

# Rejoice!

September 2015



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

Dear Friends,

What a remarkable summer! I am not referring to the occasionally nice and often indifferent weather, of course, but to my Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination at the end of June. Those events have filled my heart and mind and taken up much of my attention and energy, and made summer 2015 very memorable indeed. I have never walked a long pilgrim trail, such as the *Camino* to Santiago del Compostela in Spain, but I imagine at the end there is an enormous sense of relief and elation, along with a few blisters. I have, however, lived a very long pilgrim journey from when I candidated for ministry in Penzance in 1998 to my ordination in Chester Cathedral on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and the feeling on reaching that point was an overwhelming and exhausting tide of joy and excitement, of affirmation and blessing. I have been bouncing around on the mountain top ever since (although there was no bouncing – and thankfully no blisters – in my ordination shoes!). The editor of *Rejoice!* has, however, strongly hinted that I need to come back down to where there is wifi, and I am slowly catching up with things left undone. I plead your indulgence, and do watch your inboxes if you were hoping to hear from me. I will have reached the bottom of mine before August is out!

The idea of ‘mountain-top’ experiences comes to us from the accounts of Jesus’ transfiguration in the Gospels. He takes Peter, James and John up the mountain and there he is revealed in his glory. The experience is so wonderful, so overwhelming, that Peter wants them to remain. But these experiences of blessing, of transformation, of glory are just that. Experiences. Moments in - and out - of time. But as we come down from the mountain top we do not leave them behind. We are changed by them, and their glory continues to burn in us and through us. I have returned to Circuit blessed by an experience which will continue to live in me, and through which I hope to be a blessing to others.

In the hymn *Brother, Sister let me serve you* (StF 611 ) we sing the line “we are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road”. I have been blessed by many companions at each stage of my journey to ordination, and especially so by the welcome and support I have received over the past two years in the West Norfolk circuit. Thank you

to you all for being companions on the road with me, and for allowing me to accompany you on your various journeys in life and faith. May we continue to journey to the peaks of the mountains, and through the valleys of life, knowing that in all places God is with us, as Jesus promised on that mountain top at the end of Matthew's Gospel.

Those of you who were at my Testimony service in May cannot have forgotten my former tutor, the Rev. Dr Malcolm Guite, who preached and shared his poetry with us. I leave you with one of his poems which will appear in his next collection, a reflection on that text from Matthew 28:20: "I will be with you always, to the end of the age".

Every blessing,

Catherine

### **I Will Be With You**

Your final words fulfill your ancient name,  
A promise hidden in *Emmanuel*,  
A promise that can never fade or fail:  
I will be with you till the end of time;  
I will be with you when you scale the height  
And with you when you fall to earth again,  
With you when you flourish in the light,  
And with you through the shadow and the pain.  
Our God with us, you leave and yet remain  
Risen and hidden with us everywhere;  
Hidden and flowing in the wine we share,  
Broken and hidden in the growing grain.  
Be with us till we know we are forgiven  
Be with us here till we're with you in heaven.

From *Parable and Paradox*, to be published by Canterbury Press in 2016.

"What you say and how you say it matters to the receiver. You and the receiver will feel better if your words are kind and encouraging and your attitude is positive and uplifting". From "Compass".

# Praying together in the Circuit

Jabez called on the God of Israel saying,

"Oh, that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my territory  
that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me  
from evil that I may cause no pain!"

So God granted him what he requested. 1 Chronicles 4: 9 - 10

Jabez yearned for God to bless him, to do for him what only  
God could do.

He wanted to serve obediently and effectively.

He wanted to be used in a way which would bring glory to God.

He prayed for more opportunities and acknowledged his need  
to be empowered by God. He could not do it in his own strength.

He prayed similar words to those Jesus taught 'deliver us from evil.

The name Jabez means pain, Jabez didn't want to cause pain but to be  
a blessing. He believed in the God of miracles and put his trust in Him.

So God granted him what he requested.

Do we want to be a blessing ?

Wherever awakening takes place in the Church

there is a desperate longing for God and a commitment to prayer.

A realisation that when God's power is released there is blessing.

O Lord that You would bless our Circuit INDEED

and make us a blessing, use us for Your glory.

Thank You for the doors of opportunity You have opened for us

to witness and serve You. To reach out to others in Your love.

Guide us in Your ways. Keep us in Your truth. Enable us by Your power

Draw us to pray without ceasing.

Prayers have been requested for:-

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

## **Circuit Prayer Afternoon: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

Looking ahead to the start of the Methodist year in September, we will be holding a prayer afternoon on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September from 2pm at Pott Row Chapel. There will be opportunities to reflect and to share concerns and prayer stations to help focus our devotions. At 4pm there will be a service in which we will offer our prayers for the life and direction of our Circuit.

The first part of the afternoon will be very informal – please feel free to pop in for just five minutes or two hours, to dip in and out of the prayer stations as you feel comfortable or to write down your concerns.

At 4pm we will have a more traditional service in which we will root ourselves in worship and offer our prayers through words and hymns and silence. You are warmly encouraged to come to the service even if you have not been to the earlier part of the afternoon.

If you have any questions about any Circuit events please do get in touch.

*Catherine*

01553 676918; revcdixon@gmail.com

## **Celebration of Ministry**

The Circuit Service of Celebration of Ministry in the West Norfolk Circuit was a unique occasion.

The service, held at London Road Methodist Church, on 18<sup>th</sup> July, celebrated the ministry of Rev. Marie Whitcombe, who has retired, and the Ordination of Rev. Catherine Dixon at this year's Methodist Conference. In addition, we presented 60 year Long Service Certificates to Local Preachers Roland Hamon and Stephen Watts and welcomed Heather Brown as an accredited Local Preacher.

The service was led by Rev. Andrew Maguire (Superintendent) with Rev. Julian Pursehouse (District Chair) as the preacher. Rev. Catherine Dixon presided at the service of Holy Communion.

John Miles, LP Secretary

# Around the churches



## Downham Market

Ladies Friendship Circle commences again on September 9<sup>th</sup> with a Harvest Festival theme, hymns and readings with a Bring and Buy stall. On September 23<sup>rd</sup> Mr Patrick Thompson will be our speaker for the evening on Royalty.

This is an invitation to all readers to join our group, we are friendly and we have fun, we meet every other Wednesday in the function room at Downham Market Methodist Church at 7.30pm

Hope all members have had an enjoyable break and we are looking forward to seeing you soon.

Margaret Fox

Writing from the New Forest with the aid of modern technology and the help of my grandson who knows how to use it, I am hoping to send my church's contribution to Rejoice a few days early to make up for the times I have been late. I have been away for two weeks now, so am not really up to date with Church affairs but hoping, praying and trusting that all is well.

Before I came away with my family, we had another successful session of Messy Church, which gains in popularity and a really wonderful Church Anniversary service when the choir greatly enjoyed singing the anthem "Make Us One". The service was conducted by the chairman of the district, the Rev. Julian Pursehouse, and afterwards we enjoyed a shared lunch and much fellowship.

The Rev. Pursehouse took as his theme for the sermon, "The church, Thankful, Resilient and Prophetic". Thankful, I found quite easy. My evening prayers always include a review of the day and thanks for all the good things and some of the bad things sometimes, in that these are perhaps intended as character or faith building.

Resilient wasn't too difficult either. He traced how the church has fluctuated over the years, sometimes seeming almost to die but always rising again from the ashes of old habits and ways. I have had a lesson in resilience lately. After the death of my dear husband, moving out of my house without yet having another to go to, has meant much stress over what to store, what to take to my family's house and what to load into the car for the charity shops.

Downsizing means getting rid of a multitude of things that had been a part of our lives for many years. The experience was very tiring and occasionally very

upsetting, but had to be done. I told myself one day at a time, many people are without partners as couples seldom go together, you are not unique so just get on with it; a form of diligence perhaps?

I found prophetic a bit harder to work out, but the Rev. Pursehouse spoke of Christians through the ages, passing on their message of love and forgiveness, and this reminded me of my mother, who loved and grew sweet peas. For many years after her death, I managed to sow the seeds and keep them growing, and perhaps this is a picture of our Christian lives. Some of us older folk do not find it so easy to speak of our faith to others, but rather we show it in the way we live, obeying and spreading Christ's message of love thy neighbour as thyself. We perhaps never know how far the message spreads, or how our actions will affect the lives of others, we must just do our best and leave it in His hands.

We shall be home in a few days, leaving this lovely countryside (different, but no more lovely than where we are privileged to live) and I shall be able to check my own plants, which have been left in my daughters garden, and those at church for the next Saturday coffee morning. I am sure, if there has been a hot dry spell, someone will have watered them. We are so lucky, we enjoy our holidays, but also enjoy coming home and back to the family of the church, with hopefully batteries recharged ready for the new church year's activities. There is the Harvest Festival to plan for, and Christmas will be quick to follow, with lots to do, but it is better to wear out than rust out. I hope you are all enjoying your summer.

Joan Macey

## **The Strawberry Tea at Pott Row Chapel**

With strawberries in abundance it was time for the yearly strawberry tea, hosted by the Chapel members supported by the Grimston Good Companions.

As usual for Chapel events, the sun was out and so was the bunting, not only on the railings but all around inside giving a bright friendly atmosphere. On each table was a posy of fresh flowers - a lovely variety, well done by the member who arranged them.

In the middle of the room was a line of tables covered with plates of sandwiches and cakes, and in the centre was a cake stand proudly showing off beautiful iced fairy cakes. Anyone needing gluten free food was also well catered for.

Arranged on the stage were the cellos proudly played by young musicians led by Ian McCready. Their wide selection of pieces included The Swan and Pachelbel's Canon and many more well known pieces. We listened with

pleasure to the first few until at the end of one, a voice called, 'Keep talking!' but we enjoyed listening!

The Rev. Catherine Dixon welcomed us all, and then we heard, 'Come and eat!' There was food of all kinds - as we carried our plates we looked and had great difficulty in choosing! We were all waiting for the strawberries and cream! Then the bowls of strawberries were carried in followed by the jugs of cream. Soon everyone was served and second helpings offered. With fifty or more people all chatting you could say it was a really good get together. The raffle was held and the prizes were arranged around the organ, one being a water colour of a Hampshire village painted by Ray Messam - a wonderful prize.

It was great to see the young musicians enjoying their well earned strawberries and cakes, and we gave them a well deserved clap when they left.

At the end of the afternoon it was good to see the last cakes and sandwiches were going to make easy tea times at different homes!

We do hope you will come again next year - you are always welcome.

Bill Hone

## London Road



### Building a church in the Philippines

For the last six months we have had regular worshippers Amor and Gertruda from the Philippines. They have enthused us with the pictures of the church they are building back home.

On their last Sunday with us (August 2<sup>nd</sup>) Catherine concentrated on the World Church in her Communion prayers with particular reference to the Church in the Philippines.

A member of the congregation, David, who has worked in the Philippines for all of two weeks, made a donation on behalf of London Road to the church building fund along with other personal donations.

Our friends were overwhelmed by this unexpected gift.

Amor has promised to send us a photo of the completed church.

David Gifford



Ladies' Thursday Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays from January to May and September to December at 7.30pm.  
On September 3<sup>rd</sup> Rev Catherine Dixon will be the speaker and on September 17<sup>th</sup> Jan will talk on the RSPCA.  
If you would like to join us please call Alex on 07456064479.

## **Terrington St Clement**

Our MWiB (Network ) meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> will be Harvest hymns and readings. On September 23<sup>rd</sup> Ann Bromhead will show slides and give a talk about her travels. Then on October 7<sup>th</sup> the speaker will be Phyllis Bowman.

Our Harvest weekend begins on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am to 1pm with coffee and stalls, followed by light lunches. On Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> our service will be led by Maggie Blowers.

Linda Howling

## **Dersingham**

September again! A month forever associated in our minds with returning to school as a child and starting a new Methodist year as adults. A month of change for some (a new teacher or school, a new manse and church) or the comforting familiarity of another autumn, seeing the colours return again on the trees, picking apples at Sandringham ("I can't believe it is another year gone by since we did this!") and another harvest to celebrate.

Our Harvest Celebration this year will start on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September when we will hold a coffee morning to raise funds for the local Foodbank. On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September the Rev. Steve Oliver will lead our morning worship and this will be followed by a Harvest lunch. In the evening at 6 p.m. we welcome the Rev. Susan Bowden Pickstock, the rector of Brancaster, to our pulpit. Our harvest gifts will again be for the Foodbank.

The Coffee and Chat sessions make a welcome return starting on the 29<sup>th</sup> October when lively and interesting discussions take place on a topical issue. Everyone is welcome to come and air their views over a cup of good Methodist coffee (or tea) and a biscuit.

So another year of activities, outreach and witness begins. We pray it may produce a good harvest.

Rosemary Caink

## **Stow Bridge**

As you read this you can say "Good bye" to yesterday. We all could say something about yesterday and could tell us something that has occurred

today. Now, what could we see or say about tomorrow? Some would say “Nothing” or “Tomorrow never comes”. What about the multi million lottery winners? Did they know that the next day they would be millionaires? I would imagine they didn’t for when buying a ticket it was a hope. Hope for a win.

We set our seeds in the garden and we trust they will come to fruition and thankfully they mostly do. We all hope for many things or happenings tomorrow and to be fair, some of our wishes come true. But there are many requests, wishes and hopefulness that are not fulfilled. Yes our prayers are selfish sometimes, (I’m looking at myself). And a question I often ask, “Do we always know what’s good for us?”

Should our hopes and wishes be for other people? Yes, I’m sure they should be. we learn this from Jesus’ teaching.

Hope, one of the three words of Paul’ faith, hope and love.

So here’s hoping for the right things and I’m sure God will answer them all. I’m hoping I’ll be able to get in my ow shed tomorrow, mucking about with bits of wood. With that inward looking thought I would hope all goes well with you.

Peter Hewitt

## **Hilgay**

We have been pleased to welcome back Pauline and Elinor after their respective spells in hospital.

We send our love and best good wishes for their continued improvement. From all of us in the pews.

## **St Faith’s**

Members of St Faith's Church have said a heartfelt and fond farewell to their Rector, the Rev Canon Beryl Wood, who has retired on health grounds. Canon Beryl has moved from the Rectory to live in retirement in South Wootton.

At her farewell afternoon tea party in Gaywood Church Rooms on July 25<sup>th</sup> churchwarden Richard Parr gave a speech in which he spoke of Canon Beryl's long association with St Faith's.

She had originally served as curate in the late 1980s and early 1990s and was one of the first women in the country to be ordained after the historic vote to ordain women as priests in the Church of England. She returned to the Gaywood Parish some twenty years later in 2010 when she was appointed Rector.

In an often humorous address, Mr Parr spoke of Canon Beryl's five years as Rector and the considerable contribution she had made to the life of the parish and in the wider West Norfolk community. Our Methodist minister, the

Rev. Andrew Maguire, also spoke about Canon Beryl's role as the Rector and how he had enjoyed working with her in leading the clergy team at St Faith's. Canon Beryl was presented with a cheque, to which church members had contributed and a special mock newspaper "front page" which carried articles about her 28 years in ministry. She was invited to cut a retirement cake, beautifully-made by Nick and Ash, and was given a large bouquet. Canon Beryl said that she had loved every minute of her 28-year ministry and had many happy memories of the various posts, in various parts of the country, she had held over those years.

The next day, 26<sup>th</sup> June, Canon Beryl presided at the Communion service and preached at her final service as Rector. Prayers of thanksgiving were said for her ministry at Gaywood. After the service senior steward, Joan Greening, thanked Canon Beryl for all she had done as Rector. Mrs Greening referred to the colourful clerical shirts worn by Canon Beryl and her fondness for pretty earrings. Churchwarden Juanita Hawthorne presented Canon Beryl with a bouquet.

With Canon Beryl's retirement, the whole long-term future of the large Anglican and Methodist Gaywood Parish is now being considered. New proposals, which could see Gaywood become part of The Woottons group, were to be outlined by the Archdeacon of Lynn, Venerable John Ashe, at a special open meeting for church members on 17<sup>th</sup> August in Gaywood Church Rooms. A similar meeting was also to be held for church members in The Woottons. It has been stressed that at this stage the concept of a merged Gaywood and The Woottons Benefice were still only proposals and nothing had been agreed. The proposals will also need to go before St Faith's Church Council for consideration and debate.

An open-air service, starting at 10.30am (please note the start time) will be held on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> August, in the area outside the west door (tower end) of St Faith's Church. The service will be followed by a picnic lunch. People are asked to bring their own picnic lunches, garden chairs and blankets.

A new art group may be launched at St Faith's Church following a week-long Artist-in-Residency held during the Diocese-wide Open Churches week between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of August. Several people, who called into the church to chat to artist-in-Residence, Mary-Rose Upton, or to join her in painting and drawing, had expressed an interest in forming a new weekly art group. The pieces of art work created by children and adults during the special week were displayed in church.

More than 30 church members enjoyed St Faith's Parish summer outing to the lovely Suffolk market town of Bury St Edmunds.

The trip was arranged following the success of the newly-introduced parish outing in 2014 when the destination was the Fenland town of Ely.

June 28<sup>th</sup> was a lovely, warm sunny day and people were able to do their 'own thing' and explore the town during the first part of the visit. Later everyone met for afternoon tea and Betty Guy was presented with a bouquet of larkspur and thanked for her work in organising the Parish Outing. Everyone took part in a lovely service of Evening Prayer in the beautiful St Edmundsbury Cathedral. The group was made to feel very welcome at the service and Betty Guy was invited to read a Lesson and two hymns were sung. Everyone said they had enjoyed the day in the company of St Faith's friends. Suggestions for destinations for next year's Parish Outing include Lincoln, Southwold and York.

The garden of Gaywood Rectory will be the lovely setting for a Teddy Bear's picnic on 13<sup>th</sup> September. Families who have had baptisms during the past year will be invited to the picnic. Please note that if the weather is cold or wet the event will NOT go ahead.

September is traditionally the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness..... and at St Faith's the Harvest Festival will be celebrated at the main 9.45am service on 28<sup>th</sup> September. There is always something rather special about the Harvest Festival service when those in church have the chance to sing again those wonderful harvest hymns. This year the service is to be followed by a Harvest Sausage and Mash lunch in the Church Rooms. A limited number of tickets for the lunch will be available from the church office (King's Lynn 015553 774916). For catering purposes people wishing to attend the lunch MUST have a ticket.

Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children under-14. The lunch in Gaywood Church Rooms, starts at 12 noon.

### **Churches Together in King's Lynn**

Public meetings at London Road Methodist Church – all welcome

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm (after the AGM at 7pm)

Bob Wilson: 'Prison Chaplaincy, the Church and me'

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 7pm

Paula Hall (Chief Executive of the Purfleet Trust): 'Purfleet Trust – helping to meet the needs of the homeless in our community'

### **Network Norfolk**

The Norfolk and Norwich Christian community website can be found at [networknorwich.co.uk](http://networknorwich.co.uk) and is full of information about Church and Christian events around the county. If you visit the site you can subscribe for regular emails keeping you in touch with the wider Christian scene in Norfolk. They are looking for someone to contribute information about West Norfolk which is presently rather unrepresented. Perhaps a keen *Rejoice!* reader might be the person they need?



*'Sewing together the threads  
of faith'*

# Parables

Exhibition of

Quilts

**Heacham Methodist Church**

**4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**Friday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Sunday 12 noon to 4:00 pm**

## THE OLD DAYS

In the 30 odd years since I retired I have tried to live up to the prayer in Day 9 of the Prayer Handbook..."God give us courage to face change, grace to let go of old familiar ways." A supernumerary friend of mine said that today's was not the same church as the one into which he had been ordained. There have obviously been vast changes, just as we live in a different world. If I write of how things used to be it is not to say that things were better (or worse) but because I have been asked to share my memories as a matter of historical interest.

I first went into Circuit nearly 70 years ago. Our first manse was across a field. It was very remiss of them at theological college not to teach me how to get through a herd of cows. I had to learn the hard way. Everything in manses used to be provided by the Circuit. The difficulties and shortages of the war years had taken their toll so we did not expect much and we were not disappointed. Bedsteads with brass knobs, feather beds, frayed linen, worn carpets and oilcloth. Cooking was an open fire or in a side oven. Washing up in a sink without a draining board. Wash day was out in the wash-house, with a tub, dolly and rubbing board. Can you imagine life without central heating, vacuum cleaner, fridge, freezer, let alone TV and computers? My wife's home in Italy had been destroyed by bombing and they had lost everything and for nearly six years all I had was in an army kit bag so we thought this was marvellous and we were so thankful.

Our house was 1000 feet above sea level and the furthest point of my section another 1000 feet up with only a bicycle to get there. Travelling allowance was £1 a quarter (old money) which was just about enough for the odd bus trip to town for committees. I digress a moment to recall that when I was in King's Lynn the Chairmen of the East Anglia and Lincoln Districts met at our house and came up with the first scheme of travelling allowances for rural Circuits, the "Points System." I had nothing to do with it but in later years I was on the Connexional Finance Committee when we were able to get allowances increased to cover depreciation.

I soon discovered that I was to have 8 churches in my section. Incidentally, the most I ever had was 13. Altogether during my active ministry I had pastoral charge of 57 and it is a great sadness to me that 34 have been closed, most of them since I retired. It also troubles me that Methodist membership is only half of what it was. I had over 300 members and we had quarterly class tickets so it was quite a chore writing them all out each time.

An old Circuit Plan makes interesting reading. It contained a full financial statement and a pastoral letter. As well as Sunday services each minister was planned for a midweek service Mondays to Thursdays in his own churches. A special Sunday would be devoted to the work of one of the "Departments" (later "Divisions") – Temperance and Social Welfare (Later Christian Citizenship, Overseas and Home Missions. It was mandatory for a Sunday collection every year to go to each one and a midweek service to be devoted to each. Sometimes a missionary on furlough would go round the country on deputation. A couple of times I went on Home Mission deputation to talk about rural Methodism. In these ways people became quite well informed as to what was happening in the wider church. Quite often church leaders were invited to speak at Circuit Rallies.

Because of the cost of travel, smaller congregations and lack of amenities in the countryside many Ministers would be unwilling to accept an invitation to a rural circuit. Most town Circuits were able to pay stipends above the minimum and were regarded as `plum` appointments. The Invitation System worked differently in those days. Periodically a list of ministers on the move would be printed in the Methodist Recorder and Circuit Stewards would write to enquire if one they picked out would consider an invitation. Often it was a fruitless task and stewards in country Circuits might get scores of refusals and it would be left to Conference to send someone. In 1947 I was taken to Conference at Newcastle by a wealthy member (the only time I have ever been in a Rolls Royce) The President was Dr WE Farndale who was Chairman of my home Lincoln District. He made a passionate appeal to ministers to serve in rural Circuits, reminding us that the Gospels record that Jesus went into the villages as well as the cities. That is how I came to spend the whole of my ministry in rural appointments.

This was the heyday of City Missions. I attended the one in Nottingham as a student; the congregation was over a thousand. They were popular services and social work during the week was carried out by Deaconesses. It needed a special kind of Minister to be suitable for this kind of work and they were much in demand for specials, taking their store of stories round the country, having people in fits of laughter one moment and in tears the next.

In the local church there was a certain amount of duplication of effort with separate Trustees and Leaders meetings. Each church had its own body of trustees who looked after the property. Their regular income came from the Chapel Anniversary and Harvest Festival, which were always much anticipated events, with special preachers and soloists. For the Harvest the chapel would be decorated with flowers and greenery and at the front there was a table laden with fruit and vegetables, with always a glass of water and piece of coal. There would also always be a sheaf of corn. When combine harvesters came to be used this could be in short supply and I have known one to be kept in a cupboard and brought out

year by year. On the Monday evening (or Tuesday so as not to clash with a neighbouring meeting) there would be a service followed by a sale of produce at much inflated prices for trust funds. My record was having to speak at 17 Harvests in one year, made worse as congregations followed each other round.

Perhaps the most noticeable change from today was the huge number of children we had. The MAYC (Methodist Association of Youth Clubs) which was formed 70 years ago, was in earlier days the biggest youth organisation in the country. The King's Lynn Circuit when I was stationed here had over 800 children and young people. Nearly every church had a Sunday School and the highlight of the year was the Sunday School Anniversary. A platform would be erected over the communion rail and filled with small boys and girls in their new Sunday best to say their pieces and join in special songs they had been practising for weeks. Sometimes they would be taken round the village on a truck to sing and collect for Sunday School funds. A minister's diary could become quite full with a multiplied succession of Sunday School prize-givings, parties, outings, scripture exams, promotion services and teacher training sessions. Boys and girls would be present at most services and preachers were required to give a children's address. Each year there would be a Youth Week with a full programme of activities, perhaps a pageant, eisteddfod, Bible quiz. And those Friday evenings when we were not planned out? That was for Youth Clubs, the most challenging evening of the week. One I had was over 70 and included "Teddy boys". I had complaints from neighbours about the noise of scooters belonging to "Mods" (one of the gangs of the time). It wasn't unusual for me to have to go to the Magistrates Court on a Monday morning to put in a word on behalf of a boy who had got caught up in a fight.

Ministers didn't have a regular day off. We just took one when we could. Holidays in my earliest years were just two Sundays a year. As well as Circuit work all of us were required to play an active part in District affairs. Each of the Divisions had a corresponding District committee and we would be appointed to serve on at least two of them. May Synods were two day affairs, the first being the Ministerial one and often involved overnight hospitality. Synods themselves were much longer and items on the agenda usually called for much debate from the floor. Nowadays Synods are often held in schools but they always used to take place in the larger churches in the District. I can remember the day when lunch would be provided by some wealthy lay person!

These, then, are some of my memories. I cannot deny that I miss some of the things of yesteryears. Others are a good miss. For the most part I am content to sing:

"And it's from the old I travel to the new  
Keep me travelling along with you."

John Garfoot



## **M.W.I.B. - Forthcoming Events - Reminder**

Forum Meeting at Diss September 18<sup>th</sup> 2015.

A.G.M. at London Road on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 2.30pm.

Autumn District Day on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Diss where Heather Sorrell will be inducted as our new President.

Autumn Rally; the date and venue is to be decided at the A.G.M.

Margaret Shelton

### **As Time Goes By!**

Just had my \*\* birthday so my allotted time should end next year! I decided I needed to mark this momentous occasion in some way. I walked with John from Heacham on his Jolly Jaunt a few years ago but thought I couldn't copy that so decided to walk 70 times for 70 minutes each time, started on the birthday I've just had and finishing on my birthday next year. It means I have to walk about 5 times a month, although I will try to get a few more in during the better weather. I have invested in a new stop watch and already have my trusty pedometer!

For my inaugural walk I went from Brancaster Church to the Staithe, a very pleasant footpath, which actually took 80 minutes! Then I walked around King's Lynn planning for a trip by our Trefoil Guild friends and a friend and I went to Ely and walked around. Three so far. 67 to go! If you fancy joining me give me a ring; if not just wish me luck.

Barbara

**John Miles** has been spending some time in the library this month and found some interesting books.

A History of the Telephone by Beattie Lyne-Wrentall  
The Manufacture of Toilet Tissue by Anne Drecks  
Small things by Mykros Cope  
The Pursuit of Happiness by R E Joyce  
Opticians Year Book by Seymour E Scilly

# Circuit Prayer Afternoon

Saturday September 5<sup>th</sup>

at Pott Row Methodist Church

*Drop in between 2pm and 4pm  
when there will be prayer stations,  
and opportunities to share our  
circuit concerns and our hopes for  
the future*

Service at 4pm to pray for the life  
of the circuit at the start of the new  
Methodist year, led by the

Rev. Catherine Dixon

All the Circuit is welcome

## **Singing *our* Faith day**

2-7pm, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October, Castle Street Methodist Church,  
Cambridge, led by organist and choirmaster Robin Walker.

Sessions on 'Re-finding our roots', 'The seasons ahead' and 'Finding new favourites'. Closing worship at 6pm led by the Rev. Alison Walker with a rather familiar guest preacher - the Rev. Catherine Dixon! For more information or to book places contact Phil Dale, [phildale48@aol.com](mailto:phildale48@aol.com) or 01223 871522.

## **From a lady with a sense of humour!**

Now we've had our loft converted into a bedroom, the minister's preaching to the converted

How do you know the soprano's at the door?

She can't find her key and doesn't know when to come in!

## **A final word from Peter**

The Vicar came round the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter.

I told him I do. No matter where I am, in the kitchen, in the garden or upstairs, I ask myself, "Now what am I here after?"

Customer: I've been ringing 08002100 for two days. Can you help me?

Operator: Where did you get that number sir?

Customer: It was on the door of the shop.

Operator: Sir, those are our opening hours!

I can't eat chicken it gives me bird flu.

I can't eat pork, I get swine fever.

I can't eat beef, it gives me mad cow disease.

I can't have egg I get salmonella.

But jokes about German sausage are the wurst!

When you get a bladder infection urine trouble!

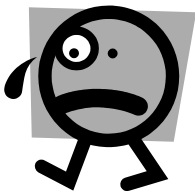
I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, then it dawned on me.

To an RAC call centre: Does the European breakdown policy cover travelling in Australia?

Operator: Does the product name give you a clue?

Hang on there's one more.

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it!



Any items for the **OCTOBER** edition should be with the editor by **SEPTEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>**, earlier if possible. **If you don't get an acknowledgment of emails PLEASE enquire if I have received them as some articles have found their way into my spam bin which I don't check very often!**

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

### **Ladies' Thursday Group**

**London Road Methodist Church**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays

January – May

and September – December

7.30pm – 8.45 pm

Would you be interested in giving a talk for 30 minutes one evening?

Or

Come along with a friend.

**Call Alex on 07456064479**

Meetings end with tea/coffee and biscuits.

## Child and Family Aid Pro Deo

Some of our readers may remember Magdalen Chapel raising money to buy tractors for Dr Vali in Romania. Some may have heard the children's choir that visited us. Others may have contributed to the collection of bicycles, blankets and so on that we sent or auctioned. The group is still doing great work in assisting the poorest children and their families. There are five main groups: in Moldova, Iasi, Bucharest, Arad and Otelu Rosu.

There is a farm, children's camp, a charity shop where folk can come and talk as well, individuals are supported in their own homes, a children's home.

The work goes on. If you would like to make a one off donation cheques can be sent to Miss Mary Blow, 38, Windrush Court, St Mary's Mead, Witney, OX28 4FD. And, of course, we can pray.

Margaret Dean

## WORD ON THE WASH

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 7pm - 9pm

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 10am - 8.30pm

Venue: Terrington St Clement Parish Church PE34 4LZ

"Authentic Christian Living" - a Bible teaching event.

This event is affiliated to 'Keswick Ministries' and the main speaker is Jonathan Lamb - the CEO of Keswick Ministries.

Martin and Elizabeth Goldsmith will be leading seminars on the Saturday afternoon.

The children's programme on Saturday will be led by Kevin Baldwin of 'Crowns Trust'.

More info [wordonthewash@gmail.com](mailto:wordonthewash@gmail.com) or call 01485 600336

## Challenging questions as we begin a new Methodist year

These are John Wesley's self-examination questions.

Some of them stemmed from his days with the Holy Club, but many of them developed over the years of his travelling ministry. All of them are challenging.

Wesley himself often spoke of his own failure to keep all aspects of the plan outlined in the questions.

\*\*\*\*\*

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Do I confidentially pass on to others what has been said to me in confidence?
3. Can I be trusted?
4. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work or habits?
5. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
6. Did the Bible live in me today?
7. Do I give the Bible time to speak to me every day?
8. Am I enjoying prayer?
9. When did I last speak to someone else of my faith?
10. Do I pray about the money I spend?
11. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
12. Do I disobey God in anything?
13. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
14. Am I defeated in any part of my life?
15. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy or distrustful?
16. How do I spend my spare time?
17. Am I proud?
18. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
19. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
20. Do I grumble or complain constantly?
21. Is Christ real to me?

## Some thoughts

Recently I enjoyed a short course called "Compass", exploring, with others, the Christian faith and sharing ideas about its meaning and our discipleship.

John Wesley said: "A Methodist Society is no other than a company of persons having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation and to watch over one another in love that they may help each other to work out their salvation".

The sharing of each other's thoughts and ideas was interesting, useful and mostly.

Wesley summed up his guidance for the movement in a set of rules, which said that the Methodist movement was open to anyone who would commit themselves to three simple principles;

Do no harm.

Do good.

Love God.

We asked ourselves - Do we watch over one another as a Church family? Do we.....

Love people and accept them the way they are?

Compliment people, magnify their strengths, not their weaknesses

Exposure to positive people may cause sudden outbursts of happiness, Energy and Creativity!

Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.

Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind always.

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever!

Life becomes harder for us when we live for others but it also becomes richer and happier.

# **West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary**

## **September 2015 onwards**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September Circuit Prayer at Pott Row from 2pm

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September Fellowship Breakfast at St. Germans

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October MWiB A.G.M. at London Road at 2.30pm.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October MWiB Autumn District Day at Diss .

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October Pastoral Day for All at London Road  
9.30 am for 10 am

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October Fellowship Breakfast at Marham  
at 8.30 am

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November Fellowship Breakfast at Downham  
Market at 8.30 am

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December Fellowship Breakfast at Southery at  
8.30 am

### **Circuit Pastoral Day**

At London Road

On Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>

9.30 for 10

**Jackie Smith**

**Speaking on**

**Mind and Mental Health Issues**

**Lunch is provided. Donations towards the cost  
will be welcomed.**

Please inform Phyllis Bowman

01553 67128 if you will be there.

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO EVERYONE!**