

# Rejoice!

December 2016/January 2017



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

Dear friends,

It has fallen to me to speak about the month that leads to Christmas Day. Speaking personally, there are several things that I wish did not happen this month.

Firstly, that we begin celebrating Christmas far too early. After all, should we have Christmas events in November? Just because our biggest centres launch displays in September does not mean we are to copy them. However, it does put pressure on us to bring Christmas forward. The commercial and secular world does not recognise Advent and unless we are careful Advent will be squeezed out altogether. As Catherine, has indicated already Advent is a vibrant time of watching and waiting and rediscovering some rich Old Testament themes that point us to what is ahead. But instead we can be so caught up in busyness that we have no 'pondering time' at the mystery that draws near.

Secondly, the commercial and economic drown out the spiritual and devotional. Christmas is effectively hi-jacked and marketed as a spending bonanza. But that is not why Christ came. So many people are caught up in buying 'stuff' that isn't wanted or needed and giving it to folk who do not need it either. All this is exhausting and dulling whereas Christmas should be liberating.

Despite these unfortunate bi-products of Christmas something still draws me to the event of the birth of Christ. In the Downham section, baptisms are like buses – you do not see them for a while then many come along!! Just recently we have seen quite a few babies as well as older children and adults being baptised. To think that this one child, born in difficult circumstances (in a manger, swaddling clothes etc.) will go on to change hearts and minds like no other. The world Jesus was born into had the Roman Empire and many powerful people, but where are they today but swept aside. Yet the message Jesus brought is relevant to every generation.

As the hymn writer puts it – “Who is he in yonder stall at whose feet the shepherds fall”.

This babe of Bethlehem is later the itinerant Galilean preacher and he is also the man who dies on the cross, but more – “tis the Lord, O wondrous story, tis the Lord, O crown of glory.”

As St Paul puts it; “For in him the fullness of the Godhead was pleased to dwell and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all

things.” (Colossians 1:20). This one child makes the difference .... is the difference. This is God’s way of revealing his love and his purposes to the world.

I sincerely hope and pray that as we celebrate again this time of the year that it will be a rediscovery for each one of us of the mystery of God revealing himself through his Son Jesus.

Sincerely

Maurice

Thank you to everyone for getting articles in before the dead line. Like the rest of the world the Editorial team has a lot to do at this time of the year, as does the Church office. **Hopefully** you are reading this before all of the celebrations have begun.

We have tried during the year to include all that was sent in. Sometimes it’s difficult as computers DO have a mind of their own I’m sure, and put things were THEY think they should be, especially pictures! However, I will continue as editor, Alan Cleps has volunteered to do June’s edition and Derek can always be relied upon in an emergency! My official thanks go to both of these lovely men. And of course to the office (Joyce) for printing, counting and shouting when it’s ready.

Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all.

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# Praying together in the Circuit

And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
for he has regarded the lowly state of his maidservant;  
for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.  
For He who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and Holy is His Name. Luke 1: 46-49

Part of Mary's song of praise in response to God's revelation of his plan. By the power of the Holy Spirit she would conceive and give birth to a son. Jesus the Son of God.

The Good News was promised long ago by God through the prophets in the Holy Scriptures. It is about His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; As to his humanity he was born a descendant of David; as to his divine holiness he was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death. Romans 1: 2 - 4

Gracious God, we praise you for your plan of salvation,  
your desire to redeem mankind.

Thank you for Jesus who entered this world as a baby  
the one through whom your purpose will succeed.

We rejoice for you have done great things for us.

As we celebrate and offer ourselves anew to you this coming year  
we want to lift high the name of Jesus, the name above all names.

Almighty God to you be glory and praise, honour and acclaim.

You are worthy of the highest praise.

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. Sarah who has serious  
health problems.



## **.An Advent Acrostic**

A.....is for advent, season of joy.

Jesus is coming

Worship this wonderful boy.

D.....is for Deliverer,

Fighting the wrong.

Jesus the Saviour

Join in the welcoming song.

V.....is for his Visit

Banishing night.

Jesus the Daystar

Candles of love are alight.

E.....is for excitement.

Yes, He will come.

Jesus expected

Open your hearts to God's Son.

N.....is for his Nearness

Comforting arm.

Jesus our Brother,

Keeping his children from harm.

T.....is for His triumph.

Triumph of Right.

Jesus is reigning

Trust in His conquering might.

Thanks to Meg Cooper for finding this in her Brownie stuff!!!!

**ADVENT GROUP AT SOUTH WOOTTON**

**TUESDAYS 10.30AM**

**29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 6<sup>TH</sup>, 13<sup>TH</sup>, 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**LED BY THE REV. CATHERINE DIXON**

**ALL WELCOME**

**FESTIVE COFFEE MORNING AND QUIZ**

**SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 10.30 AM**

**UP TO 6 PEOPLE PER TEAM**

**£3.50 ENTRY FEE PER PERSON  
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**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**

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

### **Local Events:-**

Women's World Day of Prayer - March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 to be held at:-  
Holy Family Catholic Church, Gaywood, at 11.00 am;  
Terrington St.Clement Methodist Church at 7.00 pm; and  
Downham Market 2.00 pm.

Easter Offering - London Road Methodist Church on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 2.30 pm.

A.G.M. - London Road Methodist Church on October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 at 2.30pm.

### **District Events:-**

Forum Meeting - Diss Methodist Church on February 17<sup>th</sup> 2017 and  
September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017  
(Coffee served from 10.00 am)

Day Conference - Belsey Bridge on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2017  
(Speaker; Nicola Vidamour)

Spring District Day - Downham Market Methodist Church on  
April 26<sup>th</sup> 2017.  
(Speaker Rev. Julian Pursehouse)

Autumn District Day - Ely Methodist Church on October 11<sup>th</sup> 2017.  
( This will include the commissioning of Ruth Arnold  
as the new President for the District).

## JOSEPH THE HUSBAND OF MARY

One of the things I miss attending a church where there are very few young people is the annual Nativity Play. I have such memories of them from the days when we had crowds of children in Sunday School and they all wanted to take part. I think my record was 16 shepherds, 5 wise men (Who said that there were only three anyway?) and a veritable host of angels. One little girl unfortunately broke her arm a few days beforehand but bravely carried on. Perhaps angels sometimes need to have their wings in plaster. Mary, as always, stole the show. In her dress of blue curtain material she looked positively radiant. A quick wave to her mum and smiling sweetly at the shepherds she got down to her task, cradling the child in a protective and motherly way. But poor Joseph, he just stood there, awkward and shy, looking quite out of things. I wondered afterwards, isn't that just the picture we get of Joseph in the Christmas story? In Christmas carols and in the Nativity scenes of the great artists he seems to be given about as much importance as ox and ass, but Joseph too had an Annunciation. The New Testament begins with the genealogy of Jesus, showing him to have been descended from the royal line of King David, and this was Joseph's family tree, not Mary's. So perhaps it is worth looking at the Christmas story again from Joseph's point of view and seeing the important part he played in the life of Jesus.

Joseph's story begins with an embarrassing dilemma. The one to whom he was betrothed was to have a child. What was he to think? What would people say? In Jewish marriage procedure there were three steps. There was the engagement, an arrangement often made by their families when they were children and may not even have met. At this point the engagement could be broken off but the next step was the betrothal which was absolutely binding. It lasted for a year during which they were known as man and wife but did not live together. A betrothal could only be ended by divorce. So this is what Joseph was understandably bound to contemplate in the circumstances. Typical of him that he was going to do it quietly. Everything we know about Joseph was that he was a kind man. When the angel told him the truth about Mary he was most kind to her. On being summoned to Bethlehem to fill in census forms he would not



leave her at home to face prying eyes and gossiping tongues but took her with him and treated her very gently in her time of need, going round to find accommodation, however limited, for her to have the baby. He showed his tenderness too in the treatment of the child entrusted to his care, taking him to his heart, making the long and perilous journey to Egypt to protect the life of the infant Jesus from Herod's soldiers. He well deserves to be called in the gospel his father.

Joseph never appears in the gospels after the visit to Jerusalem when Jesus attained the age of twelve and became a son of the law. Thereafter Mary appears on her own in the Bible story and it is usually inferred that Joseph died at a young age but Jesus owed a lot to Joseph and so do we. He was a pious Israelite faithful in his observance of Jewish customs and feasts. When we read that Jesus entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day as was his custom that was the way he had been brought up. Again, Joseph taught Jesus his trade and what a lot it has meant to Christians ever since that Jesus was involved as we all are in the world of daily work, lending dignity and worth to the humblest tasks.

So when we have a special Sunday for Mary in the Church's calendar perhaps we might also gratefully remember Joseph and the part that he played in the Christmas story.

John Garfoot



# Around the churches



## Downham Market

### Ladies' Friendship

We have had two lovely meetings in October both being well supported. The Fish and Chip supper was a great success and finished with a lot of chatter and laughter. Our surprise evening was just wonderful Colin did us proud it was very interesting and hilarious.

Our next meetings are on December 7<sup>th</sup> which is an evening of games. On December 21<sup>st</sup> is our Christmas Party with entertainment by Janet and Maurice there will also be a buffet supper Please note this meeting starts at 7pm.

We don't have any meetings in January the first one in 2017 will be February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Happy Christmas to you all

Margaret Fox

Into the last month of our anniversary year with just the special celebration for December, a festival of Christmas trees with the theme of carols, still to come. This will take place from Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December from 10.00 to 5.00 (Sunday 2.00 to 5.00 and Friday 10.00 to 1.00). There will be freshly cooked lunches available in the social centre on the Monday and Tuesday and hot soup and light refreshments on other days. Do come and join us to share our interpretation of the carols with live and artificial trees, with delicious refreshments and a time of chat and fellowship with old and new friends. By the time you read this we shall have enjoyed the November event, a quiz with puds. I have been to progressive suppers before where each course is served at a different house, but never had to wait so long between courses; we had our first course at October's Ceilidh! Our main fund raising event, the Christmas fair will also be over for another year. It is so good to start Advent with our Church premises overflowing with visitors enjoying good food, Christmas music, playing silly games with their families and of course the all important visit to Father Christmas as well as a warm welcome from us. My goodness, it has been a busy year, I am envious of the fat male dormouse

who hunkers down for the Winter to wake up in the Spring, nice and slim and without any women's problems.

Our busyness this year seems to have had a welcome knock-on effect for our social club where the numbers for the freshly cooked lunches from fresh ingredients at a modest price of £4.50 have improved. This service is very important for the old folk who live alone and rely on this facility for their main meal of the day as well as giving an opportunity of meeting up with their friends and enjoying a session with the many board games we have provided. We do need to keep the people coming in to keep the books in the black so do pop in at 12.00 any day of the week if you are in Downham and see for yourself what good value and what friendly service we provide. All our voluntary staff are so helpful and welcoming and will also provide lunches to be taken away if requested. Also our Saturday coffee mornings continue to provide a place for meeting friends, sharing home made refreshments and doing a little inexpensive shopping from our bric a brac, book and plant stalls. Unless the weather is very kind my plant stall will be inside with limited space so mostly concentrating on house plants now that gardening for the year is coming to an end. I shall miss being outside, attracting passers by and sending them in to the Church with the lure of home made cakes.

And now a report of Messy Church from someone who went for the first time. Wowee Messy Church, they've been nagging at us for weeks to come along and see what goes on there, well last Friday at 4.30 we didn't have anything else planned so thought Ok why not. I guess we can look in and see what's going on. So in we went quite prepared to be bored out of our minds but maybe stay for half an hour to show willing. But we had to be practically dragged out of the door to be home by 7 o'clock as we had people coming, and what an amazing time we had making sandcastles with the children, edible candles, cutting out, toys with under 4yrs and a host of other things as well, we even baptised the doll. Perhaps I should explain that we are both pensioners and our job used to be as children's entertainers, but this time it was so good to not be on show, but to do and see through the eyes of a child. We will certainly be coming back and hopefully may graduate to being a helper. (Thanks Sandy)

At the AGM of Churches Together in Downham, Marion Stamp started her year as Chairman and Alex Coates was welcomed as Secretary. There is still an urgent need for a Treasurer as Rev. Karen Burnett-Hall is retiring in the New Year and she and David will be moving from this area at the end of January. At the lighting of the Christmas illuminations Churches Together have booked for our 4 minute spot Crazy Banana who will assemble a Nativity scene from balloons with three foot high figures while telling the children the Christmas Story. This will take place just after 4.00p.m. We shall be carol singing again this year at Tesco's for the Christmas hampers at 7.00p.m. on Monday 19<sup>th</sup>

and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>. Do come and join us, Chris Young will accompany us on his keyboard and has the carol sheets at the ready. This edition of Rejoice is for December and January so an advance notice of a service for Christian Unity on 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 6.30 p.m. in St Edmunds Church

Referring to last month's Rejoice when I reported on our harvest celebrations I found another story of pumpkins. A lady had recently become a Christian and had been baptised. Curious, one of her colleagues at work asked her what it was like to be a Christian. The lady was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer. Then she saw the office 'jack-o-lantern' on a nearby desk and blurted out "well, it's like being a pumpkin". Her colleague asked her to explain that and so she said "well God picks you up from the patch and brings you in and washes away all the dirt on the outside you got from being around all the other pumpkins. Then he cuts off the top and takes out all the yucky stuff from inside. He removes all the seeds of doubt, hate and greed etc.. Then he carves you a new smiling face and puts his light inside you to shine for all to see. It is our choice either to stay outside and rot on the vine or come inside and be something new and bright". Are you something new and bright? Will you be smiling today and shining with his light? (with acknowledgement to St. Mary's Church, West Winch & Setchey magazine).

From all at Downham Market we wish you a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and hopefully the severe Winter being forecast will not occur – oh I do envy that dormouse.

Joan Macey

## Wimbotsham

Once again we pause in our everyday concerns to remember at All Saints season those of our Church family whose physical presence has passed from us, but in a very real sense, still live on in our memory. During the last two years, we have sadly paid our tributes to five members of our small congregation whose loss is very keenly felt.

On the plus side we are very fortunate in that during the last few months we have been joined by four ladies whose presence has renewed our faith and enabled us to open our Church cheerfully and to remember as Charles Wesley reminds us "our calling to fulfil".

Don and Jean Gates

Hail ... The Harvest ! Memories of harvest still linger with us and especially those of 28<sup>th</sup> September when we were delighted to host the "Friends and Neighbours" Harvest Tea. This has become an annual event and we were pleased to be asked again to share with the village community.

Don Gates led a Thanksgiving Service with Rev Maurice Stafford providing the prayer. Vocal chords were exercised, accompanied by Meg Cooper at the

organ, before all transferred to the school room to enjoy a fine spread of homemade delights.

Special thanks to the band of helpers who made this event possible; Jackie Maxwell for the table flower arrangements, and to Caroline Marshall for joining me in setting the tables and providing plentiful cups of tea on request. A collection was taken during tea which raised £30 towards Water Aid.

Marian Sparrow

As we reflect on the passing seasons we continue to be inspired by visiting preachers and others who lead or take part in our Sunday worship. We are very grateful to our organists Meg Cooper and Mary Rose who accompany our hearty hymn singing. A small group of enthusiastic thespians amongst us are now gathering together to occasionally perform short sketches conveying the Christian message at our services. Margaret Mould joined me in our debut performance "The Swap Shop" based on the Ten Commandments and we are now thinking ahead to our Christmas sketch.

With celebrations of the Christmas season rapidly approaching, we send warm greetings to all for love, joy and peace.

Mary Davies

## Pott Row

### REMINDERS from POTT ROW \_\_\_\_\_

#### Christmas Tree Festival

December 2nd & 3rd.... 10am - 4pm

December 4th.....2pm - 4pm

6.30pm Carol Service

#### Christmas Fellowship Breakfast

December 10th.....8.30am

**Come and celebrate with us!**

## **St Germans**

When we at St Germans attempted to complete our last plan request form, we decided that, as far as December was concerned, we should take a good look at what other services and events were taking place in our village at that time, with a view to trying to provide services that complemented rather than clashed with what was already on offer. We appreciated that it might involve a radical departure from our usual practice and from our programme in previous years. After some consideration, we decided to have just two services in the chapel in December. The first will be a carol service to be held at 3pm on 11<sup>th</sup> December which will be led by Rev Andrew Maguire and will be followed by an opportunity for fellowship over a mince pie and a coffee. On Christmas Day we plan a short family friendly service at 9.30am which is expected to last no longer than 45 minutes. We would be delighted if some of our friends from around the Circuit were able to join us at those times.

John Houghton.

## **London Road**

It was London Road's turn to host the District Retired Ministers and their spouses for their Annual Communion Service and Lunch.

The Communion Service was led by District Chair Rev. Julian Pursehouse and Circuit Supt Rev. Andrew Maguire.

On arrival the long distance travellers appreciated a welcoming coffee.

After the service they were entertained to a 3 course lunch provided by a London Road team led by our "professionals" Linda and Andrew McGlynn.

We have to admit to running out of rice pudding , but some quickly acquired ice cream filled the bill.

Again tea/coffee was served.

Everyone was very appreciative of the London Road hospitality.

After the dinner Julian gave a "State of the District Talk" to those present.

David Gifford

## **Stanhoe Methodist Church**

We are looking forward to our Christmas Carol Service on Sunday morning, at 11 am on 11<sup>th</sup> December. We used to have a separate Carol Service on a weekday evening, but this was increasingly poorly supported, so we now have it as one of our usual morning services. The service will be led by Elizabeth Batstone, and afterwards, we shall serve drinks and mince pies.

On Christmas Eve, some of us will join our friends at Burnham Market for their Christmas Carol Service at 6.30pm, and the following day, Christmas Day, we shall hold a short family service at 10am at Stanhoe. Last year we cancelled the usual Christmas Day service, due to previous lack of support, but strong

protests came from one resident in the village, who, "likes to come to Chapel on Christmas Day," - but, sadly, never at any other time! Anyway, as it's a Sunday, we felt that we should have a service.

In January, we shall hold our usual ecumenical service celebrating The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, on Monday afternoon, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, which will be led jointly by our own Minister, Rev. Steve, and the local Rector, the Rev. Peter Cook, after which we shall serve tea and cake (Methodist hospitality again)! In the meantime, our autumn programme of morning services, alternating with Burnham Market; Bible Study at the Community centre in Burnham Market on alternate Monday afternoons, led by Rev. Steve (usually - Valerie Shackcloth and Elizabeth MacLeod substituting as leaders when required), and our participation in the Hunstanton area monthly Prayer meeting, which we hosted in October, have all continued as usual.

We wish all of our friends in the Circuit a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

Elizabeth MacLeod

P.S. Clashing with the King's Lynn Festival Chorus performance of Messiah, I know, but Fakenham Choral Society, of which I'm a member, is holding its Christmas Concert on 17<sup>th</sup> December in Fakenham Parish Church at 7.30pm, when we shall be singing Mozart's Coronation Mass, followed by a selection of Christmas Carols. Tickets (£12.00) from me.

Elizabeth MacLeod

## Hunstanton

'The last outpost before Siberia', or so my cousin calls it: which is perhaps why Hunstanton news takes so long to reach the pages of 'Rejoice!'

'Coffee with God' is an intentional prayer meeting for the life of the church that we have started when restructuring midweek meetings. This takes place over a cuppa at the foot of the cross, reminding us that God is present and interested in every aspect of our lives. Here we pray the Scriptures, taking a different topic each week and allowing time for personal prayer. As an example, we prayed Acts 2:42-47 as we focussed on our church being devoted to one another in building relationships, learning together from the Scripture, and working for growth and renewal. Here we have already witnessed God-given courage and peace enfolding someone facing major health challenges; another finding God present as they wrestled with an unprecedented domestic issue and another finding Christ for the first time during a time of crisis and knowing with certainty his past is forgiven.

Over the last Connexional year we shared the love of Jesus locally in supporting the East Anglian Children's Hospice by funding two families for two weeks end of life care. Internationally, we have provided finance for a year's

education for 12 dalit children (they are members of the lowest Indian caste) in a Christian School in Raichur through the charity Crossroads for Human Development (CRHD). This charity was started by Methodist minister in this country who himself was a dalit child helped by Christian missionaries. The charity has built a school, provides primary education and is developing secondary education as the children get older.

We continue to work with other churches in the town and surrounding villages to run the local Foodbank, and this month are together launching a debt counselling service in conjunction with Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

For the coming year we are supporting MHA as our home mission, and working in partnership with Mission Aviation Fellowship to support their overseas work with prayer and finance, as they support us reaching our community for Christ. Watch out for details of future events which include “a plane in the church car park” on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

If you don't want to wait so long to hear from Hunstanton, for up to the minute news follow us on facebook.

Julia Warnes, Voluntary Lay Worker

## North Lynn

Celebration of the seasons is always enjoyable. At North Lynn we try to keep in tune with the calendar as the year progresses.

After enjoying harvest our 'Messy Church' in October took the theme of 'thanksgiving' and the raising of Lazarus and shared a range of activities followed by a delicious casserole

'Coffee on the Couch' continues to grow and we welcome people from all over North Lynn and elsewhere on a Thursday Morning. Natalie continues to bake super cakes which have become a real talking point, especially as the baking can be smelt the moment you walk in!

How to show the Christian perspective of Halloween is always a challenge, but our Toddlers group seized the opportunity to try their own version of pumpkin carving and were able to successfully carve Christian symbols out of pumpkins and thus show light as a theme not evil.

The carved pumpkins then came in useful during our 'Guy Fawkes' party on the front forecourt of the church. We held this on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

With very grateful thanks to the Morrisons Community Foundation and our local Morrisons Community Champion, we were able to provide Hot Dog rolls and cake to anyone passing church between 4 and 6pm. We also funded ourselves hot chocolate. Thanks to all who helped serve, we were very glad of the additional support from our friends from Seabank Chapel.



Food was not the only thing on offer. We had a range of old clothes, stuffing material and old newspaper to hold a 'Create a Guy' competition. Three Guys were assembled and propped up the doorways.

The evening finished with a short display of fireworks also provided by from the Morrisons Fund and safely ignited from behind the fencing. So ended a fun event attended by over 60 people.

Attention now turns to our Church Anniversary on November 27<sup>th</sup> which will conclude with a meal.

We also have held the third of our monthly mid-week Prayer Meetings – a time to reflect together on our commitment to serving the community through worship and outreach.

Then for December we have two community carol events planned alongside our regular activities, whilst our fellowship group will also celebrate together with coffee and mince pies at the 'Willow Tree'

And before we know it, it will be 2017!!

Neville Posnett

## **Terrington St Clement**

"New Beginnings " was again led by Rev. Jackie Goddard. We continue to study "Justice and Holiness" which has proved very inspiring. We usually meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 7pm at TSC chapel. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Network Leader was Eileen Spurgeon. Mary Houghton gave a talk about the District Day at Lowestoft. Rev. Andrew Maguire spoke about Luke and read Luke 16 verses 8 – 12.

The next meeting was led by Mary Houghton. Eileen Spurgeon gave a reading titled "Take Time ". Guest speaker was Kathleen Blacklock who enjoyed catching up with old friends. She explained how music had played a big part in her life, singing in several choirs. She explained the significance of the music she played "Desert Island Disc " style. She was thanked for her visit and presented with a plant.

Our Christmas coffee morning will be on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 10am to 1pm, with various stalls and raffle. Light lunches will be available. .

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> there will be Cafe' style service with carols at 10.30am.

Our New Year Party is on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January starting at 2pm. Music and games including refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Linda Howling

## **Dersingham**

Our Coffee Morning in October raised nearly £300 which will be shared between church funds and the charity "Look Good Feel Better" about which I

wrote last month. Now we are looking forward to our Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November which will be in aid of Mission at Home and World Church Funds.

We shall again be decorating a Christmas Tree at St. Nicholas Parish Church as part of their Christmas Tree Festival. Our theme is "Great Gifts" and the decorated cubes or parcels will carry a prayer or favourite verse or text as part of our overall Christmas theme which is based on the All We Can Extraordinary Gifts. The Extraordinary Gift which has been chosen is to build a farm and we hope to raise £267 to this end during our celebrations and services.

The Community lunch on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December will be preceded by the singing of carols in the church at 11.45am. A week later on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm the children from Dersingham Primary and Nursery School will be holding their Carol Service in the Methodist Church. On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December **at 4pm** our minister the Rev. Steve Oliver will lead our Carols by Candlelight service. Christmas Eve Communion, which was so much enjoyed by those who attended last year, will start at 11.30pm, again lead by Steve. On Christmas Day at 10.30am we welcome Jenny Sparks to lead our worship as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. So we come to the end of another year and we have the opportunity to respond to the challenge of our covenant with God as we dedicate ourselves anew at the Covenant Service on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

Rosemary Caink

## Stow Bridge

As the Apostle Paul begins his letters to the churches so we will say from Stow Bridge, Greetings to All Readers.

So how about a gentle quiz for the younger generations. Oh, ok, you older folk can do it too.

1. 400 young men escaped on these! (1 Samuel 30:17)
2. They eat under the table. (Mark 7:28)
3. They live in the high mountains. (Psalm 104:18)
4. Jesus rode this into Jerusalem. (Matthew 21 :21)
5. One was lost and 99 were safe. (Luke 15:6)
6. Their dung is used to bake bread. (Ezekiel 4:15)
7. Benaiah killed this animal in a pit on a sunny day. (1 Chronicles 11:22)
8. There were 4 of them coloured white, red, black and pale green. (Revelation 6 1-8)

Going around our part of Norfolk I wonder why I should pay £2000 or more to go to the U.S.A to see the fall and all the colours of the beautiful trees and shrubs. I won't go into all the colours that we see, you know them, but I've just saved £2000 by seeing the show of nature on our doorstep. FREE!

This year we have really noticed the colours of the great big trees down to the smallest garden plant, whose leaves change with the seasons also. We are grateful for our eyes to see the wondrous change of nature through the year, also for the produce.

Two weeks ago I strolled round a part of the Broads, Oulton, and, quite near the water in this leisure park, were squirrels running around freely, almost at our feet. No doubt people had fed them and there were many more also in the woods near Thetford. We searched for pine cones but found very few. Perhaps we looked around the wrong type of pine tree! The squirrels had also cleared the sweet chestnuts from their prickly shells.

What a wonderful world we live in and we are privileged to live in it.

Our thanks to our creator God.

I saw a rook going crazy. He was Raven mad! But that's enough of my crowing for now.

Happy and peaceful days to all.

Peter Hewitt



Any items for the **FEBRUARY** edition should be with the editor by **JANUARY 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!**

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## **BACON BUTTY BREAKFAST AND KENYA TRIP**

When you read this 'Rejoice' Andrew, Molly and I will be collecting things together to pack for our exciting trip to Kenya!

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the charities we will visit, by giving table cloths or knitted green jumpers for Kivuria school, or giving donations to the breakfast event and supporting fundraising during the past year.

Nearly fifty people flocked to Terrington Methodist Church for breakfast or their usual coffee visit during the two hours of the morning of 29<sup>th</sup> October. There was a loud buzz of conversation, a lot of laughter and a good time was enjoyed by all. On the screen people could see the Kenyans at work, at Church and school in Kathaageri, Kivuria and Meru.

The wonderful amount of £237 was raised for Peacemakers International and the Karibuni Trust that morning. I have sent a cheque to 'Karibuni children' and we hope to meet up with some of their trustees and volunteers when we are in Nairobi. The rest of the money is being taken to Kathaagari to be put to good use there.

We will surely have another breakfast gathering again before too long!

Helen Maguire

(Yes please. We were out of the county that day!!Ed)

## **Some words of Wisdom for the Festive Season**

**Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.**

**Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.**

**If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.**

**If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?**

# Come and Praise



Worship Band

Worship Songs

Old and New

Enjoy Fellowship,

testimonies.

All welcome at Downham

Market 6.30pm

Next one:

January 29<sup>th</sup> 2017

*Clenchwarton Methodist Church*

*Christmas Tree Festival*

*Weekend of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>*

*From 10am to 3pm except Sunday when it will be  
from 1pm to 4pm, following on from our service  
which will be readings and carols at 11am. You  
are most welcome to join with us.*

*Light refreshments*

*Free entry*

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church.

Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud.

Finally, his big sister had had enough.

"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said,

"See those two men standing by the door?"

They're hushers."

## St Faith's

As you read this, the St Faith's Christmas Tree Festival will be in full swing. The centuries-old church looks stunning with around 30 different sized and shaped trees, all beautifully decorated by pupils from local Primary schools, representatives from church organisations and charities. On Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, the church will be open from 10am until 8pm so there is plenty of time for people to come in and have a look at the tree collection.

On Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December the church will again be open from 10am until 6pm and refreshments will be available to purchase throughout the day.

At 7.30pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> December there is to be a concert performed by West Norfolk Singers with appearance by talented guitarist, Lee Bigland, and guest performers. Tickets for the concerts are £7 each or £10 if you buy tickets for both concerts. Tickets can be booked through contacting the St Faith's Church office on 01553 774916 weekday mornings between 9am and 12 noon.

On Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, the main morning service will be a Gift Service starting at 9.45am. People are being invited to bring along an unwrapped Christmas gift for a child up to the age of 11. These will be blessed during the service. The church will then be open to the public from 11.30am until 6.30pm when there will be an evening service.

Back by popular demand this year is a Christmas Crafts stall selling a variety of hand-made goods.

The final day of the Tree Festival will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, when the church will be open from 10am until 4pm. .

On Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm the annual Christmas Carol Service will be held. On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December there is to be a Christmas Party for young people in Plantation Wood between 10.30am and 12 noon. Entrance is next to the Howard Infants School at the bottom of Queen Mary Road (postcode PE30 4QJ). At 4pm on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December there will be the popular Christingle Service.

On Christmas Eve there will be a Crib service at 4pm and at 11.15pm there will be the Midnight Communion Service.

This year Christmas Day is on a Sunday and the day will start in St Faith's Church with an 8.30am Communion Service followed by a family service at 10am.

As we say farewell to 2016 and herald in the New Year, there is an End of Year service at St Faith's Church at 4pm on New Year's Eve.

note of these various service in your diary and try to attend one or more of the service.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a blessed New Year .

Richard Parr

# **West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary**

## **December 2016 onwards**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Tree Festival at Pott Row

Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> Coffee Morning at Terrington St. Clement 10am

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December LWP meeting at St Faith's 7pm

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Christmas Tree Festival at Clenchwarton

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December Fellowship breakfast at Pott Row 8.30

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December Coffee Morning and Quiz at Clenchwarton  
10.30am

Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> Carols by Candlelight at Dersingham

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December Carols by Candlelight at Downham Market 4pm

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December Midnight Communion at Dersingham 11.30pm



"The shepherds couldn't make it!"

## **2017**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January Fellowship breakfast at St. Germans 8.30

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January New Year Party at Terrington St Clement 2.30pm

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January Praise Service at Downham Market 6.30 pm

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February Fellowship breakfast at Downham 8.30

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March Fellow ship breakfast at Marham 8.30