little girl collected a thousand! The building started when £30 was in hand. It was opened in 1826 and enlarged with a gallery 1833. In 1831 John Smith became superintendent minister. By 1832 membership had increased to 234 and that was the signal to go out missioning again. James Pole was sent to Holme, Hunstanton, Ringstead, Docking and Snettisham. He was so successful that Snettisham became head of a new Circuit. In 1833 W. Kirby was sent to Peterborough and that was the beginning of a new Circuit there.

In 1836 the Primitive Methodist Conference was held in Lynn. It was noised abroad that the authorities would intervene to prevent the processing of the streets in the royal borough on the Sunday. William Clowes was present and he wrote in his Journal "I told the policeman that whenever we held a conference we had a procession, and that we fully intended to pursue our natural course, leaving the event with the Lord, as I said we should; and the town's people were astonished at the order and vigour of our movement; and the multitude that accompanied the procession to the camp ground was prodigious." A Camp Meeting on Hardwick was said to have been one of the largest ever held. People came from 40 miles around in wagons, carts, gigs and on horseback.

In 1844 Conference met at Lynn for the second time. Hugh Bourne himself, co-founder of Primitive Methodism, was present. Then 72 years of age it was here that he volunteered to go to Canada as a missionary and he went. Thousands of people attended the Camp Meeting along Gaywood Road, just beyond the Hob-in-the-Well. Hugh Bourne was very fond of children and he had two girls dressed in white on either side of him leading the procession. There were three preaching stands, at night several love feasts were held and between 30 and 40 people were converted. A party of 80 came down the river from Cambridge.

The present London Road Chapel, originally known as St James, was built on the site of an old workhouse which one Sunday morning had collapsed, killing two people and injuring several others. Casualties would have been far heavier only most of the inmates had gone to church. There was much opposition to the "Ranters" securing such a fine site. Mr W Lift laid the foundation stone. His name appears on no fewer than 22 other chapels and Sunday schools in the neighbourhood. Robert Key preached in the old chapel and on the following day teachers and scholars had a great demonstration on the Tuesday Market Place and formed a circle. They had a saxhorn band which played the National Anthem. Then everyone processed to the site. There about 500 children were regaled with good old English fare (roast beef and plum pudding) and £1.16.3d was paid by those who wanted to go and see the children feed. Robert Key came again for the opening ceremony on 31st March 1859. There had been a clock on the front of the old workhouse. The Town Council would not put one up

for the PM building so the trustees got up a subscription list. For about 40 years the Council did pay the cost of lighting it at night, but eventually had second thoughts and cut the gas off. Many people knew "St James" as "Chapel Clock. " It is good to see a new one in place today and the Church so beautifully refurbished, worthy of our heritage.

John Garfoot

100th Birthday Celebration for 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.

Andrew Maguire

MWiB – Easter Offering

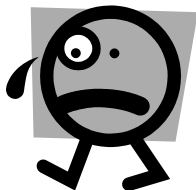
'Easter Offerings' and the Dedication Service will to be held at London Road on 11th May at 2.30 pm lead by Rev. Catherine Dixon.

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



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

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Scripture Union

Seeing the wood for the tree

Making sense of the Bible in the light of God's overall purpose.

Friday 3rd June at The Good News Centre

St John's Church, King's Lynn.

Two talks by John Grayston

7.00 -8.00 pm Viewing the wood: Understanding God's big plan

8.00-8.30 pm Coffee break

8.30-9.30 pm Looking at the trees: Exploring the word

John Grayston – until 2009 John was the Director of Theology for Scripture Union England and Wales. Now retired but acting as Biblical and Theological Consultant for SU, he is engaged in writing and itinerant preaching. John is an Elder at Tile Kiln Church in Chelmsford.

There is no charge for the evening but it would be appreciated if those who attend help to cover the expenses.

For further information contact Mike Brown 01553 772036

Mike2brown@talktalk.net

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary May 2016 onwards

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

Wednesday 11th May Easter Offering Service London Road at
2.30pm

Saturday 14th May Fellowship Breakfast at Marham
at 8.30 am

Sunday May 12th Prayer Walk around Downham 4pm start

Saturday 21st May Paul Field Concert Westminster Central Hall

Thursday 26th/Sunday 29th Flower Festival at Dersingham

Friday 27th May Downham Market's got Talent at Downham
Market 6.30 pm

Sunday 5th June Anniversary Tea at Terrington 3-5pm

Saturday 11th June Fellowship Breakfast at Downham at 8.30am

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

Thursday 6th October MWiB Autumn Day at South Lowestoft