

Rejoice!

October 2016



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

Dear Friends,

As I write this towards the end of the second week in September I have just returned from a couple of days at the University of Birmingham for a conference for people interested in knowing more about the first five centuries of the life of the church.

You might think that a trip to the university campus could be a little bit interesting – Birmingham campus has a fascinating mixture of older and very modern buildings – but that the subject matter does not sound that exciting!

Well, there are lots of interesting things to learn from those early centuries and every now and then there are some remarkable surprises. From time to time a book turns up (or rather a manuscript, papyrus, codex or whatever) which was thought to be lost. You might have heard about such lost works turning up in the sands of the Egyptian desert. From time to time they turn up unexpectedly in other places - and every now and then they are found in something that we have known about for a long time but not recognised.

Well it seems that a “lost work” has been found in Cologne Cathedral. I think I have written about Cologne before and its claim to have the “relics” of the Three Kings. I have taken a greater interest in Cologne since our older son married a German girl whose family live not far from the city. I was very interested, then, to discover that a “lost” work has been discovered among some of the old books it possesses – this particular book dating, I believe, from the ninth century. I don’t know the full story but every now and then an old book is found to contain a text which actually dates from several centuries earlier. So it has now been discovered and confirmed (in so far as such things can ever be definitively confirmed) that the manuscript contains a lost commentary on the gospels written in Latin by Fortunatianus, bishop of Aquileia in Italy during the mid-fourth century. It is apparently the oldest commentary on the gospels we have written in the Latin West which is still extant. So it is a rather special, precious and exciting document. I understand that an English translation will be freely available online when the Latin text is published next year, so we will all be able to read it. Very interesting it sounds too from the snippets we heard at the Conference.

I reflected that the cathedral in Cologne must have had this manuscript quite a long time, but not realised what it was they actually had in their possession – an unrecognised and unacknowledged treasure. It is pretty unlikely that we will find such an ancient and precious document in our basements or lofts, but I did also reflect that sometimes we too can fail to recognise the precious things we have among us – special things or people which or who have much to offer, but can be ignored or overlooked.

I was reminded that Jesus spoke of the importance of having eyes that see and ears that hear. It is all too easy to miss things around us that may be obvious. So let us always be ready to notice, to acknowledge and to celebrate the precious things and the precious people we have around us to bless us each day.

Andrew Maguire

Hello, I'm Deacon Irene, a minister in the Methodist Church with responsibilities for Children and Family work at Hilgay and Downham Market. I have two children, Nathan and Petra.

Being a deacon means I belong to the **Methodist Diaconal Order** this is an Order of Ministry and a Religious Order – this means that deacons are a dispersed community involved in various ministries but bound together by prayer and a commitment to following a Rule of Life.

I began exploring my calling to the diaconal ministry of the Church whilst worshipping at the Coventry Methodist Central Hall. I then trained for ministry at the Queen's Theological Foundation in Birmingham for two years before being stationed to the Bradford South Circuit. We were in Bradford for four years and we enjoyed our time there. It is a beautiful part of the country and I learnt a lot from both church members and people in the community.

My aim is to support, enable and empower the great work that is currently taking place in the West Norfolk Circuit. I hope that in our journeying together we will be able to discover fresh and new ways of working with children and young people in the life of our Church and Community.

Deacon Irene Tafirenyika

TRAINING SESSION FOR CHURCH STEWARDS

There will be a training session for new (and existing) church stewards on Tuesday 25th October at 7pm at South Wootton. This should be a very helpful evening for everybody and will be led by one of our regional Learning and Development team – the Revd Sarah Lowe. Do come and join us.

Andrew Maguire

Praying together in the Circuit

I am the vine, you are the branches
whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit;

for you can do nothing without me. John 15: 5

Branches are a vital part of the vine – as long as they are attached!

The life and sap of the vine enable fruitfulness. You can't just become a branch, you come into being from the life of the vine.

Jesus is the life giver, the growth enabler, the means by which fruit is produced. He speaks of his unity with the Father and how it is the Father who works through him. We are called to live in unity, in close communion with Christ. We offer our lives to him and he gives us the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and work through us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The essential is to keep attached, to recognise our dependency on him, united with him in love and longing for his Kingdom to come.

Father God, you are the gardener, your desire is for growth and fruitfulness which will bring transformation in all the world.

Thank you for everything which delights you
as you connect with people and touch lives today.

Thank you for those who pray, who listen and respond to your leading.

Keep us true to Your word which is alive and active.

Prune us, cleanse us, do all that is necessary to prepare us
for what you want to do in our lives and churches.

Lord, we can do nothing without you,
but with you all things are possible.

Your Holy Spirit is your stamp of ownership upon us,
We pray for Christlikeness in our lives which will glorify you.

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. Neil and Mary. Everyone undergoing chemotherapy and all their families.
For those recently bereaved.

Sad news

Everyone at St Faith's Anglican and Methodist Church has been shocked and saddened by the death following a road traffic accident on 17th August of Margaret Bradley, a faithful, long-serving Anglican church member and a former churchwarden.

We send our deepest, loving sympathy to Margaret's daughter, Gill and her son, Stephen and their families.

Margaret's friend, Jean Wilshin, who was driving the vehicle along the A149 road near to the Castle Rising junction, was also killed in the accident.

At Margaret's memorial service at St Faith's on 5th September, former Gaywood Rector, the Rev Canon Beryl Wood, paid a lovely, eloquent tribute to Margaret's life, reflecting on her character and gentle nature and all that she meant to her family and her friends. She had four grandchildren, Johnny, James, Tom and Katie and was proud of their achievements.

For more than 40 years Margaret was a dedicated and faithful member of St Faith's Church. She served alongside Frank Walker as churchwarden, a role she carried out in exemplary manner in her trademark efficient, unassuming way. She was involved in church life in numerous ways and her deep faith was very important to her.

May God bless your soul, dear Margaret, may you rest in peace and rise in Glory.

HUNSTANTON METHODIST CHURCH

Saturday 22nd October 2016

Commencing at 6.00 p.m.

FUN QUIZ and SAVOURY SUPPER £5.00

Please contact Pat Sharman on:

01485 534164 or email:

homejames.pat@talktalk.net

to reserve a place.

Tables for 4 or 6 or just come and help to
make up a table.

All proceeds to Methodist Homes

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**



**DOWNHAM MARKET
CRAFT FAIRS
SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH
9.00 am - 3.00 pm
SATURDAY OCTOBER 29TH
9.00 am - 3.00 pm
COME AND FIND SOME EARLY
CHRISTMAS BARGAINS!**

**Radio
Heacham**

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

DJ Rev. Steve Oliver

Listen on
www.radioheacham.org



Last week, I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I had ever seen. I have since been visited by her sister, and now wish to withdraw that statement...

- *Mark Twain*

CARERS' DAY
SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH
THE HUNSTANTON
METHODIST CENTRE
9.30am for 10 o'clock
Speaker;
Rev. Rosemary Wakelin
of Holt
Light lunches
Please let Phyllis Bowman know if
you would like to share the day.
01553 671288

The Bus Journey

*So there I was travelling through life,
No worry, no trouble, no strife.
Then this geezer had to ask. "Did you read the sign?"
I mean, why couldn't it be easy, like have you got the time?
"No," I says, "I didn't really look,
To tell you the truth I had my nose in a book."
It's just that now he's made me start to wonder
If perhaps I've made a bit of a blunder.
You see there's a depot that's hot which I hear tell
It's not very nice; it's a place they call.....well
I must be going somewhere, a village or a town,
I just wish I knew if it was up the road ordown.
Honestly, fancy me not knowing
Which way I'm headed, which way I'm going.
I'll open the window, let in some air,
Oh no, they're all jammed, this really isn't fair.
Now the windows are getting steamy and it's not getting any colder.
Hey, that's my life going past, I must be getting older.
Now the bus is going faster and I can't see around the bend,
And I know sooner or later this journey must end.
I have pressed the button and I thought I heard the bell.
Hold on a minute, what's that burning smell?
Wait, there's a bus coming in the other direction
I hope it's not too late to make the connection.
"Eternity," it says, "Eternity is bliss"
That sounds more like it, not like this!
But there's a fare and I haven't got the price.
What? Someone's paid it, isn't that nice!
I wonder what it cost to save me from the flames?
I wonder who paid it? What is his name?
The cost? Very high...to buy a ticket for me.
Someone had to die...nailed to a tree.
Jesus is his name.....and in order to receive*

*All I have to do is in his name believe.
Well, I do and now my future is assured.
I know my destination. Do you know yours?*

*David Scott. The Ephphatha Trust
Thanks to Pat Benefer for sending it in.*

Come and enjoy take-away or eat-in
breakfast at the
Methodist Church, Wesley Road,
Terrington St. Clement.
'Bacon Butties Breakfast'
Saturday 29th October

9am—11am

You can leave a Prayer on the net, buy from
the stall or just come and share with
friends at breakfast.

Funds are being raised for the Resources
Centre to be opened in Kathaageri, Mid -
Kenya in 2017.

All are very welcome.

ARE YOU BEING SERVED?

Some of you may remember Jermyn's Department Store, now Debenhams, which was run on very similar lines to the store in the television series, complete with shop-walker in morning dress enquiring "Are you being served" and conducting you to the right counter. Here the obliging assistant would take down article after article to show you. They would then screw the money and bill into a small container and it would be whisked on a series of overhead wires to the cashier and be returned with your receipt and change. Or am I going back a bit?

Sir Alfred Jermyn was a remarkable man. Born at Wymondham and brought up on a farm, at fifteen years of age he was apprenticed to Robert Sayle of Cambridge under whose influence he became associated with the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

After a time he left Cambridge for a London house of business and attached himself to Hinde Street and its Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society. He then entered business in Bedford. Unfortunately owing to Mrs Jermyn's health he was compelled to give up a prosperous business and came to Lynn. He believed this move was providential guidance. His own words are worth quoting as he describes how our District came into being:

"I well remember the advent of the Rev John Gould to the Norwich and Lynn District as it marked an epoch in its history. Mr Gould almost immediately set about a much needed advance in connection with our Church. He called together a number of us laymen and discussed the necessity of a great forward movement. This met with the support of the late Dr Moulton and very soon an earnest appeal was made to the Cambridge and Ipswich Circuits to sever their connection with London and join our District. I was one of a deputation of three that waited upon the two Quarterly meetings concerned, the result being a hearty cooperation on their part. The District of East Anglia was thus formed"

Coming to King's Lynn he founded his own business in partnership with CW Perry, which went from strength to strength. You could do that in Victorian and Edwardian times if you were motivated by the nonconformist work ethic of hard work and thrift. As a Methodist he was very much associated with the founding of the East Anglian School, Bury St Edmunds, now Culford, and with the beginning of the Hunstanton Circuit,

now amalgamated with us in West Norfolk. In 1897 he became Mayor of King's Lynn and was the first to break away from the old custom of going to the Established Church for the mayoral service. Instead it was held in his own church, the old Tower Street. As a total abstainer he insisted on no intoxicants being served at his official receptions. He founded a charity for the poor, which I believe still carries his name. A special concern of his was the creation of small holdings, whereby large estates were purchased by local authorities for renting to small farmers and he served as honorary secretary of the Norfolk Small Holdings Association.. In 1919 he was knighted "for public and local services."

Jesus said "The Son of man came not to be served but to serve" and this is how he wants it to be with his followers. Archbishop William Temple said "The Church is the only organisation in the world that exists primarily for the benefit of its non-members" We are called to serve. Some Methodist Churches have a Wesley Guild, rather similar to our ACE meetings, but with a fourfold theme pattern, devotional, literary, social and service.

In Hymns and Psalms one of the sections is headed "Witness and Service" It begins with "A charge to keep I have" (785) which goes on:

To serve the present age
My calling to fulfil
O may it all my powers engage
To do my Master's will
"Are you being served?" went out with the Captain Peacocks of long ago. Perhaps we should ask "Am I serving?"

John Garfoot

ADVENT GROUP AT SOUTH WOOTTON

TUESDAYS 10.30AM

29TH NOVEMBER, 6TH, 13TH, 20TH DECEMBER

LED BY THE REV. CATHERINE DIXON

ALL WELCOME

Around the churches



Downham Market

Ladies' Friendship

Our next meetings are on

October 12th which is a Fish and chip supper commencing at 7pm.

October 26th An evening with Colin the Clown

New members will be very welcome.

Margaret Fox

Another month gone swiftly by and we are really getting into the new Church year's activities, gearing up for Harvest and Christmas as well as our remaining monthly 50th anniversary celebrations.

Messy Church's theme this month was Ruth and Harvest. Fourteen regular families came as well as thirteen new one. The children made not very tuneful flutes with drinking straws and watched some ears of wheat being ground after learning about gleaning. They also watched some weaving as well as making some peg dolls in appropriate costume. On the subject of harvest they with junior Church will be decorating one of the eleven windows for our Harvest celebrations. Other organisations in the Church will decorate the other ten so we shall have a time of fellowship and endeavour instead of one or two ladies on an assembly line making all the windows look the same. This arrangement worked very well last year and the imaginative interpretations of Harvest made an inspiring change.

We have had a thought provoking fellowship service led by Deacon Janet on prayer, when all organisations and sections of our fellowship contributed their prayers. Mine, of course, was on the theme of flowers and our gardens, which was very easy to enthuse about. I find that flower arranging, working in the garden and walking in the countryside makes prayer come easily in gratitude for this lovely part of the world in which we live. We were then invited to write petitions about things that were troubling us on pieces of paper which were later attached to several paper 'wailing walls', a most meaningful service. The first meeting of Churches Together was very busy as Marion Stamp, the Vice Chairman, chaired the meeting following Chairman Father Michael's transfer away from Downham. Churches Together's AGM will be on 14th November and we now need a new Vice Chairman and Treasurer, as well as a Secretary. The Secretary's job is not very onerous as we have only six

meetings a year and mainly involves taking and circulating the minutes and preparing and circulating the agendas. Please contact Marion on 384521 if you can help. We reviewed the very happy and well attended Sunshine Service held in Stow Gardens on 31st July and hope to repeat this next year. Plans were finalised for the Service for World Peace on 18th September at Holy Trinity, Stow Bardolph and we discussed possibilities for our four minute slot at the switch on of the Christmas lights on 27th November. For further details watch this space. The funding for the Christmas hampers was dealt with, with an appeal for £75 from larger Churches and £35 from smaller Churches. Alex Coates had done a great deal of preparation work with the idea of supplying a Christmas meal in a box, each one tailored to the size of the family or individuals, including a turkey with vegetables and all the trimmings with a gift for each child, a handwritten card expressing God's love for them and details of all Churches' Christmas services. These are to be delivered with the frozen items in a cool bag a few days before Christmas. This arrangement will require a good number of volunteers in the run up to Christmas to collate the boxes and deliver them and if you feel you would be able to help in any way please phone Alex on 384474. Also if you could help with the regular food bank she would be pleased to hear from you. We hope to be carol singing twice at Tesco to help fund this project. Dates will be given as soon as confirmed with Tesco so please join us if you can. This after all is what Christmas is really about, caring for our neighbours who are not as fortunate as we are. We should rejoice at this opportunity for pastoral outreach. But first we look forward to our Harvest celebrations. Strength and stamina to you all in the busy weeks ahead.

Joan Macey

Hilgay

It was good to see so many at the Welcome Service for Deacon Irene. It was a lovely evening and we are very grateful to all who helped make it a success. We look forward to having Deacon Irene and Nathan and Petra with us at Hilgay.

The Drop In sessions for parents has started again on a Tuesday morning 9am -10am in school term time. We hope to see our regulars plus any others who feel like a bacon roll, toast, tea or coffee after dropping children off at school. The Bowls Club still meet on Tuesday evenings and are always pleased to welcome new members.

Shell Club meets once a month, usually the second Saturday morning of the month. Contact Mrs Lesley Dent for details.

From October 4th onwards the Wesley Guild will meet fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons from 2:30pm. We have a varied programme throughout the winter months and our final meeting of the session is always the Good Friday service alternating between Southery and Hilgay. In 2017 this will be at Hilgay. Our speaker on October 4th will be Deacon Janet Stafford, our President and we would like to take this opportunity to say a very big THANK YOU to Janet for all the help she has given us during her time as our Deacon.

On Sunday 2nd October Our Harvest Festival Service will be led by Deacon Irene at 10am. followed by a bring and share Harvest lunch.

On Saturday October 15th Hilgay will be hosting the Circuit Fellowship Breakfast.

Pauline Driver.

North Lynn

What do you do to entertain at least 55 children plus adults, probably about 70-80 in total?

North Lynn had an answer on Thursday 8th September when a fun day (well actually 3pm to 7pm) was organised by Rev. Becca, steward Jean and the 'Community Meal' group.

The Diocese of Norwich lent us a ten pin bowling set, a giant connect 4 (putting things through a giant mesh), spin the plate circus skill set, a parachute game and a football kick about. We also had face painting available.

A real buzz was created as passers-by wanted to know what was going on and children and families were encouraged to join in any of the games and have a go as we gradually introduced more of the games available. A constant stream of people started to play with everything in sight!

Meanwhile our resident barbecue expert Lisa set to work and soon sausage + roll, burger + bap were available along with a drink. As the time progressed the games were added to or cleared away.

Naturally being a surprise event people had to go home but we ensured that every adult had a goody bags of sweets for their children, which included flyers for our other activities held during the week. We were thrilled that 50 goody bags turned out not to be enough to go round!

We had such fun on a lovely sunny evening that some didn't want to go home! We hope it may help to encourage local people to take part in more of our

activities - Tiny Tots group, coffee morning and community meal.

The event received funding from the Church Urban Fund. In the words of Rev. Becca “That’s what we’re here for - to serve the community. We want people to know we’re here so that what we offer can be of use to them.”

But this wasn’t the only event Rev. Becca Rogers was involved in recently. The following Sunday, 11th September saw a celebration service and refreshments to welcome her as now being “authorised to serve” in the Methodist Church.

As many will know, Becca is part of King’s Lynn Ministry team and also Anglican Priest at St John’s Parish. The Minster has responsibility for the Parish area of St Margaret which is all of the North Lynn area surrounding North Lynn Methodist Church, so we serve the same area. Very good cooperation has existed for some time between our two churches and Becca’s appointment was on the understanding that she would share in leading our work in the area. To this end it seemed appropriate that Becca be appointed to serve as a Methodist Presbyter.

All the formal letters of request were interchanged between the higher authorities in both the Anglican and Methodist Churches, at Circuit, District, Deanery and Diocesan level and we were delighted when the letter of approval came through. We could not let this significant development go without formal recognition in North Lynn so we celebrated with a service of dedication, followed by refreshments.

Our normal second Sunday “Filling Station” service seemed an appropriate point in our calendar, so members of the Circuit were invited to join us along with our partners. Rev. Andrew provided the background and context, read the official letters and provided the formal ‘hand of friendship’ to Becca in recognition of her new status, followed by welcomes from a Circuit Steward and a Church Steward. Becca responded with her enthusiasm and commitment to ministry in the area.

As is usual at Filling Station, our stalwart musicians accompanied the singing and refreshments were available throughout the service – we enjoyed a delicious ‘cream scone tea’ provided by church members.

We look forward to supporting Becca as we serve our community and one another.

Neville Posnett

Dersingham

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our Harvest celebrations when we hope to be joined by members of the community who perhaps share in one or other of our activities, or none. Our invitations to the Harvest Festival Service and the free lunch to follow have been spread around. It will be Radical Hospitality indeed! Those who come to the monthly lunches know they will be assured of a good meal - and a good welcome.

On Thursday 6th October the Coffee and Chat mornings will start again. These are held at 11am until about 12 noon, fortnightly, for four sessions and the Chat involves discussions on a variety of topical issues. All views are welcome and as the first topic is 'BREXIT' it is certain that there will be conflicting views expressed!

Rosemary Caink

Terrington St Clement

No Network in August, so we shared fellowship, tea and cakes including a "bring and buy" on alternate Wednesday afternoons.

Network started with a Harvest theme led by Helen Maguire with readings and hymns.

"Unite" made cakes for Macmillan and sold them. Total amount raised not yet announced. Frauke won the competition and kindly donated her winnings to the charity.

We held a fund raising quiz organised by Frauke and Ruth Hannay.

Refreshments were served at the interval. In the table quiz the winning team was "Corner Stones" and the other quiz was won by "The Famous Five".

Linda Howling

St Faith's Gaywood

The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.....yes the beginning of October sees us at St Faith's joining together to celebrate Harvest Festival.

This year the service will form part of the All-Age service on Sunday, 2nd October starting at 10.30am (please note the different start time).

With St Faith's Church decorated with Autumn flowers and produce, it promises to be a busy and enjoyable service. As in past years, harvest gifts will be gratefully accepted for the King's Lynn Foodbank. Fresh produce gifts donated will go the Purfleet Trust in Lynn which exists to help the homeless. Retiring collections will go to the international WaterAid charity.

During this special seasonal service, prayers of thanksgiving will be offered for the harvest, not just for food, but of the sea and the world's raw materials.

Following the service at just after 12 noon everyone is invited to attend a Harvest Festival lunch in the Gaywood Church Rooms.

Tickets for the lunch are £5 but free for Primary School children and half-price for secondary school pupils.

St Faith's Rector, the Rev Julie Boyd, has suggested that church members may like to purchase an extra ticket and give it as a gift to someone they know who may find it difficult to spend £5.

As I mentioned in my article in the September edition of Rejoice! magazine, church members attended an AwayDay held on 13th August at Hunstanton Methodist Church.

Everyone really enjoyed the time spent away from our usual environment at Gaywood when there was an opportunity to talk, listen and pray for the life of St Faith's Church and where we see our work and Mission in God's name taking us in the future.

Around 35 members took part and there was a real sense of enthusiasm among people as they put forward their own ideas about our Anglican/Methodist shared life and how it could be taken forward and hopefully embrace a large number of people from the wider community.

There was a real buzz in the lovely church and phrases like "dream the dream" and "blue sky thinking" and one of Rev Boyd's favourite words "exciting" were banded about in conversation.

It was great to see people so engaged and energised in their love of God and how this could be reflected in our everyday life and worship in our community. The day, between 10am and 4pm, was spent in prayer, singing God's praises and in discussion. The day was in two parts. Firstly we took time to consider how "healthy" we are as a church community. It was good to be self-reflective and to celebrate all that has brought our two churches together for more than 40 years and the many ways in which we offer service to our God.

The Rev Boyd reminded us that it was also important to be honest about those things we feel we could do better and to consider what it is that holds us back. The second part of the day was spent in small discussion groups as we took on board the opportunities that we have with regard to our church buildings and "dream the dream" about what we could do in the future to best serve God in mission and ministry.

To assist everyone in thinking about how "healthy" we at St Faith's are as a church community, we used the Healthy Churches material from Robert Warren that was devised in the late 1990s.

Warren presents to us that there are seven core values that are common to churches that are considered as being "healthy" and that have experienced growth in numbers of attendees and in faith.

For each of these seven separate marks of a healthy church those at the AwayDay were invited to anonymously write down their responses to the questions. The Rev Boyd has spent time looking through all the responses from the whole day and has produced these in table form so that we can see what were some of the most popular responses and the areas where we need further work.

These will form the basis for further discussions in the coming months. As the Rev Boyd would say: These are indeed "exciting times" for all of us in our shared worship and Mission in Gaywood. Watch this space for further updates about all of this.

We would like to sincerely thank the stewards of Hunstanton Methodist Church and our own Betty Guy for kindly arranging for us to use the church and its excellent facilities.. Everyone thought it was a wonderful, peaceful and comfortable venue

We are now into October and preparation is going ahead at a pace for the third St Faith's Christmas Tree Festival which opens on 1st December.. You may like to know that as this article was being written St Faith's Christmas trees were growing taller and thicker at a plantation in Shouldham, near Downham Market.

This year the organising team will be building on the firm foundations laid in the previous Festivals and we hope to incorporate one or two new ideas for the enjoyment of visitors.

The Festival is to be officially opened on Thursday 1st December by Anthony Isaacs, of Radio Norfolk. Anthony presents a popular Sunday breakfast programme on Radio Norfolk between 6am and 9am. Its content includes religious (all faiths) topics as well as more secular materials.

After Anthony has officially opened the Festival there will be a traditional variety concert starting at 7.30pm. The programme will include singing, dancing and spoken verse, not all of it on a Christmas theme.

We have a free evening on the Friday (December 2nd) when the church will be open later for visitors to look at the trees on show. On Saturday evening we are hoping to stage another concert in a contrasting style to the first one. We hope to have around 30 mainly real trees decorated and illuminated in the church. Local schools, church organisations, charity groups and individuals will be invited to decorate a tree. The collection of trees will also again include the very popular prayer tree.

Back by popular demand, will be the seasonal products that Joan Greening and members of her Craft Group have been busy making in their weekly sessions. At the last Festival in 2014 their craft stall was so popular that they sold their entire stock.

Look out for further details about the Festival but you may like to make a note in your diaries of the dates - Thursday 1st December to Monday 5th December inclusive.

If you would like more details at this stage please contact the Church Office (weekday mornings Monday to Friday) on King's Lynn 01553 774916.

Richard Parr

Southery

Our Harvest celebration this year, started with Rev. Gail Kerry leading our morning service. Although not being very well she was determined to lead our service, because she spent a lot of her young life on a farm in the Southery-Hilgay area and has memories of childhood Harvest fun when Harvest was a lot different than it is today. Gail's service was very interesting and enjoyable with a good choice of hymns; we hope to see her in Southery again soon.

Rev. Steven Oliver led our evening Harvest Songs of Praise, in his usual humorous manner. One story he told was about walking his dog along a lane near his home at 6am, every day of the year through farmers' fields, one field he noticed was bare. As the year progressed the field was ploughed then seeded, then turned green but he could not tell what the crop was till later in the year when it turned golden, he realised it was wheat but one morning soon after, it had all gone, harvested. It had come full circle, God's creation. He had observed this through all kinds of weather and could see God's hand in it. Our little dog listened very intently to this story, so next morning 5-45am I got wuff-wuff there she was waiting for a walk! She had not forgotten Steve's story not the 6am bit anyway. After the service we all admired the produce display and enjoyed fellowship and refreshments.

Monday evening several people joined for our Harvest Supper ,a delicious ham salad meal followed by apple pie. (Yum-yum!) After tea or coffee, I then sold off the produce with the help of Sylvia, Maggie and Rev Maurice,. There were some very interesting lots and competition for some items was very fierce and things sold quickly and we had a few laughs about it all during the sale. We then had a raffle with lots of prizes, Rev Maurice started the meal with grace, and finished the evening with a prayer and sharing the grace together. Thank you to everyone who came to support us, all who prepared the meal, and everyone who donated produce and or raffle prizes. I hope everyone who came enjoyed the evening and will join us again at our next event, we raised £469-65p which the Church will put to good use.

Walter Cornwell.

Stanhoe

On 3rd and 4th September, we opened our church to the local community and to our friends across the circuit, for a combined Flower and Harvest Festival.

>> After a busy week, baking cakes and scones at home, and the final two days preparing the church and creating flower arrangements (under the direction of Sushila Russell, who so ably provides our beautiful flower arrangements throughout the year), we were delighted to welcome so many folk who came to admire the flowers and sit down to tea and cake. At one point we ran out of seats, and the noise of friendly chat was so loud, it drowned out the organ music, so kindly provided by Sheila Johnson and Mike Warnes. There was no charge for the tea, but we invited donations. The next morning, Rev. Steve led our harvest festival service, after which the produce which had been part of the decorations was sold off, and altogether, the amazing sum of £317.50 was raised, which is being sent to, "All We Can," the Methodist Relief and Development Fund, who, amongst other things, supports relief among refugees.

We have re-started our Bible Class studies, held on alternate Mondays, under the direction of Rev. Steve, and are currently studying the Sermon on the Mount. As always, we give Steve a hard time, but he leads the meeting with, "amazing grace," and we enjoy thrashing out the true meaning of the various bible passages, together with lots of laughter and, of course, tea and cake at the end.

Elizabeth MacLeod

Highgate

On Sunday 11th September it was Heritage Sunday in King's Lynn when historic places were opened to the public. Many of these places are not usually open but are once a year on this Sunday.

We at Highgate chapel opened our doors at 10 am being decorated with balloons and offering refreshments. Photograph albums, together with artwork painted by our resident artist Janet and special booklets were on display.

Only a few members of the public visited us so we were quite disappointed. (The Chapel is quite a way from other attractions)

June, one of our members prayed:-

Lord we have done our best

You do the rest!

And He did. At 3pm we celebrated in a service of Holy Communion led by our minister Catherine. This was a lovely service with 23 in the congregation! At the end of the service we enjoyed fellowship, tea and cake, joined by a member of the public who was rather late!

Frances Singleterry

LET'S WALK AND CIRCUIT SERVICE

The fifth Let's Walk event will take place on **Sunday 9th October** at St Germans. The theme this year is 'To be a pilgrim'.

A walk round St Germans led by Hazel and John Miles will take place at 3 p.m., meeting at St German's Village Hall, followed by tea at 5.00 p.m. at St German's Methodist Church and a Circuit service at 6.00 p.m.

The walk is about 3 miles long and easy going. We hope to visit an historic church en route. This church is famed for its wonderful carving on the pew ends.

If you are travelling with someone who is walking and you are not taking part in the walk, you can wait in St German's Methodist Church while the walk is taking place.

This event is open to everyone. If you cannot attend all three parts, just take part in what you would like to.

To help with arrangements please let me know by 25th September if you are joining the walk or require tea.

Elizabeth Batstone, pebatstone@gmail.com. Tel: 01485 541068.

A visit to London for the recording of 'The Big Sing' Sunday 11th September

It was a beautiful sunny, warm day when Ruth Hannay and I set off excitedly, in the afternoon for the 'Big Sing' at the Royal Albert Hall. We were not quite sure what to expect at this long evening recording two programmes for Songs of Praise, but were welcomed soon after taking our seats in a nearly full hall of 5000 people.

From the start when we were asked to don our Christmas jumpers, hats or scarves, (yes, we were wished Happy Christmas! and were rather hot at times) we were expertly guided through a wonderful time of uplifting, mass carol and hymn singing and entertainment by guest artists. It was lovely to see and hear Aled Jones sing as he hosted the Christmas Day programme and amazing to experience the slick, professional way he told us when to clap etc. He had some very good witty asides, and at the same time had to listen to his Producer through an ear piece, before he said link sentences or welcome guests. We had excellent views from the front of the Circle, where we could see the whole of the stage, massed

choirs and the lovely lighting effects and scenery to accompany the different items.

We cheered on Gareth Malone and 'Voices', Keith and Kristyn Getty, made famous since their composition of 'In Christ Alone' fifteen years ago, and the conductor for the whole evening, Paul Leddington Wright. He was called up unexpectedly by Aled Jones, to receive a gift in recognition for his work on Songs of Praise for 30 years! He told us briefly how we should start the hymns and when to stand, bar one mistake when we were not standing as a hymn started, so we had to do a retake of 'Lord for the Years'. Paul Leddington Wright conducted the orchestra for the hymns expertly along with us and the huge massed choirs. They sang as backing for the guests and also two other pieces which you will enjoy very much, if you watch later in the year. They must have been practising most of the day!

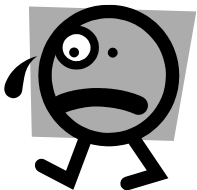
After a welcome interval when we had taken off Christmas attire, David Grant presented the Hymns and entertainment by 'The Priests' among other guests, Michael Ball and Alfie Boe in duet and Laura Mvula. He cleverly kept our minds busy and told some jokes between recordings and the link pieces which had, occasionally, to be said out of the order from which we had been singing the hymns! Pam Rhodes was welcomed, along with Timothy Dudley-Smith, who is soon to be 90 years old, who were sitting in the Royal Box!

The whole evening was very enjoyable and coach loads had come from all over. People we spoke with had come from Birmingham and a group on the train were heading back to Leeds. It was a real eye opener, showing what a lot of work goes into producing these programmes weeks before they are televised, as ours will be on 9th October and Christmas morning. Let us know if you are interested in joining us another time.

Helen

Maguire

Any items for the **NOVEMBER** edition should be with the editor by **OCTOBER 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



People in our Circuit raised £587 by supporting the Step Out for Children walk this year. This total should be significantly increased by Gift Aid Contributions.

Many thanks to those who walked and to those who sponsored the walkers.

John and Hazel Miles (Walk organisers)

PRISONS WEEK
8th-15th October 2016
Theme: Have Mercy on Us All

There will be a vigil on 15th October, 7-9pm, at the Friends Meeting House, King's Lynn to which all are welcome. There will be opportunities for silence interspersed with readings and reflections, bringing to mind prisoners, and those involved in helping prisoners to find a new way of living within the prison system and on release. If you cannot attend the vigil, please do keep prisons week and its aims in your prayers.

CHANGE LIVES WITH EVERY SLICE AT

North Lynn Methodist Church

When: Saturday 1st October

Where: North Lynn Methodist Church

Time: 10am - 12 noon

Why: Every cake shared helps us be there for someone affected by cancer, from diagnosis through treatment and beyond. Together we can make sure that no one faces cancer alone.

Come and join us – everyone is welcome.

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (208943), Scotland (SC039967) and the Isle of Man (1076). Funded on 30/09/2016. 19/10/2016/2017

MACMILLAN



**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



"We're hoping you'll lead us on a journey of transformation without requiring any real changes."

**WANTED
VOLUNTEER RELIEF
EDITOR FOR REJOICE FOR MAY
OR JUNE.**

**TUITION GIVEN
GOOD RATES OF PAY - but
belated!**

**I OCCASIONALLY NEED A REST AND
SO DOES DEREK!**

DOWNHAM MARKET METHODIST CHURCH

Friday 21st October at 7pm

Squit and Polish

**A light-hearted evening of church
and chapel yarns**

with

Keith Skipper

**(entertainer, author,
broadcaster)**

admission £10

Raffle and refreshments.

Tickets available from

**Lewks Music Store, 3 Wales Court,
Downham Market PE38 9JZ or reserve on
01366-38-8846**

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary

October 2016 onwards

Saturday 1st October North Lynn Macmillan Coffee Morning 10am

Sunday October 2nd Harvest at St Faith's

Thursday 6th October MWiB Autumn Day at South Lowestoft

Thursday 6th October Coffee and Chat at Dersingham: Topic 'Brexit'
11 am

Saturday 8th October Craft Fair at Downham Market 9 am

Saturday 8th October Carers' Day at Hunstanton

Saturday 8th October Keith Skipper at Downham Market 7pm

Sunday 9th October Let's Walk/Tea/Service at St Germans 3pm start.
ALL WELCOME

Saturday 15th October Fellowship breakfast at Hilgay 8.30 (a week later than usual to avoid a clash with Shell Group)

Thursday 20th October Coffee and Chat at Dersingham: Topic TBA
11am

Saturday 29th October Craft Fair at Downham Market 9am

Saturday 29th October Coffee morning at Dersingham

Saturday 12th November Fellowship breakfast at Wimbotsham 8.30

Saturday 26th November Quiz with puddings at Downham Market
Time TBA

Saturday 10th December Fellowship breakfast at Pott Row 8.30

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