

Rejoice!

November 2016



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

Dear Friends,

Why are we waiting? It is a question that so often passes our lips. When we sit in a queue of traffic and cannot see what is ahead on the road. When we are anxiously awaiting news and are powerless to speed up the process. When we are sitting watching the clock crawling so slowly in the hour before *Strictly Come Dancing* on a Saturday evening (well, maybe the last one is just me).

It is not a new question. Psalm 13 begins with the cry 'How long, O Lord?'. The Bible is filled with stories of waiting – for release from slavery, for return from exile, for a child, for a Saviour. Psalm 37 tells us to 'rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him', but for many of us waiting does not come naturally.

We are approaching the season of Advent, the traditional season of waiting in the church calendar, which begins on Advent Sunday (27th November). Advent encourages us to slow down, to listen for a different pace of living, to live in tune with God. Ironically it comes at the time of the year when the world seems to be speeding up – all those things to do to 'get ready' for Christmas, and an endless whirl of carol services, Christmas gatherings and special events.

How do we take time in the midst of all this to wait and to listen? Last year I was given a book, *The Christmas Mystery* by Jostein Gaardner. It is a sort-of Advent calendar, inasmuch as each chapter of the story takes place on the days from December 1st-25th, and each chapter begins with a boy opening the window of a rather special Advent calendar. At first I found the book frustrating: once I got into the story I wanted to race through and find out what happened in the end. But the discipline of reading a chapter a day, laying it aside, thinking about it, and living with the story over 25 days was a real revelation in doing things differently, in living at a different pace, and entering into a story rather than just racing for the end.

There are many Advent devotional books that offer a chapter, a poem, a reading or a thought for each day. This year I have chosen the very attractively titled *Do Nothing: Christmas is coming*. It is written by the Bishop of Chelmsford, the RtRev'd Stephen Cottrell, whose other books have been so fruitful at our Advent and Lent groups at South Wootton. This year our Advent group will be reflecting on the theme of 'waiting'.

You are very welcome to join us, or perhaps you might enter into the spirit of the season with a book to read through on your own, or simply a time of prayer and reflection each day. An Advent candle, which has the days marked on it and which you burn each day is a nice way of marking the time and forcing ourselves to stop and focus. However you chose to mark Advent (and if it is with a chocolate-filled calendar, please make sure it is Fairtrade!), take time to think now so you are ready when it comes (and being ready is, of course, another great theme of Advent, and the subject for another letter, another time).

Every blessing,
Catherine

TODAY

Read from top to bottom

Today was the absolute worst day ever
And don't try to convince me that
There's something good in every day
Because, when you take a closer look,
This world is a pretty evil place
Even if
Some goodness does shine through once in a while
Satisfaction and happiness don't last.
And it's not true that
It's all in the mind and heart
Because
True happiness can be obtained
Only if one's surroundings are good
It's not true that good exists
I'm sure you can agree that
The reality
Creates
My attitude
It's all beyond my control
And you'll never in a million years hear me say that
Today was a good day
NOW READ FROM BOTTOM TO TOP

Praying together in the Circuit

Be still and know that I am God

I will be exalted among the nations I will be exalted in the earth.

Psalm 46: 10

Throughout all nations we pray for recognition of who you are.

For people to be led out of darkness into your own marvellous light,
to seek your ways and live in your truth.

Let justice flow like rivers
and righteousness like a never failing stream..

We remember those
who in seeking to bring an end to conflict and enable peace
have made the ultimate sacrifice.

For families who have lost loved ones
for those who live with injuries sustained in service.

Lord, Let your healing love flow.

Jehovah-Jireh our provider, guide and direct the steps of all
in need of refuge and shelter, a place of safety in your world today.

For agencies and individuals working in dangerous situations
to bring help and hope in humanitarian need.

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, we live in remembrance of your life
given for us. In our remembering may we serve you
faithfully all the days of our life.

As Advent approaches we prepare to celebrate your birth
and wait for your return. The Spirit and the Bride say "Come,"

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in
heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the
kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, *and he will reign for ever and
ever.*"

Revelation 11: 15

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.

The family and friends of Ruth Cross, now at peace.

The Downham Market album

It is good to know that interest was shown at the time of Downham Market's Flower Festival in the album showing newspaper cuttings, leaflets, letters and other items about the decisions made re the new church, the fund raising, the opening ceremony etc.. This collection is unique and very precious and so it cannot be left on permanent display. It would not be right to risk damage or loss because these items need to be preserved as important archive material. In due course, they will be deposited in the Archives in County Hall, Norwich, to join other historical Methodist material from this area. Items in the Archives at County Hall can be accessed by anybody, on request.

This album will not be deposited in Norwich until after the 50th Anniversary year is over. If anyone wishes to view this material before the end of this year, please contact Hazel (01366 385772), who is the archivist for the Downham Market section of the Circuit.

Pastoral Day

On Saturday 8th October a group of about 30 from all around the Circuit met at Hunstanton for our Pastoral Day.

Our guest speaker was Rev. Rosemary Wakelin with dachshund Siegfried. We began our short service with a hymn written by Rosemary and in the Hymn book Singing The Faith.

She talked to us about her time as a Prison Chaplain at Norwich Prison. It was really interesting and not a bit how I had imagined it to be

We enjoyed our lunch very much, thanks to those who prepared and served it.

During the afternoon session Rosemary spoke again and we finished with a short talk by Rev. Catherine Dixon and the hymn, Will you come and follow me. We closing with the Grace

Thanks to Phyllis Bowman for her joy and effort in making such an enjoyable day.

We look forward to the next one in February.

Betty Guy

Clenchwarton Methodist Church

Christmas Tree Festival

Weekend of December 10th, 11th and 12th

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

Waiting: An Advent Reflection Group

At South Wootton Methodist Church 10.30-11.30am

Tuesdays 29th November, 6th, 13th, 20th December

led by Rev. Catherine Dixon

All welcome to one session or all

Christian Unity Week service...

on Sunday 22nd January at 5pm

at London Road Methodist Church

led by Rev. Catherine Dixon

preacher: Rt Rev. Alan Hopes,

Catholic Bishop of East Anglia

Save the date!!

Saturday 20th May 2017

"Fired Up"

a Circuit Service at London Road

Methodist Church 2.30pm

more information to follow...watch this
space!

Around the churches



Downham Market

Ladies' Friendship

Our first two meetings went very well. We have 20 paid up members but could do with a few more. Ladies, we will make you very welcome just come along to see if you like what we do.

The Harvest Festival evening was a lovely night. We sang lots of Harvest hymns and had some nice readings. We sold the produce for our own funds. Sandy our speaker was not very well so we had a quiz evening instead which we all like.

Our November meetings are 9th November with Allan Hale presenting a film about birds in Uganda.

On November 23rd we will be making a Christmas Card with Pam.

Margaret Fox

Harvest celebrations are over for another year and now the temperature has really dropped, must keep an eye on the houseplants still outside in case of early frosts. Our Harvest Festival celebrations were led by Catherine. She took as her theme Micah 6 6-8, what does God want us to give him, not burnt offerings but our lives lived as God wants us to live them. She told the children, and older children, the parable of the pumpkin patch where every kind of pumpkin, strong or weak, big or small, found a use for their existence, to serve where they could, and to reinforce this message she handed round arm bands inscribed 'do justice, love kindness and walk humbly'. After the service we all enjoyed fellowship over a shared meal. Our catering team were on duty again after their efforts at the ceilidh and supper the night before. Our banner group had been busy again and produced a splendid harvest banner with a big fruitful grape vine and the words 'Summer and Winter, Springtime and Harvest. The church had been decorated, as last year, with organisations taking one each of the eleven window sills and we had a wonderful variety of traditional and amusing. The Boys Brigade black and white cows made from paper drinking cups had to be seen to be believed. Well done everyone who helped in any way to make a very happy day for us all.

On 5th November our mum's group is putting on a light party (light as opposed to darkness, an antidote to Halloween) combining Halloween and bonfire night, last year's first attempt being so popular. It will run from 3.00 to 5.00 with lots of games to exhaust both children and the adults who must accompany them. The 50p entrance fee includes a drink and crisps.

Now we are all getting geared up for our annual Christmas Fair on 19th November when we hope our premises will be crowded with happy folk, listening to the Christmas music; enjoying tasty refreshments including lunches; making Christmas gifts in the craft room or buying them from the numerous stalls already booked in (including some charity stalls); playing silly family games and for the young ones, visiting Father Christmas in his illuminated grotto. The fair is open from 10.00 to 3.00 so do come and join us and enjoy a start to the run up to Christmas the week before we have our first Advent service (must remember to make the Advent ring and get the candles out). Then on Saturday 17th our festival of Christmas trees opens based on the theme of carols. This will run to Monday 18th December being open from 10.00 to 5.00 (Sunday 2.00 to 5.00 and the last Monday 10.00 to 1.00). Meanwhile our usual activities continue; our mostly volunteer staff producing a hot meal from fresh ingredients from Monday to Friday in the Social Centre for a mere £4.50 with board games and cards available for a sociable time afterwards. Our weekly Saturday coffee mornings are well attended with the lure of homemade cakes, an inexpensive variety of bric a brac, a library of books to choose from (very popular now the evenings are drawing in and Winter is on its way) to say nothing of a good occasion for meeting friends for a good chat in the warm. Apart from the service to the community angle and welcoming new folk to our premises, the profits help fund the upkeep and improvement of our buildings, making all the work worthwhile. My outdoor plant stall will soon have to move inside as the weather gets too cold and wet and then with restricted space there will probably be only house plants on sale, unless garden plants are especially ordered. Meanwhile with autumn planting in full swing the perennial s and shrubs mostly priced at 50p or £1 go like hot cakes.

What a lot of good things we have to look forward to before the year ends.

Here's hoping we shan't have too severe a winter to keep us house bound.

Joan Macey

Terrington St Clement

At MWiB (Network) our speaker Marjorie Bocking compared dressmaking with how we should live our lives. A pattern shows character and example. Pin and cut and discard the left over pieces. Sew up quickly and cleanly with a sharp needle with a big eye.

Then press out by prayer.

Rev. Catherine Dixon spoke about the beauty of the garden. She read several poems illustrating her theme and shared the experiences in her own garden.

The Autumn Fair raised £451.90. Thanks to all who helped in any way.

Linda Howling

St Faith's

As you read this article, the third St Faith's Christmas Tree Festival is just a month away...yes, I know, it hardly seemed possible when the people involved in organising the Festival first got together back in January!!!

Everyone at St Faith's is looking forward to the Festival and seeing the church full of beautiful Christmas trees, each one decorated and illuminated so that collectively they will once again create a wonderful magical look in the centuries-old building.

The Festival organising team has been building on the firm foundations laid in the previous two Festivals and hope to include one or two new ideas this year for the enjoyment of visitors.

The Festival is to be officially opened on Thursday 1st December, by Anthony Isaacs, of BBC Radio Norfolk. Anthony presents a popular Sunday morning breakfast show on BBC Radio Norfolk between 6am and 9am. Its varied content includes religious (all Faiths) topics, as well as more secular material. The show always contains a rich selection of everyone's favourite hymns, many of them recorded by cathedral and church choirs from all over the country.

After Anthony has performed the official opening of the Tree Festival, there will be a festive variety concert starting at 7.30pm. The programme for the concert has been kindly put together for the Festival by Stephen Hayter who will also act as MC for the evening.

On Friday, December 2nd the church will be open until 8pm to give more opportunity for people to come in church and look at the trees on show and to have a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake.

The Festival will be open from 10am onwards on Saturday, December 3rd and we are hoping to stage a concert on Saturday evening starting at 7.30. The details of this are yet to be confirmed.

The Festival will continue on Sunday (when services are not being held) and on Monday, the final day.

It is hoped to have **around** 30 mostly real trees on show. Pupils from local Primary schools, representatives of church organisations and private individuals have been invited to decorate a tree. The collection of trees will again include the very popular Prayer Tree at the west end of the church. Those people decorating the trees are being encouraged to be as creative as they can so that the collection will create much interest among visitors.

Back by popular demand will be the hand-made seasonal products that Joan Greening and her Craft Group members have been busy making in the past few months. At the last Festival in 2014 the craft stall proved so popular that they sold their entire stock.

When all the decorated trees are illuminated, they take on a magical appearance as the light fades in late afternoon and it really is a sight to behold. People who have not yet visited the two previous Festivals are urged to make sure they find time this year to visit . You should not be disappointed by the beautiful display of trees.. With such a major event the organisers are appealing for Anglican and Methodist church members to offer to help with a variety of roles, including stewarding when the Festival is open and making cakes and savoury eats for the refreshments, to give a few hours of their time to help so that we, as a church community at St Faith's, can offer our visitors a really warm welcome.

Anyone who would like more details about the Festival or who would like to offer a good quality item for a raffle prize can obtain more information from the St Faith's Church Office on 01553 774916 weekday mornings between 9am and 12 noon. There will be sign-up sheets on the church notice board for people to offer to cover slots during the opening times. The organising team has been working hard to ensure the Festival is another great success and it is hoped that their efforts will be rewarded by large numbers of visitors coming through the doors. Admission is free but there will be collection points where visitors can make donations which will all go towards the general running costs of the church.

Before the Christmas Tree Festival starts, there is another major social event being staged at St Faith's and that is the traditional Christmas Fair. The Fair is being held this year on 19th November and opens at 2pm continuing until 4pm.

All the usual colourful and varied stalls and sideshows will be set up in the Church Rooms so please do come along and browse the stalls. The stalls include bric-a-brac, toys and games, the ever-popular home-made cakes and preserves stalls (which is one of first stalls to sell out of stock). In addition there will be games of chance stalls. Father Christmas will also be making an early appearance for children in his Grotto.

Running through the afternoon will be a Grand Raffle with a selection of good prizes.

Fund-raising chairman Ann Ess urges people from the wider Gaywood community, together with church members, to come along, meet friends old and new and enjoy the event.

"There really is something for everyone this year and the Fair always offers a good opportunity of some early Christmas bargain shopping," said Mrs Ess. The arrival of our new Rector at St Faith's has heralded "exciting" times for our Anglican and Methodist members at St Faith's., Julie is keen to develop some of the thinking and ideas that emerged during the AwayDay staged in September at Hunstanton Methodist Church.

During that special event, Anglican and Methodist members of St Faith's were able to pray, discuss and debate the way they wanted to see their parish life move forward in the next few years.

All sorts of ideas were put forward, including the future use of our existing buildings, the former clergy bungalow in the church drive (which is no longer to be used for clergy housing) the Church itself, the existing church office and the Gaywood Church Rooms.

Now these ideas and thoughts have been taken another step forward when the team drawn-up to consider the Building Project met together for the first time during October. Look out in future editions of Rejoice! magazine for an up-date on these discussions. As Julie Boyd would say, "these are indeed exciting times for us in our shared worship and life at St Faith's Church, Gaywood."

Richard Parr

Harvest Celebrations at London Road

These started with a superb meal served by Janet, Rachel and Jan which raised £150 for All We Can (MRDF).

We then retired to the church to cast away Catherine to a Desert Island.

This intrepid castaway decided to take books with her rather than discs, and Catherine and her interviewer Lesley read sections of the books of Catherine's choice.

There was little to read in Catherine's first choice but many pictures to see in *The Hungry Caterpillar*, the triumph of this book is the last page metamorphosis to a butterfly.

Other books from her younger days, and not so young included *The Enchanted Wood* and Enid Blyton's *Famous Five*, and *Tigger's Breakfast* (Winnie the Pooh) by A.A.Milne.

At "A" level Catherine had to study *Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen, her enthusiasm for Mr D'Arcy suggested a much higher attainment if she had been allowed to study *Pride and Prejudice*.

Choices following included the obligatory Harry Potter (The Philosophers stone) and travelling through Botswana with Alexander McCall Smith and the Ladies Detective Agency.

Other Flights of Fancy included Terry Prachett's final book – *The Shepherd's Crown* which was published after his untimely death.

Catherine's last choice was by local writer Elly Griffiths, whose crime novels centre on King's Lynn Police Station.

The works also included some "Science Fiction" with journey times between Walsingham and King's Lynn taking 15 minutes – Pure Fantasy!!!

When Catherine and Lawrence met the author Lawrence told her that his wife was going to be Methodist Minister at the church opposite Kings Lynn Police Station and would she refrain from killing Catherine off.

Lesley was remarkably lenient with Catherine, who along with her Bible and the Complete works of Shakespeare was allowed to take her dog to the desert island.

Sunday morning's Parade Harvest Festival Service was taken by Lesley and included a Bread Tasting session and a dramatic interpretation of the parable of the Sower.

The scout that Lesley had chosen had an acute taste of the various breads and even knew what fellow Contestant Edie was eating (A Brioche) from her description of her eating experience.

The dramatic interpretation of the Sower, (in true "Blue Peter" fashion) Lesley allowed the sower to scatter "seeds" of torn up paper around the church.

The property stewards were very pleased that the "Birds" Lesley had selected were superb in picking up every seed that went astray.

Youngsters from the Sunday Club assisted Lesley and Elaine with the prayers throughout the service.

It was so good to see the church full for Harvest Festival especially so many parents with children in the 21st Scout Group. They did not just bring their children to church but stayed for the service and refreshments afterwards - a superb Family Service.

The members of the Scout Group brought many gifts, which will be taken to the Foodbank. The Beavers as one of their 30 year challenges were challenged to bring 30 items of food for charity.

A total they easily surpassed, with some Beavers nearly achieving the total personally, emptying bags of goods onto the tables.

David Gifford

Pott Row

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL.

We would love to see you, to enjoy the Decorated Trees. This Year. We will be open on

Friday December 2nd 10 am to 4pm

Saturday December 3rd 10am to 4pm

Sunday December 4th 2pm to 4pm

There will be Refreshments, Stalls, Gifts, Books and a Raffle on each day.

There will be a Candle-lit carol service on Sunday December 4th at 6.30 pm led by Rev Catherine Dixon

Snettisham

On Friday 23rd September we held a Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support Nurses. Thank you to all our friends who made wonderful cakes and to Roy for the background music. We were blessed with good weather, which brought out a good crowd and, I'm pleased to say we raised £215. A good effort all round

Gill Birch

North Lynn

Autumn is the season of harvest and fruitfulness and certainly this has been true in North Lynn during October.

Many blessings have come to us during this month by the way of the people we have met and the generosity of those who have come.

We started with our fund raising coffee morning in aid of 'Macmillan Cancer Care' Our organiser Glenys Reed had not been well with the seasonal cold so prevalent at the time but everyone rallied round to ensure what had been planned came to fruition. And true to form it did! Plenty of super cakes, plenty of coffee and plenty of opportunities to raise money. Lots of prizes for the Tombola had been collected and the tickets prepared. If you ever need tickets rolled into straws we have an expert team! In addition a raffle had been organised, as well as competitions to guess weights, numbers and names. All in all a wonderful morning and Glenys's efforts ensured that over £350 was raised. A big 'thank you' to all who came and supported.

Then without a pause for breath, in came the next crew to prepare for our annual Harvest Supper, a joint affair with the Minster congregation. Numbers were higher than previous year – there must have been good feedback – so additional spaces were squeezed in to accommodate over 55 for the traditional 'sausage, jacket potato, beans and onion menu followed by apple pie and cream. But again as custom has it this was followed by a varied programme of entertainment, monologues, singing, instrumental items (not forgetting the musical saw – come next year to witness this unique brand of music), ending with some community singing.

Then true to form the regular congregation arrived on time for our annual Harvest Festival service. Led by Roland Hamon we enjoyed traditional hymns and readings as well as reflecting on the more normal displays of fruit, vegetables, flowers but also the special items of water, salt, sacking, oil and coal, all fruits of God's bounty.

We were able to have an 'octave' of harvest this year as we welcomed our Brownies and Guides to our 'Filling Station' afternoon service the following Sunday. And what a joy it was to have over 40 people thanking and praising God for the fruits of the Harvest. In our informal 'café style' worship we

blended new and old hymns, benefitted from the Brownies and Guides telling the story of 'Seed to Bread Roll' in words and pictures and listened to the thoughtful 'thank you' prayers the Brownies and Guides themselves had written. Not exactly by way of reward, but everyone then enjoyed a 'Harvest Spread' – sandwiches made from the Harvest Sheaf we had on display. At both services we gathered tins and packets for the Foodbank and after delivery they were most grateful to everyone for all the donations. Not exactly a lull now as we have our 'Messy Church' to look forward to and at the beginning of November a 'Guy Fawkes' party as part of our Community Meal outreach.

And before we know it we shall be in Advent! But it is good we can look back throughout the year to see how God has been working in North Lynn and forward in faith to what he will accomplish.

Neville Posnett

Stow Bridge

We had a very good Harvest Thanksgiving service, led by Deacon Janet and we were pleased to welcome many friends to the service. The congregation gave donations of fruit and vegetables and, as usual, the refreshments were first class! The Church was well decorated with flowers and one or two very old corn dollies. We really appreciate the talents of folks and the time taken to make the Church look so beautiful.

Thank you to all who attended and gave.

It was good to know that a whole toilet block is to be erected in a school abroad. The money raised by a Coffee Morning and other money from a collection at the garden service at Stow Hall. The block is to be twinned with our model toilet here.

I know our members read the Bardolph magazine, (the monthly C of E Parish mag) and it was very interesting to read an account of the stone laying ceremony of St Peter's. There are photos of the building of the Church, with sturdy timbers put in position first and then the brickwork put round. As churches go St Peter's is very young and very new. It is a pretty little church with a small tower and is almost hidden by trees. It seems Sir Thomas Hare rallied many local notables to help get it on its way. We are grateful for their efforts.

We senior citizens often talk about getting old and having senior moments. Well, a group of friends all aged 40 said, "Where shall we meet for a reunion lunch?

They agreed to meet at the Red Lion where the waitresses were attractive and wore mini skirts.

Ten years later, aged 50, they met again. "Where shall we go for lunch this time?"

They agreed to go to the Red Lion as the food was good with a good selection of beers.

Ten years later when they were 60 they met again. "Shall we go to the Red Lion?"

They all agreed as there was plenty of parking, they could dine in peace and was good value for money.

Ten years later, now 70, they discussed what they should do for their reunion lunch. They again agreed to meet at the Red Lion as there were wheel chair accessible toilets and other facilities for the disabled

They met again, aged 80 to decide where to go for lunch. They finally agreed to go to the Red Lion as they had not been there before!

Finally, I think the flowers in Downham Market are lovely, especially the display on the New Cut Bridge.

Peter Hewitt

P.S. My mate brought me a roll of bubble wrap. He said, "Where shall I put it?"

I said, "Pop it in the corner."

He was there for four hours!

Hilgay

On Sunday October 2nd our Harvest Festival Service was led by Deacon Irene. This service was followed by a Harvest bring and share lunch. This gave people a lovely chance to share fellowship and enjoy a meal together.

The non-perishable gifts from the Harvest Service were donated to Downham Area Foodbank,

Guild began again on Tuesday 4th October, when the speaker was our President Deacon Janet Stafford, who shared the contents of her handbag, each item telling of its usefulness and also a biblical connection. Very interesting. Thank you Janet.

Forthcoming events: United Remembrance Service at the Methodist Church on Sunday 13th November at 10:45am. This Service will be led by Mr. Brian Bannister. Music will be supplied by Hilgay Silver Band.

Thursday December 8th Band Concert by Hilgay Silver Band and members of the Training Band at 7pm in Hilgay Methodist Church. Refreshments will be served and proceeds from a retiring collection will be shared equally between the Band and the Chapel.

Pauline Driver.

Wimbotsham

Hello from Wimbotsham.

Alphabetically we are at the bottom of the Circuit Plan (23rd on the list of Churches) but as it may have been a long time since you had news of us in “Rejoice”, we are raising our voice to let you know that we are alive and active. Firstly, in this edition, a reminder of our history ... from extracts in our Centenary Souvenir booklet published in 1974.

The first building where Methodist meetings were held in the village was known colloquially as “The Ranter’s Chapel”. This had been built in 1844 but now only one large threshold stone is all that remains to be seen of that as the Chapel was superceded in 1874 by our present building.

The Souvenir reports: “It was men with faith and vision who built this Methodist Church in Wimbotsham” . This faith and vision may have been tested more than once since that time as the Church has seen a number of changes. During the 1939-45 war it was requisitioned under the Emergency Powers to become a Community Kitchen. The interior was badly mutilated, almost all of the interior fittings including the pulpit, pews and even floor boards were used for firewood. Thankfully there was a considerable sum of money from the War Damage as compensation; this was used for the restoration of the fabric. The interior was completely refurnished in 1950. A new floor, pulpit and pews were brought from the redundant Shouldham Chapel. In the communion area a red carpet was fitted and a new communion table made by a local craftsman along with a new hymn board.

The faith and vision were vindicated as the Church continued to flourish. Further improvements were made in 1970. The large central pulpit was replaced by a much smaller one made in oak by another local craftsman. This wood had been salvaged from the second redundant Shouldham Chapel. The painted dado across the front was replaced by oak panelling.

It is reported in 1974 “our little church in Wimbotsham is in good heart” with just over 30 members, a thriving Sunday School, Guild and Young Wives Group. “We are only a small company of Christians but still meet together to worship Jesus our Lord, and we still experience His love in our corporate life.” Another writes: “When we look back, we thank God for all the steadfast witness and service at Wimbotsham”.

These words can certainly be endorsed today.

Although –a sign of the times - our membership numbers have dwindled to 18, we are still open, and continue in the words of those reported in our Souvenir booklet “to have faith and vision, and be in good heart”.

Please watch this space for further updates on our history and current activities.

Mary Davies

Dersingham

On a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon, thirteen folk from Dersingham joined the Circuit Walk at St. Germans which took us alongside rivers and cuts, past conker trees shedding their treasures, across beautifully ploughed fields stretching to the horizon and encouraged us with bits of rainbows in the distance amongst the blue sky, dazzling sunshine and both dark and white fluffy clouds. Three more joined us for the typically generous bring and share tea beautifully laid out by the ladies at St. Germans, followed by the Circuit Service in the Chapel. This, appropriately, was on the theme of pilgrimages and journeys and helped us to focus on our own life's journey and the detours we often take which can have a positive outcome. It was good to share with others around the Circuit in this event and many thanks to those who planned it and worked so hard for its success. Some members from Dersingham also joined the Pastoral Carers' Day at Hunstanton and benefitted from the wisdom and leadership of the Rev. Rosemary Wakelin.

Our Coffee Morning at the end of October will be in aid of an organisation called "Look Good Feel Better" as well as church funds. This charitable organisation (they supply wigs, free skincare and make-up workshops in hospitals for women coping with the visible side-effects of cancer treatments) was brought to our attention by a former member of our church, Barbara Southgate. Barbara grew up in the village, went to our Sunday School, became a Local Preacher, was married and had two children before she moved away with her husband Robbie because of his new job. Unfortunately Barbara developed cancer, but she was so impressed with the help and support she had from "look good feel better" at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that she wanted to hold an event to promote them. Sadly Barbara became too poorly to carry this out and she died at the age of 54. Jean Griggs suggested that we supported the cause at one of our coffee mornings in her memory. It will be held on Saturday 29th October, so if Rejoice is out a little bit early (as sometimes happens!) please come along and support it. The November Coffee Morning is on Saturday 26th November and will be in aid of Mission at Home and World Church Funds.

The Coffee and Chat sessions continue on Thursday 3rd November and 17th November at 11am, topics to be arranged. Come and join us for an hour of convivial and controversial coffee drinking!

Rosemary Caink

FESTIVE COFFEE MORNING AND

QUIZ

SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER AT 10.30

AM

UP TO 6 PEOPLE PER TEAM

£3.50 ENTRY FEE PER PERSON

(INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS)

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

TO BE A PILGRIM – LET’S WALK SUNDAY 9th OCTOBER

St German’s was bathed in sunlight on Sunday afternoon and this continued for the time we spent together.

Twenty three of us gathered in the Village Hall Car Park and were instructed by our walk leaders, John and Hazel Miles, as to the route we would take, plus escape routes if the walking became too much. And off we went – we walked at a comfortable pace down Sluice Road and soon friendly chatter could be heard. Leader John stopped occasionally and pointed out items of interest. We saw cormorants sitting on the side of the sluice; others flew past as we walked near. The water shimmered in the sunlight, the grassy banks were green and lush and we spotted a rainbow ahead of us. We entered the church of St Mary the Virgin to admire the carved pew ends, read the tomb inscriptions and find out which saints were depicted on the painted screen. Our walk continued in a long straggly line by the side of rushes and sparking water. Some of us started to get a little worried as we saw ahead a very narrow gate which we needed to pass through to wend our way back for

tea. We were relieved to discover how easily the gate widened to allow us through! Soon we were heading into the car park with John telling us we were not to go on the swings in the children's playground!

A lovely cup of tea and a warm welcome awaited us at St German's Methodist Church, followed by an excellent tea.

By 6.00 p.m. we were sitting in the Church for the service, we sang hymns about journeying and walking with the Lord; we heard of someone's journey of life; unexpected events on a journey; excerpts from a children's version of the Pilgrim's Progress and Hazel gave us a few thoughts from conference about walking together. We finished by singing an evening hymn and felt blessed by all we had done and experienced; ready to continue to be a pilgrim. The offering raised £101 for the Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Trust.

Elizabeth Batstone



Kings Lynn Churches Together

The Annual General meeting of Churches Together in Kings Lynn was held at London Road Methodist Church on Wednesday Sept ember 21st.

The activities of Churches Together during the last year and various speakers were reviewed

Catherine, who has been acting Moderator since Dale left was elected Moderator in her own right and the Rev Rebecca Rogers from St Johns was elected Deputy Moderator.

One very important date for your diaries;

Sunday January 15th - 5pm - 2017 London Road

The main Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity .

The Service will be led by Catherine and the Preacher will be the Rt Rev Alan Hopes Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia- A truly ecumenical occasion.

After a break for tea and coffee short presentations were given on work of Christian Witness carried out in the Kings Lynn Area.

1. The North Lynn Methodist Church Ecumenical partnership project
2. Church Urban Fund
3. Job Club
4. CROWNS trust
5. Methodist Knit and Chat group

Mary Uttin had decorated the church with their handiwork

6. The Foodbank update

With Churches holding their Harvest festivals in the next few weeks , now is an ideal time to help the Food Bank prepare for the winter

7. The CAP Debt Centre

This has got off to a good start and is already helping individuals

8. Celebrate Kings Lynn

Alison Hill announced that there will be a Christmas Celebrate King's Lynn, with carol singing in the town bandstand in Vancouver quarter and next year's Celebrate King's Lynn is fixed for Saturday June 3rd 2017.

9. Open the Book.

Adrienne Dean was accompanied by one of her puppets who help relate Christian Stories to school children

10. Highgate and St John's "Open Church"

11. Literacy project ;"Read, Write, Click

Lucy Faulkener-Gawlinski of the Quakers related the story of a gentleman from Hunstanton who had been helped and is now in fulltime employment as caretaker of the The Theatre in Hunstanton

12. Klimate Control.

Jonathan Burr reviewed the work of this ecological minded group looking after the earth's resources.

A Non Planned Presentation was given by Deacon John who when he retires next year is hoping to set up a project in King's Lynn to help the those prisoners released into the community without any means of help.

A rewarding evening for all those who attended.

David Gifford

Action for Children

COFFEE MORNING and STALLS

Downham Market Methodist Church

Saturday 5th November

10 – 12 noon

Christmas Cards and diaries

will be on sale



The logo for Action for Children, featuring a stylized graphic of three figures holding hands above the text "action for children".

Autumn District Methodist Women's Day in Lowestoft **on 6th October**

Mary and I set off early on 6th October for the District day at South Lowestoft Methodist Church and were given a very warm welcome after our eventful journey. (I wonder what they got up to! Ed.)

We were treated to an uplifting, stimulating, thought provoking and happy day of worship, prayer and talks by various women. The key speaker was Rev'd Michaela Youngson one of the London Chairs and she expanded on the phrase 'Just keep praying and staying afloat in a busy ocean'.

After a welcome by Rev. Robert Soanes the Minister of the Church we had an introduction to the day by Jackie Smith (a Past President) who later handed over to Ruth Arnold (from Ely) and gave her the Vice-President badge. Unfortunately our District MWiB President, Rev. Heather Sorrell could not be there as she had had a spell in hospital and been ordered to have two months complete rest.

After a new hymn recently written sung to the StF tune 687 Rev. Jenny Pathmarajah the Minister of Blakeney and the Holt area, led the Prayers followed by a very difficult rhythmic and wonderful Caribbean rendering of the Lord's Prayer which we followed and joined in with from a video. It had been used in the World Federation meeting in Houston this Summer. Jenny and Jackie Smith then proceeded to give us a funny and very enthralling insight into what had happened when they arrived in U.S.A. They recounted events of the World Federation of Methodist Women's Conference which had also coincided with the World Methodist Council and another Committee, so they were amongst 4000 Methodists on occasion over there!

Michaela Youngson spoke to us for nearly an hour on the theme of the ocean and water. She used Prayer and words of Faith cleverly weaving in some thoughts on the film 'Dory' and how that fish's motto in difficult times had been 'keep swimming, swimming, swimming'. This helped Dory to keep going in the turbulent times. Michaela also read some of her poetry and we were led into a meditation on the sea and water. We had time to

chat to each other about questions Micky asked and it all added up to a very enjoyable, prayerful and interesting talk.

We then sang the hymn 'Father I Place into Your Hands' before lunch when we caught up on chat with friends old and new. There was time to visit the Traidcraft and book stalls and look at the two books that Rev. Michaela Youngson wrote some years ago.

The afternoon began with a time of hymn singing of favourites and then the hymn 'Be still' before Rev. Micky spoke to us again. In this session she shared some of her life story and more of her wonderful poems. Finally we had some really uplifting singing and music led by Jenny followed by closing devotions led by her and then the Grace.

Do come and join in the Spring day in Downham on Wednesday 26th April 2017 and let's see if we can arrange a full coach load to go to next year's Autumn day at Ely Methodist Church. More later.

Helen Maguire

THE NEW LITURGICAL YEAR

Begins on Advent Sunday and with it a change in Sunday gospel readings. These follow a three year cycle, Years A, B and C, Matthew, Mark and Luke in turn, with selected readings from St John interspersed in all three. On 27th November we shall switch to Year A, St Matthew.

Both Mark and Luke tell how Levi, son of Alpheus, was found by Jesus at Capernaum, a tax gatherer either in the service of the Romans or Herod Antipas. He must have been a very half-hearted and unsatisfactory Jew to be so employed for these people gained their living by cheating, adding a bit extra on the amount of tax for themselves. Jesus must have seen a good side in him and called him to follow him. He arose and followed without question. He gave a farewell feast for his friends. Jesus was roundly criticised for being present. Levi changed his name to Matthew, which means 'gift of God' and is not mentioned again except in lists of the 12. Tradition says that he laboured in Palestine after Pentecost and that later he did

missionary work in Ethiopia and India. But was the gospel written by him? Almost certainly not; 606 of Mark's 661 verses are found in Matthew. If he were a disciple and an eyewitness why should he need to copy from one who was not? One of the early church Fathers, Papias, did say that Matthew wrote a collection of sayings of Jesus, not the gospel. The actual writer may have been a scribe such as is described in xiii 52 "a disciple unto the kingdom of heaven, bringing forth out of his treasure things old and new."

This gospel was written for Jewish readers, for Jews abroad as well as in Palestine. This comes out in the first 17 verses (which, you will be thankful, will not be chosen as one of our readings), the genealogy of Jesus, which is traced back from David to Abraham. It is interesting that this kingly line is on Joseph's side. There are lots of references to prophecies, 'proof texts,' to show that Jesus was the longed-for Messiah, fulfilling the old Mosaic law, not destroying it. There is emphasis on the kingdom which would be attractive to Jews. Note that he speaks of the 'kingdom of heaven' not the 'kingdom of God,' to avoid using the divine name, a Jewish scruple. Again, to appeal to Jews, Jesus is called 'Son of David' seven times.

St Matthew is the teaching gospel. It is arranged somewhat artificially, designed to be learned easily by new converts or divided into lessons for church reading. There are five collections of sayings of Jesus, each rounded off with "And it came to pass when Jesus had ended these words..."

1. The life and character of the Christian. The Sermon on the Mount, probably delivered at different times Chapters 5 to v7
2. Instruction of the apostles Chapter 10
3. Parables of the Kingdom Chapter 13
4. Problems of life in the Christian community Chapter 18
5. End of the world and judgement Chapters 24 and 25

In Matthew there is a special interest in the church, in fact this is the only gospel where the word occurs, e.g. Caesarea Philippi (on this rock I will build my church) and xviii.17 (disputes to be settled by the

church). By the time Matthew was written, the church had become a great organisation and was the dominant factor in the life of the Christian.

Another thing to notice is that Matthew stresses the divinity of Jesus. The gospel has moved from history of the earthly Jesus to faith in Jesus as a divine figure. There is more of the miraculous in this gospel, from Jesus` virgin birth to his resurrection when Mark`s young man guarding the empty tomb has become a shining angel.

Some material is only found in Matthew:

Narratives- the visit of the wise men, massacre at Bethlehem, flight into Egypt, Jesus walking on the water, the bargain and fate of Judas Iscariot, the dream of Pilate`s wife Procula and Pilate washing his hands.

Parables- the tares, dragnet, labourers in the vineyard, marriage feast, hidden treasure, pearl of great price, unmerciful servant, two sons, ten virgins, talents.

Miracles- the cure of two blind men, coin in fish`s mouth.

As we listen to Matthew over the next year, there will be much to interest us. Yes, he was writing for first century Jews, but it could well be a crash course in Christian living for us today. .

Here is a photograph of a wood carving of St Matthew by Nathaniel Hitch in St Faith's Church, Gaywood, King's Lynn.

John Garfoot



West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary

November 2016 onwards

Saturday 5th November Action for Children Coffee Morning at Downham Market 10 am – noon.

Saturday 12th November Fellowship breakfast at Wimbotsham 8.30

Saturday 26th November Quiz with Puddings at Downham Market at 7pm

Saturday December 3rd Christmas Fair 10am to 1pm , usual stalls , raffle and light lunches at Terrington St Clement

Saturday 10th December Fellowship breakfast at Pott Row 8.30

Saturday 17th December Coffee Morning and Quiz at Clenchwarton 10.30 am

Saturday 17th December – Friday 23rd December Christmas Tree Festival at Downham Market

2017

Saturday 14th January Fellowship breakfast at St. Germans 8.30

Saturday 11th February Fellowship breakfast at Downham 8.30

Saturday 11th March Fellowship breakfast at Marham 8.30

Radio Heacham

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

DJ Rev. Steve Oliver

Listen on
www.radioheacham.org



Any items for the **DECEMBER/JANUARY** edition should be with the editor by **NOVEMBER 12th**, earlier if possible. **It is especially important** you hit the 12th this month as it's a Saturday and means an

extra speedy turn round for the editorial committee to get Christmas arrangements round the Circuit. So no quarter this time!!

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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