

Rejoice!

February 2017



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

Just a thought...

I like watching television – I do really; the Vicar of Dibley, Midsommer Murders, ‘Allo ‘Allo (oh! yes I can find them on the box if I try hard enough), but then the serious stuff, the news, panorama, week in week out, bring me back to more worldly matters, and I wonder, and sometimes despair where they are all leading us. Whether it is war, violence, intolerance, abuse, fraud, environment etc. etc. there is always something; sometimes the world seems to have gone mad and bent on its own destruction. Then on a Sunday I worship God and tell him I am thankful for all that he does for us. Ummm! Is there something wrong here? Can we be thankful always; well be honest can we?

Paul tells us to “rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good.”

To be thankful we need to be able to see God in all things, but when we watch some of the pictures unfolding on our television screens, God is not the most obvious thing we see. So how are we to see God in all things? Well Jesus tells us we must pray, pray using our whole selves so that God may reveal to us those things we are unable to see. Prayer is about communication with God; it is about asking the hard questions; it is about requesting his intercession; it is about arguing with Him, making ourselves heard when all around us seems to be utter chaos. But most of all praying is about rejoicing always that God does not, cannot and will not let us down even in tragedy, and I can tell you that from first hand experience as I suspect many of you can.

In praying without ceasing we bring before God our heartfelt desire for a better world, and through that desire God calls us to action.

In our churches throughout the Circuit,(other than Sunday Worship) via prayer boards, prayer meetings, prayer hotlines and a healing service we bring many situations and people to God; this is our way of praying without ceasing. It may seem a long way from all the needs of the world, but in its own way it enables us to communicate our deepest concerns and make a difference, not only to those for whom we pray but also in our own lives as we pray.

In prayer we can change things, but to do so it takes action and it is your action that can change things – that’s the circle, there is the challenge.

Steve

Praying together in the Circuit

Living by the Spirit's power.

Be careful how you live.

Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise.

Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.

Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life.

Instead be filled with the Holy Spirit,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves
and making music to the Lord in your hearts.

And give thanks for everything to God the Father
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Eph. 5: 15-19

Sovereign God,

Thank you for Your Spirit moving over the face of the earth.

Thank you that you are working your purpose out.

Thank you for our salvation. For grace and mercy poured out to us
through our exalted and glorified Lord.

Give us your wisdom to live each day as is pleasing to you.

May we seize every opportunity to share your love, to speak of you.

Fill us with your Spirit, so that your power working in us
will do so much more than we could ever ask for or even think of.

Through the preaching of your word, outreach ministry,
through personal testimony, pastoral care, acts of love and kindness,
through Christian ministry on television, radio, internet,
through Christian books, and articles- touch lives, open hearts to you.

We pray for the Gospel Hour with Reverend Steve,
through the words of hymns and worship songs may the gospel
message come clearly through and be personal to each listener.

May we worship you with joy,
be faithful in discipleship, diligent in prayer, generous in giving,
seeking your Kingdom, your righteousness and your glory

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 + Norma, Brian Osborne, Sarah. For all who have health problems. For all whom we know having chemo treatment; Sybil recovering at home; Rosie who is struggling with depression.

Radio Heacham

**The Gospel Hour
Every Sunday from
9.00 - 10.00p.m.**

DJ Rev. Steve Oliver

Listen on
www.radioheacham.org



**Pastoral Carers' Day
Saturday 25th February
9.15 for 9.45
at London Road,
led by Steve Oliver,
finishing with light lunch
Contact Phyllis Bowman
for catering purposes
(01553 671288)**

Around the churches



Downham Market

Ladies' Friendship Circle

Happy New Year to everyone. Our first meeting after our Winter break will be February 8th with a Beetle Drive. Come and enjoy the evening with lots of chat and laughter.

February 22nd is our Bring and Buy sale for our own funds. This year we have a red theme. It is incredible what our members find with the colour red, Our meetings are held in the Function Room at the Methodist Church and we start at 7.30pm

New members are always welcome.

Margaret Fox

Into the New Year and still not much sign of Winter. We have got away lightly so far with just a few patches of fog but the forecast is for cold, wind and possibly snow and ice. Christmas festivities are over for another year but hopefully the true Christmas spirit will live on for a bit longer. There was such a lot of kindness and thought for others to be found amid all the commercialism. At the January meeting of Churches Together in Downham it was reported that 31 Christmas hampers had been distributed through Churches and Health Visitors, containing all the food for a Christmas meal including crackers, chocolates and a bottle of Shloer, at an approximate cost of £32 each (hampers varied according to size of family). A London banker involved his office in donating good new toys, lego etc. so children were also given presents and with many hands making lighter work the hampers were delivered as the turkey crowns were thawing out in time to be cooked. A special thanks to Alex Coates of Eternity Church who masterminded the scheme in conjunction with Churches Together and all who helped or donated in any way. Our two evenings carol singing at Tesco raised just under £250 towards next year's hampers (so beneficial; money raised; singing enjoyed and Christmas spirit spread all in one go) and with an appeal to all Churches for donations later in the year, we should be able to fund the scheme for the next Christmas. As the hampers were almost ready to be delivered Social Service appealed for 5 more, but this was not possible. So the need is always there.

Churches Together had arranged for Sally Beadle (Crazy Bananas) to do our 4 minute spot at the lighting up ceremony in the town square. She managed to

erect a Nativity scene with 4 foot high figures all made of balloons while telling the Christmas story and afterwards the scene was transferred to the stage in our hall where children was able to see it and talk about it, a good counteraction to the commercialisation of Christmas.

Christmas cheer was also spread by our Christmas lunch in the social centre when nearly 50 people, who would otherwise have been on their own for Christmas day, enjoyed their meal followed by carol singing and thanks to Downham Rotary Club's donation a present of a gift voucher. The numbers at the social centre lunches have picked up over the last 6 months making the financial situation more stable. Refreshments are served from 9.30 from Monday to Friday with lunch from 12.00 to 12.30. Our cooks and dedicated volunteer helpers produce a freshly cooked meal from fresh ingredients for an amazing £4.50 so do avail yourself of this facility when in Downhamand there are plenty of board games to play if you want a bit of company and brain exercise.

Our Christmas Fair in November also brought a lot of cheer. Whilst we were a little disappointed that we did not quite reach the total raised last year, we were very happy at the result of a lot of hard work by all members and friends. We had many new games for the youngsters and young in heart to play and 90 sheets of 5 tickets were sold entitling play on 5 games. With Father Christmas and the craft room there was plenty for the young folk to do. Our own young people also waded in with the Brownies and Guides in charge of the craft room as well as their own fund raising projects; our Boys' Brigade and my grandson's Scout troop from Runcion Holme were also fund raising and adding to the fun. We had quite a few charity stalls spreading the benefit of the shoppers we had attracted. The lunches and other refreshments were very tasty and well organised by our efficient catering team and with Christmas music in every room a very happy atmosphere prevailed to start our season of Advent. My daughter Anne, who has organised the fair for some years now, was very pleased with the numbers of families who came. From the beginning, apart from fund raising, her aim was to provide something to attract children into our premises and this year we did it. Thanks also go to Charlie Peacock who made some of the games for us.

Now we are back with the usual routine of our daily lives having had (well they say a change if as good as a rest) time to recharge our batteries. We have started up our Saturday coffee mornings again and folk arrive to enjoy home made cakes, having digested all the over eating at Christmas, to browse the bric a brac and book stall to buy some indoor plants and enjoy fellowship with their friends after the Christmas break. We also enjoyed a lot of fellowship when Joyce Dent invited over 100 people to her 90th birthday lunch. Our splendid catering team, under the leadership of Jan and Meg, sprang into action, following Joyce and her family's meticulous planning and produced a

delicious sit down lunch. The logistics of it all were mind boggling but they did it so efficiently and it all ran so smoothly that there was no break in the chat or laughter. The Church family presented Joyce, wearing her tiara with aplomb, with flowers and a very lifelike portrait painted by one of our very talented artists, Heinz Heisler. A very happy occasion for Joyce to treasure and for all of us to remember.

Now back to everyday matters as we face a few months of Winter before we can enjoy the miracle of Spring. Already choirs are beginning to practise the music we look forward to at Easter. So far we have had a great many sunny days when it has been a joy to go out and walk while admiring the landscape with the silhouette of the trees without their leaves. If the weather turns really severe we must take pleasure in our music, our handicrafts (the banner group is already in session) and our fellowship and worship in our respective Churches. Some will get away from our cold weather holidaying for a while in warmer climes, but I do feel that the contrast of a cold Winter makes us appreciate more the warmer days of Spring, when it arrives. Likewise I find Summer's heat sometimes a bit too much and welcome the fresher days of Autumn. And all through the seasons the landscape changes in colour with so much beauty and I, like Peter Hewitt in his Stow Bridge article, am happy with our Autumn colours. Keep warm, keep healthy, keep praying and Spring will soon be here.

Joan Macey

Wimbotsham

Our Chapel was bursting with music on Sunday 18th December when we had the great pleasure of The Bowman Ensemble accompanying our hearty singing of Christmas carols. Lessons were read by congregation members, festive decorations were admired and the service was followed by mince pies and coffee.

We welcomed the New Year with the annual "Covenant Service for Village Churches Together" and Holy Communion. This was led by Rev. Maurice Stafford. Whilst the tendency is to make New Year Resolutions, he bade us to look back on things we already do and to progress with those particularly relating to our worship, prayers and bible reading.

Very recently I discovered *The Primitive Methodist Ancestry* website which included more fascinating historic facts about our Chapel, a selection of which I have written below. Thanks to God, our lovely little Chapel is still thriving well over a hundred years later. How happy would be those who had the faith and vision to found the Chapel in 1874 ! As we now enter 2017, we wish all our fellow worshippers in the Circuit bright and richly blessed years ahead.

The website includes two Preachers' Plans for the Downham Market Circuit for January-March 1904 and April-July 1905. There were thirteen Chapels in the Circuit at the time. At Wimbotsham afternoon and evening Sunday services in 1904 were held at "2 ½ and 6 ½", this format being changed in 1905 to "2 30 and 6 30" !

Curiously, in 1904 instead of the names of the preachers each week, there was a number. This had to be matched with a list in an adjacent column of individual named preachers numbered 1-58 (seven lived in Wimbotsham). An additional list named and numbered thirty-five "Others" of those On Trial, Exhorters, Mission Hands, Evangelists and Helpers. By 1905 the preachers' names were written in the columns as we see them today.

In a list headed "*Church Stewards and Income*" for Wimbotsham on the Plans, Income was £1.9s.0d in 1904, increased to £1.13.4 in 1905. The charge for a Baptism Certificate was sixpence.

The 1905 Plan advertises "*The Primitive Methodist World*" established 1883, a weekly Connexional Paper published every Thursday, price One Penny. It states that "No Primitive Methodist can be up to date on Connexional Questions without this Paper. It may be obtained from any local Newsagent in town on Thursdays, in the country on Friday morning, or direct from the office, free of post, for 1s/9d per quarter, or 6s/8d per year prepaid".

Mary Davies

Pott Row

What a weekend we had at Pott Row Chapel when we held our Christmas Tree Festival, A big thank you to all who decorated the trees, They were magnificent. Thank you also to everyone who supported us in anyway to make 2016 the most successful so far; we couldn't do it without you. A Happy and Peaceful New Year to you all.

From all at Pott Row Methodist Chapel.

London Road

Advent at London Road

The first Sunday of Advent is designated Choir Sunday at London Road. The choir did not disappoint with their special selection of Advent Carols. All the window sills had been decorated with Nativity collages etc by members of the congregation.

The service commenced with the lighting of the first Advent Candle. During the service we had the added bonus of the Sunday Club singing their special Star Carol. What a difference a year makes in the confidence of these young singers.

During the following week the church was packed for the special celebration service for the life of Maisie Spoor, the love she spread at London Road and Dersingham was very apparent.

Rev Steve was very succinct in summing up Maisie, especially the feeling of being in the presence of a Headmistress.

Tuesday 6th saw the now traditional 21st Kings Lynn Scouts Christmas Restaurant. We are very fortunate to have among our parent helpers a qualified chef who with his charges produced an excellent meal of Winter soup (with bread rolls the Scouts had made), chicken thighs in mushroom sauce with potatoes, broccoli and carrots, followed by apple and berry fruits crumble with custard or ice cream and ending with tea/coffee and After Eight Mints. This year there was an "honesty" payment system to donate the worth of the meal for Scout funds.

The training of waiters, hosts, drinks waiter and kitchen staff reflect highly on the leadership of John and Ros Rospopa, who must have been very proud of the Scouts' efforts.

So on to Wednesday 7th The Scouts' District Carol Service. Anyone entering London Road would be amazed to see all the chairs pushed back and the centre of the church filled with a collection of Beavers and Cubs dressed as Mary, shepherds, sheep, angels, Wise Men and a cow, (equipped with a MOO !!!! Beeper), and a star.

The proceedings were overseen by the Angel Gabriel (she who must be obeyed !!!!!- looking remarkably like Catherine with wings).

The angel Gabriel related the nativity story from the visit to Mary right through to the arrival of the Wise Men following the star.

The story was interspersed with appropriate carols played by Rachel Panton on the organ.

Unfortunately we did not have a donkey, so all the parents seated upstairs were drafted in to provide donkey noises at the appropriate moments.

It took a bit of practice till they were deemed acceptable.

Catherine required several "Unhelpful" innkeepers to rebuff the Holy Family, (so you can guess who got roped in at this stage – Yes !!! me).

Catherine stressed that Jesus came for everybody hence why we involved everyone in the Nativity story, rather than selecting a few individuals.

For an ex Sunday School Superintendant, schooled in putting on traditional Nativity plays – this was very, very different, however the enthusiasm that the young people showed in answering all the angel Gabriel's questions demonstrated their total involvement.

For all those who were present, participants and watchers this was a truly special way to celebrate the Nativity.



London Road Cubs taking the Faith Badge.

CHRISMONS

I'm sure that you have heard on Christingle Services – but how many of you have been to or heard of a CHRISMONS service.

Well London Road held a CHRISMONS Service on the morning of December 18th 2016.

What's a CHRISMON?

Chrismons are a type of Christmas tree decoration used in many churches and often the homes of Christians. The symbols used represent a variety of Biblical and Theological concepts that are well known among believers, often, if the ornaments on a Christmas tree are comprised mostly of Christian symbols, the tree is known as a Chrismon Tree". Chrismons are white with gold decorations of beads, ribbon, glitter etc

It is common however, to see these ancient Christian designs in other colours than white and gold. These would not be Chrismons but simply Christian symbols- and there is nothing wrong with that.

During the service Lesley Evans assisted by members of the Sunday Club transformed an ordinary Christmas tree into a Chrismons tree.

Rev. Catherine added her Chrismon to the tree when she conducted the late service on Christmas Eve (a Lamb with a Cross), starting at 9.30pm the Centre candle of the Advent ring was lit at 10.00pm ,to coincide with midnight in Bethlehem.

The Ascension Lutheran Church, Danville, Virginia holds the copyright on the word Chrismons.

David Gifford

Our Anniversary weekend is 25th /26th March. There will be a Coffee Morning on the Saturday from 10am till noon and a Vintage Hornby and others Exhibition from 10am till 3.30pm. Our anniversary and Mothering Sunday services will be on the 26th with Rev. Catherine Dixon.

Rachel Vyse

North Lynn

The activities over the last month in North Lynn were wide and varied. Of particular importance was our church anniversary which we celebrated along with the first Sunday in Advent. Rev. Becca led our communion service and we followed with a lunch for all. Careful planning meant not a crumb was wasted and we even used up summer fruits and vegetables! Our thanks to the ladies concerned.

During Advent we observed the tradition of lighting progressively more candles around the Advent Wreath and learnt again the significance of the symbolism in various traditions. Our fourth Sunday service took the form of a carol service – we managed to sing nine carols! (But not all verses to save our vocal chords.) Carols were interspersed with readings, based on Scripture, telling the story of Christmas and the significance it had to various of the participants in the story. As we knew we were not having a service on Christmas Day (everyone was away from Lynn) we took the opportunity to light the fifth candle and prayed for the coming of the Christ Child into all our hearts. Not to miss an opportunity to share something to eat together, we were treated to homemade Christmas pudding with our after church coffee!

We had held our 'Messy Church' during the month, with a Christmas theme and by the end of the craft activities we had 15 marshmallow snowmen all waiting the attention of the children!

This was to be a prelude to our Community Carol Service the following Wednesday. Invitations had gone to the local school that we were singing carols, serving refreshments in the late afternoon. We were rewarded by over 60 people including many children starting to sing carols outside the church and we then moved inside to sing more and enjoy the refreshments. The response was 'You will do this again next year won't you!'

And so to a New Year. Our activities took a well-earned break before starting again. One activity, new towards the end of the year, we are delighted to report has a sound initial take up and we look forward to reporting further

activity during the coming year. Rev. Becca was approached by the King's Lynn Hanseatic group with a view to them using the church on a Friday morning. Since October we have enjoyed getting to know the group, which has local members from the UK and from all parts of the EU, particularly Lithuania. The Hanseatic group runs English classes and trips, so that families moving here can settle in and make friends. On a Friday morning, in the church, we now host a craft group. The sight of 8 ladies, and a few children, making crafts together and chatting might seem nothing remarkable. However, we were all saddened earlier in the year by the rise in racial tension in our communities. As a church in the heart of the community, we felt we were in a good position to help to reverse this trend. So in a time of division, the fact that these ladies, made up of locals and those from other countries, were all working together, makes it a precious group indeed. We also have some very gifted crafters! If you or others, particularly those from other Hanseatic countries, would like to come along, you would be more than welcome. (That's Fridays, North Lynn Methodist 10-12).

So with this new initiative and all our regular activities, North Lynn faces this New Year with continued hope that we can be a beacon of Christian Outreach in the community.

Neville Posnett

Dersingham

Dersingham's Christmas Celebrations started in early December with a short carol service before the monthly 'Lunch at the Chapel'. Rev. Steve, resplendent in a new Christmas jumper, led the carols and distributed crackers for us to pull and enjoy and based his message on this. After all this excitement everyone enjoyed an excellent festive lunch.

A week later we were privileged to have 80 children from Dersingham Primary School for their annual carol service. As you can imagine with these numbers of children, staff, parents and grandparents, plus some church members, the church was full. The children told the Christmas story with readings and prayers, as well as singing several carols. They did extremely well and everyone enjoyed the service. Revd Steve gave a talk about the candy cane and the children were delighted to be given one to take home as well as a Christmas puzzle leaflet.

We were joined at all our church services by visitors from other churches and others staying in the area. The church decorations looked lovely and added to

our sense of wonder as we celebrated the birth of our Saviour Jesus. Our Christmas collections were for All We Can Extraordinary Gifts and we wanted to raise £267 to build a pig farm for a vulnerable widow. The total raised and sent to All We Can, was **£488.39**. We were able with this excellent result to purchase these Extraordinary gifts: build the pig farm for a vulnerable widow £267; Girl power - sanitary products for a girls' school in rural Nepal £50; Fired Up – to train and supply bricks for 50 households to build fuel-efficient stoves - £50; for the emergency fund for refugees fleeing Syria providing whatever is needed £121.39. We give thanks for the generosity of all those who gave.

In 2017 we have several dates already in the diary, starting with our coffee mornings on 28th January and 25th February. The first Chicken Foot evening in 2017 is on 3rd February at 7.30 p.m. A date for your diaries is our annual Flower Festival 25th to 28th May, theme 'Called to serve'.

Elizabeth Batstone

Stow Bridge

I'm sure there will be many chirpy greetings to each other of "Happy New Year" even in February and ours is to you all.

The silliest advert I heard over the Christmas/New Year holidays was the men who danced around in shorts and hi-vis jackets and a voice says, "You are so money supermarket!" (Or words to that effect!) Grrr!

But that's enough of my grizzles for now so to the best advert I've seen lately; the weather forecast given in "This Morning" at 10.30. A door opens and the most lovely smile is on a man's face. (He does not speak) Then after the forecast another smile and the door slowly closes.

How wonderful to see such a smile after all the mix of conditions in the world over the Christmas period. I see sadness in the first advert and great joy and love, oh yes, and peace in the second.....Just what a silly old man saw and his opinion of his observations. Oh dear!!

Better to dwell on the blessings of people all around; great presents, good family gatherings, and all the other things and happenings that put a wonderful smile on faces. Not forgetting the people who gave us cause to be joyful and thankful.

I was able to be at a Nativity Play in Somersham C of E Church that was presented by the C of E and Baptist Churches on Christmas Eve and was packed with locals. It was lovely. The children did well; the Baptist Minister was in favour of three Wise Men rather than Kings. (He wondered if kings would leave their countries to follow a star.) Then he gave a few thoughts about the often forgotten generosity of the innkeeper in offering the stable or shed for Mary and Joseph.

Now with all good wishes we say goodbye to our Parish Priest, Rev. Karen and her husband David as they retire and move away at the end of January. It's a bit late I know but we do thank them both for their efforts while they have been with us, not just in the four Parish Churches but mixing in other activities too. We are pleased to have had them in our company.

So around the door of Stow Bridge will soon be covered in the green and yellow of the aconites – a lovely sight.

Can't resist a joke!

A poor old man lost his left arm, left leg and left eye in an accident. Glad to say he is all right now!

In spite of the bad jokes we have every blessing so keep taking the tablets. They let me wake up each morning!

Happy New Year.

Peter Hewitt

Hilgay

On December 20th 2016 Hilgay Methodist Church lost its oldest member when Reg Manning (my Dad) passed away.

Reg was 93 years old and a lifelong Methodist being baptised at Gooderstone Chapel in November 1923.

Reg had regularly attended Hilgay chapel since moving to the village with his late wife Gladys in 1972. Reg has given his support in many ways as well as in worship from stewarding to treasurer of the Guild and Bowls Club for many years. He provided transport to look at several chapel refurbishments when we were considering updating the interior of Hilgay Chapel.

He also enjoyed travelling around the country looking at organs, chairs, tables, crockery, cutlery and kitchen utensils. He made and fitted book rests for the sixty padded chairs to save the church a bit of money.

He was a very interested and interesting member of the Church Council and had recently been very supportive of our latest project; to replace all the windows.

Being a member of the Methodist Church meant so much to Reg and through this magazine I would like to thank all throughout the Circuit who brought

so much happiness and friendship into his life. Also thank you to all who have shared their memories of him with us in the lovely cards we have received.

Pauline Driver.

I hope by the time we read this we have some news of our new windows. Of course if they are already fitted we shall have cause to REJOICE! and be thankful.

A change to our usual Good Friday arrangements means Hilgay will hold a Guild type meeting in the afternoon at 2:30pm to which we invite all who wish to join us.

A service will also take place at Downham in the evening with their choir leading it.

Terrington St Clement

Network has had some varied meetings over the Christmas period. Sheila Johnson spoke on the meaning behind the Victorian painting, "The Light of the World"; Rev. David Howarth reminded us that Advent should be a time of reflection and not just frenzied activity pre Christmas; then we enjoyed Christmas readings, carols and mince pies. Our prayers included those for people less fortunate than ourselves.

Our Christmas coffee morning was a great success. Soup and mince pies were served, stalls and games were enjoyed and £429.50 was raised for Chapel funds. We also managed to raise £215 for Action for Children at our various events.

Our Christmas morning worship, when we were joined by our friends from Clenchwarton, was led by Rev. Andrew Maguire and on January 1st members of the local Anglican Church worshipped with us.

On February 11th we will be holding a "Bacon Butty" morning, 9 till 11.30am in aid of the Kenya project. Please come and join us.

Linda Howling

St Faith's

Everyone at St Faith's Church was delighted at the success of the third Christmas Tree Festival staged at the beginning of December. It embraced the wider community and attracted many "new" faces into the church to admire more than 30 beautifully decorated trees creating a winder wonderland look in the church. Audiences seemed to enjoy our two contrasting evening concerts, which again attracted different audiences. There was a lovely family, friendly atmosphere throughout the four-day Festival and the organising team has already met to review the event.

Financially it was also a success with a profit of £1,892, which is a wonderful

result the money being used for the on-going running costs of St Faith's Church.

Now we are into a New Year the various groups and committees start to meet again and the latest meeting of the Building Projects group was to look at the way forward in terms of how we can best make use of our main buildings to try to meet the needs of the way our Church life and ministry will move forward. No decisions have yet been made and all suggestions will need to be approved by the full Church Council.

It hardly seems possible but the fund-raising committee has already met to consider the 2017 Spring Fair which will be held on the third Saturday in March. Anyone who has ideas for stalls or who would like to offer themselves as a volunteer helper can contact the chairman Ann Ess via the Church Office on 01553 774916 Monday to Fridays 9am until 12 noon.

Once again there will be a busy programme of services at St Faith's leading up to Easter and in Holy Week. More details of these will be announced later but the plan for Easter Day has been agreed by the Worship Consultation Committee. The services will include an open air Dawn service on Easter morning (April 16th) at 6am followed by a breakfast in the Church Rooms. For the first time there is to be an Easter family activity afternoon on Easter Day in the "Messy Church" style and an evening service of Prayer. So lots to look forward to at Easter as we come together to mark the drama of Christ's Crucifixion on Good Friday and Glorious Resurrection on Easter Day.



Any items for the **MARCH** edition should be with the editor by **FEBRUARY 12th**, 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

Come and enjoy take-away or eat-in breakfast at
the Methodist Church, Wesley Road,
Terrington St. Clement.

'Bacon Butties Breakfast'

Saturday 11th February

9am—11 am

You can leave a Prayer in the basket, buy from the
stall or just come and share with friends at
breakfast. Funds are being raised for the
Resources Centre in Kathaageri, and 'Karibuni
children'. All are very welcome

Really?

The Year 8s will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement on Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

"Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked.

"He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied.

The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

Come and Praise



Worship Band

Worship Songs

Old and New

Enjoy Fellowship,

testimonies.

All welcome at Downham

Market 6.30pm

**Next one: April 30th
2017**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come

February brings....at any rate as far as King's Lynn is concerned,... the Mart, an ancient fair going back to a Charter granted by Henry VIII in 1537. It opens on Valentine Day with a ceremony performed by the mayor, preceded by a blessing of the show people for whom this marks the beginning of the travelling season. In the 19th century it was notable because Frederick Savage, the inventor who came from Lynn, displayed his roundabouts and other attractions for the first time. I used to come to the Mart as a boy. Everything was much gentler in those days; remember the cakewalks and swings? There used to be lots of side shows, from flea circus to boxing booth. Nowadays the rides have to be faster and scarier every year. Then there were those marvellous fairground organs, now replaced by recorded music at such a decibel level that we can hear it from where I live two miles away.

I remember one year the showpeople chose `Joy` as their trade mark. When they arrived the front of the opening wagon displayed the caption "Joy has come to town." When they left a week or so later the last truck announced "Joy will be back again next year." Fortunately we need not wait so long as that!

The gospel message begins with glad tidings of great joy. I have seen that joy in people whose lives have been changed by this good news. Charles had a funny habit; he would never be the first to let go when shaking hands. I tried him out lots of times but never succeeded, "I lost all my old friends when I stopped going to the pub" he said, pumping my arm up and down, then with joy written all over his face "but I've found a lot of new ones" he declared when I released him to go shaking hands all round the congregation.

The joy that Jesus gives doesn't depend on things going well. When I was a hospital chaplain some years ago a cataract operation, which now takes less than ten minutes, involved keeping the patient perfectly still with eyes bandaged for twelve days. I visited David during this anxious period. Sadly when they removed the bandages he was completely blind. The following Sunday I was surprised to see him being led into church. "They can't put out the light within" he said.

We live in anxious and fearful days but we can sing:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing.

John Garfoot



Open Meetings at London Road Methodist Church: 'Mental Health – What can I do?'

Speaker: Hannah Cooper from the charity 'One to One'
Various other mental health professionals will be in attendance.
Wednesday 1st February 7pm

'Refugees – What's the Plan?'

Speaker Maurice Wren, CEO of the Refugee Council
Wednesday 8th March 7pm

Fun Quiz Night at London Road Methodist Church

Friday 3rd March 7pm
Free entry; light refreshments available
Come as a team, or join one on arrival
Donations to Christian Aid

All Welcome

A Lampedusa Cross

A Lampedusa Cross - made from the wood of a migrant boat – will be on display at King's Lynn Minister from Ash Wednesday 1st March for a week, with opportunity for prayer and reflection. The cross will be taken to the open meeting on March 8th.

Lent Group at South Wootton

led by the Rev. Catherine Dixon

'Being a part of the Passion'

Tuesdays at 10.30

14th, 21st, 28th March

4th, 11th April

KENYAN TRIP



The wonderful amount of £237 was raised at the bacon butty breakfast in late October and I have sent a cheque to 'Karibuni Children' and will take money raised to put in the Peacemakers Bank in Nairobi.

We will stay in Nairobi Methodist Guest House for the first three nights and whilst

there we plan to meet up with some of the trustees and volunteers of Karibuni Children and catch up on news of their visits to some of the 14 projects in the previous fortnight. We have also booked a trip to the elephant orphanage and hope to worship in Nairobi on the Sunday morning.

Then we will stay at the Denis Marshall foundation in Kathaageri which is run by Peacemakers International and will visit the school nearby with the jumpers and hats kindly knitted by ladies in St. Germans and Terrington. We will see the restaurant, soon to be opened, where your tablecloths will be used.

Whilst near Runyen'jes we plan to meet and maybe stay a night with Rev. Peter Ensor at the Meru Methodist University whose prayer is in the Handbook on day 8. It will be very interesting to hear about Ministerial training over there too. Andrew will take the best wishes and prayerful thoughts for the work there from our Circuit to them in Meru and Kathaageri.

After travelling south to Nairobi again we will be met by someone from Lindberg Safaris who is taking us on a 2 night safari to the Masai Mara. We are very fortunate to have contact with a Methodist steward from Nairobi who manages this Kenyan travel agency and who has helped us in the past.

Thank you very much to all the people from the Circuit who have shown their support over past months. We will enjoy sharing our exploits and photos taken in Kenya with everyone in the future

Helen Maguire



**Mission Aviation Fellowship
at Hunstanton Methodist Church
SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 11am – 3pm**

**Find out more about the vital work
that MAF and partner organisations are doing.**

Refreshments

Games and Activities

An event for all the family.

***... try your hand at ...*
Landing a MAF plane
on our Flight Simulator.**



**Come and sit in the pilot's seat of a real Cessna 150...
in our car park!**



East Anglia District

ICONS

An Interactive Day

led by Rev. Nicola Vidamour

Saturday 18th March 2017

**Belsey Bridge Conference Centre, Ditchingham
NR35 2DZ**

We invite you to come with a small item, maybe in
purple or orange, to put on a 'Bring and Buy' stall
proceeds to EACH, our President's project
whose colourway is
Purple and Orange.

Booking form available on request from the editor.

Closing date 10th February

**Women's World Day of Prayer - March 3rd 2017 to be held
at:-**

Holy Family Catholic Church, Gaywood, at 11.00 am;
Terrington St. Clement Methodist Church at 7.00 pm;
Eternity Church, Sovereign Way Downham Market
at 2.00 pm.

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary February 2017 onwards

Saturday 28th January New Year Party at Terrington St Clement 2.30pm
Sunday 29th January Praise Service at Downham Market 6.30 pm
Saturday 11th February Fellowship breakfast at Downham 8.30
Saturday 11th February Bacon Butty event at Terrington St Clement 9am
Saturday 11th February MAF day at Hunstanton 11am – 3pm
Saturday 25th February Pastoral Carers' Day 9.15 for 9.45 at London Road
Friday 3rd March Women's World Day of Prayer (See inside for details)
Saturday 11th March Fellow ship breakfast at Marham 8.30
Saturday 18th March MWiB Day Conference at Belsey Bridge
Saturday 25th March Coffee Morning and Hornby Trains at London Road starting at 10am
Wednesday 26th April MWiB Spring District Day at Downham Market Methodist Church
Sunday April 30th Come and Praise at Downham 6.30pm
Wednesday May 10th Easter Offering service at London Road Methodist Church at 2.30 pm.
Thursday 25th/Sunday 28th May Dersingham Flower Festival
Saturday 11th October Autumn District Day at Ely Methodist Church

FIRE UP!
Circuit Service on
Saturday 20th May
2.30pm, London Road
SAVE THE DATE!!