

Rejoice!

September 2016



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

Just a thought.....

'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.' **Genesis 8:22, NRSV**

Harvest has never been an individual celebration. Deuteronomy shows us the whole community coming together to celebrate. Slaves took their place alongside landowners. Everyone was invited because everyone had reason to give thanks for the harvest. None of them would go hungry through the coming year.

These days for many people, harvest thanksgiving services are a throw-back to the past; no more it seems are seasons begun and ended by the food cycle; after all there is not much now about our food or indeed our lifestyle that is seasonal. So-called seasonal vegetables and plants are with us all year round.

We no longer get up with the light and go to bed when it gets dark. We can work and play, go shopping and enjoy ourselves more or less any time we want all year round. And some celebrations begin long before it seems appropriate: shops are already beginning to stock Christmas items.

But while we may have lost sight of natural endings and natural beginnings harvest can still be a time for shared celebration. I am perhaps a little old fashioned in my view of nature and the seasons but I believe they need to be celebrated because we must not lose sight of the gifts given to us by God as described in Genesis. There is a danger in our modern society of forgetting how important the changing of the seasons is. I wish we took more time to look at the moon and realise its impact on this earth; or see the sun for its importance to our lives rather than the changing colour of our bodies; or feel the rain on our skin and be thankful for its life giving goodness. God gave us all of this and more, so now is the time to celebrate it and value it. The more we are thankful the more we are likely to understand that we need to care for this world in all its amazing God given wonder.

If we do not get back to truly celebrating the seasons how on earth are we ever going to understand the importance of their changing? I don't know about you but I get a fantastic feeling of anticipation as winter turns to spring, spring to summer, summer to autumn and autumn to winter. You only have to read "The Wind in the Willows" (which is one of my favourite books) to begin to feel what each change means to the land and its inhabitants.

The changing seasons are precious, so may our coming Harvest Festivals reflect this wonderful generosity of God

Steve

Praying together in the Circuit

"What about you?" he asked them, "Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter answered,

"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16: 13-17: 13, twenty nine verses covering three major events. Peter expressing his personal decision, answering the question Jesus asked them, and the response of Jesus to Peter's confession of faith.

Jesus, the Messiah, could now let them know about his forthcoming suffering, death and the resurrection. Also explaining the dedication and devotion required for those who would be his disciples.

The transfiguration, the mountain top experience when Peter, James and John saw Jesus as they had never seen him before, his face shining like the sun, his clothes dazzling white. A foretaste of his glory. Then a voice from heaven - God's declaration "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased - listen to him". Later, Jesus and the three disciples left the mountain top and returned to the crowd and those who were waiting for him to minister to them.

A sequel of events speaking to us of the importance of our response to Jesus. Believing in him, committing to discipleship. Our eyes fixed on Jesus our glorified Lord. Ministering in his Name, listening to him.

We start a new Methodist year declaring our faith in Jesus.

Dedicating ourselves anew to Him and His purposes.

Holding before us his victory over sin and death
and the coming of His Kingdom in all its fullness.

Heavenly Father, thank you for your dear son.

Lord Jesus we long for you to be recognised in our communities.

Holy Spirit enlighten people to the reality of who Jesus is,
bring people to personal declaration, dedication and discipleship.

We pray for those who will be making new beginnings in ministry, for those stepping out in faith to follow a new calling. For churches with

new outreach opportunities touching lives, building bridges. For children and teachers as they begin a new school year. For young people moving on to University, for Christian Unions in place to nurture and encourage them.

"Do not cling to the events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new things I am going to do" Isaiah 43: 18-19
Do new things within and amongst us Lord.

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 families of Doug Argent and June North in their grieving.

Marie Whitcombe, that she may continue to improve and be ready for her third shoulder operation.

Remember me?



Last month Lynese Morris came to England on a 'whistle-stop' twelve day visit during the Festival of Flowers. Although unable to get to see everyone she sends her Christian love and kindest regards to all who knew her when living in Downham Market.

Not forgotten

Some people in the Downham Section will remember Rev. Philip Wagstaff and his wife, Catherine, who were based at Wimbotsham in the 1980s. If you are one of those people, you may be very pleased to hear that Catherine was ordained in London last month. She and Philip are delighted that people from this Circuit remembered them and sent greetings to Catherine.'

**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



**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!**

Thoughts from Conference

There are two sorts of people in the Methodist church. Those for whom the thought of sitting in a Conference hall for a week discussing the business of the church brings joy and excitement, and those for whom, well, it doesn't. I suspect that many of you will fall into the latter camp. But there are at least three of us in the former camp, and this year Hazel Miles and myself attended the Conference at Westminster Central Hall, London at the end of June as district representatives, and Andrew Maguire joined us at the last minute as part of his role of Acting District Chair. For the lay representatives Conference began on Saturday lunchtime. For the presbyters it was Thursday lunchtime, so we clocked up a full 8 days of Conference. It was exhausting, but also a great privilege to be part of the decision making body of our church, and to feel part of the 'bigger picture', meeting and conferring with Methodists from around the Connexion, and the world (some of you will remember Deacon Angleena Keizer from her time in West Norfolk: she was a world church representative from Sri Lanka where she is now serving).

So what did we get up to for all that time? Well, there was a lot of business. One of the big discussions centred on the theology and ecclesiology underpinning the diaconate, and the role of deacons within the church. We talked about the difference between God's *worship* and our *worship*, and whether the two correspond in our churches. Do our churches focus on the *worship* of God? The initial report of the marriage and relationships task group was received, and a new statement about marriage and relationships is to be brought to a future conference. A report about homophobia was welcomed by the conference, which states that homophobic attitudes, words and behaviours are inconsistent with the nature of Christian conduct and a violation of the dignity of all people. There was a conversation about how we can improve our safeguarding in the light of the past cases review. The Mission Alongside the Poor Programme (MAPP) has been relaunched as Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice (MAPJ), and there was a report from the Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment. 3Generate, the Methodist Youth Conference, presented their manifesto "Wonderfully Made" and challenged the Methodist Church to reflect on what it means to be Wonderfully: Me, Church, World, Prophetic. The Bishop of Liverpool addressed us about the joint Anglican-Methodist covenant. He graciously apologised for any

“bruises the people called Methodist have known because of the Church of England”, and suggested the aims of our ecumenical endeavours should be more people knowing Jesus and more justice in the world.

There was lots more business – more than could fit into Rejoice! A handy 4-page Conference digest can be accessed here:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/2317277/conf-2016-conference-digest-0716.pdf>

There is so much more to Conference than just business. We worshipped together – at the start and end of every day, in the Wednesday morning Communion service and the Conference service on the Sunday. We were led in a Bible study by Prof Judith Lieu, and the President and Vice-President facilitated a session about the refugee crisis, and our response. The Secretary of the Conference, Gareth Powell, gave an excellent reflection on his first year in office – it can be downloaded here:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/conference/conference-2016/london-2016/2016-07-07/0945-am/reflections-from-the-secretary-of-the-conference>

It is not long, and well worth a read. And, one of the highlights of the week, we received the Rev. Dr Roger Walton as President, and Ms Rachel Lampard as Vice-President. They led the Conference with great skill, wisdom and humour. Their theme for this year is “Holiness and Justice”, and their excellent inaugural addresses can be found here:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/conference/conference-2016/london-2016/2016-07-02/1515-pm/presidents-address>

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/conference/conference-2016/london-2016/2016-07-02/1700-pm/vice-presidents-address>

Presidential prayer cards should be available in all our churches – please do take one and keep Roger and Rachel in your prayers during their year of office.

The Rev. Loraine Mellor, Chair of Notts and Derby District, and former MWiB President Jill Baker were elected as President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2017/18.

I have been elected to serve for three years as a district representative – so expect news from the Birmingham Conference in Rejoice! next year.

The Rev. Catherine Dixon

Around the churches



Downham Market

Ladies Friendship Circle

Hope you have all had a lovely summer break. It is with sadness I have to say we have lost two more of our members, Eve Cole and Doreen Playford; several of the members attended their funerals.

Our first meeting for the coming season is on the 14th September with a Harvest Festival theme hymns and reading etc. and a sale of the goodies members bring along,

On the 28th September Sandy Warby is coming with her PAT dog to talk about the work she does. LFC is open to everyone and we would like to see some new members. Just come along to see what we do; you will be made very welcome.

Cost is £5.00 per year and we meet every other Wednesday in the function room at Downham Market Methodist Church. It costs £1.00 every time you attend to cover tea/coffee with a biscuit.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Best Wishes

Margaret Fox.

Golden Years Celebrations

Correction: The July/August edition of Rejoice reported that Meg Cooper and Ruth Cross acted as MCs at our talent show in May. Apologies to Pauline Driver please, for the mistake! Pauline and Meg were the MCs.

The Garden Party in June, brought together many of our friends from the surrounding villages to reproduce the garden parties of the 1960s which were always good fund raisers and brilliant at bringing together the Methodist Churches in our district for fellowship and fun.

It was especially poignant to welcome home a “young” Minister who began his Ministry here in Downham 50 years ago! The Rev. Geoffrey C. Walton-Pratt opened our Garden Party and led our two services the next day. It was a happy reunion for many of the 1966 youth club members who were able to come along and enjoy the weekend’s events together.

We were also pleased to have our friends Rev. Chris Bishop and Lesley his wife join with us. Thank you to Chris for being so helpful with your camera and assembling the Youth Club under your direction for our photographs!!! So, a lovely day, even though it poured and we had to hold all our stalls inside. It was well attended, good to share together and the Hilgay Youth Band did us proud, it proved to be a great success! So..... Perhaps we should repeat the garden party next year?.....?



50th Anniversary Celebration

To mark our “Golden Years” milestone we held a flower festival during the anniversary weekend. It was a happy occasion with many folk coming to see us from all over the country. We were delighted to welcome John Garfoot – He remembered being with us here back in 1966.

Rev. Graham Thompson led our two services on Sunday and we all shared a lunch together. It was great to have our friend Lynese Morris with us at this special time.

After lunch, folk were able to see the original film of the building of our Church and the fun we had with our fund raising and preparation.

There was also an opportunity to see the articles of memorabilia on display – all original material which has been kindly given by the folk of 1966, for our Church to keep and enjoy in years to come in our archives. It all makes fascinating reading!

There are many people to thank and their help is greatly appreciated as the weekend ran smoothly. We enjoyed the lovely flower arrangements showing Church life then and now. The Art Exhibition was enjoyed by many as were the refreshments – which were wonderful as usual!

How blessed we are in Downham Market. May our witness and outreach continue as we work forwards to the next 50 years.

Meg Cooper

Writing this in August for the September edition I am amazed that already we are two thirds through the year. How quickly time passes when you are enjoying yourself - and we have enjoyed ourselves in this our 50th anniversary year. There is a separate report on our very successful flower festival and Janet has listed our past celebrations and those to come so I don't need to comment on those. Suffice to say we have enjoyed a lot of fellowship, fun and outreach in our anniversary events this year.

Last year my daughter's plum tree had a bountiful crop of juicy Victorias hanging like bunches of huge grapes. Before we went on holiday we stripped the tree, including the green ones; the wasps would have swarmed in if we hadn't, and pounds were sold on my weekly plant stall. This year, apart from being very late there are only a few solitary fruit hiding in the lush green leaves. I have heard that all fruit trees, after a bumper year, have a quieter restful year and perhaps this will happen to us at Church. After such a hectic year with special events every month as well as the usual ongoing activities we need a quiet time, but hopefully our efforts and outreach this year will produce a bumper harvest next year.

Meanwhile in the summer break, when choirs and other activities close for August, our weekly coffee mornings continue, albeit with reduced numbers and Messy Church provides fun and instruction for the young people of the town. Very importantly too the Social Centre cooks and voluntary staff continue every weekday to provide refreshments each morning and a lunch cooked from fresh ingredients all for the princely sum of £4.50 – can anywhere in Downham beat that. This enables those living alone to meet for company, to eat healthily, chat and even play a few board games which are provided.

Once everything restarts in September there will be a Ceilidh to look forward to on 24th with our Harvest service on 25th, - must get down to organising the decoration of the Church. In October our special event is on Friday 21st, an evening with Keith Skipper and there are craft fairs on 8th and 29th when you can get your Christmas shopping done. Put these dates in your diary now and don't miss out on any of the fun or the chance to get special Christmas gifts. Our Christmas fair on November 19th is planned for a week earlier than usual so as not to clash with the big fair at the Town Hall. Again there will be refreshments all day (10.00 to 4.00), a hall of stalls with Christmas bargains, silly games for grandchildren to challenge their grandparents, a craft room for children and older children to decorate items and make their own presents (always popular with grandparents) and last but by no means least Father

Christmas in his fairy lit grotto. We shall then be into Advent one of my favourite times of the year with lots of lovely music to look forward to. Churches Together will be organising their sessions of carol singing at Tesco's to collect for the Christmas hampers/food bank. Watch this space for dates. We have a busy few months to look forward to so I hope you have had a good rest in this quiet month and have recharged your batteries ready. Keep well and away from winter ailments.

Joan Macey

Hilgay

We are currently looking forward to folk joining us for the welcome service for Deacon Irene and her family. This will take place at **Hilgay Methodist Church** at **7pm on Wednesday August 31st**.

(Or it may have already happened! Apologies in advance!)

Pott Row

The July Fellowship Breakfast was held at Pott Row.

When we arrived Maggie was there with the 'Pott Row Four' busy with the preparations.

The long table was set out with a white cloth and places arranged with plates, knives and spoons. A side table held dishes, cereals, juices and the all important toaster and bread.

It was good to welcome four more visitors though we had hoped more would be able to join us. Alan said the grace and we were off! It was, as usual, a happy chattering breakfast meeting.

When all was cleared away we sat in the Chapel in seats arranged in a semicircle for a short service. On a small table there was a candle bearing the words from Micah 6 - Act justly, Love mercy, Walk humbly - which Catherine had brought back from the Methodist Conference.

She also read us the letter from the Conference concerning the sudden increase in so-called hate crimes in our country, and pointed to a safety pin she was wearing as suggested in the letter. This is to show that the wearer is a friendly and a safe person for any stranger (including immigrants) to approach.

After the service it was time to prepare the chapel for the afternoon Strawberry Tea.

Advertising a function certainly pays off as at least seventy people came to the Strawberry Tea - thanks to all who displayed the posters. Brightly coloured

bunting was hanging on the railings outside and round the walls inside. The long table down the centre was covered with plates of sandwiches, savouries and cakes - all carefully checked by the Minister for Quality Control!!

The chapel was soon full and the FLUKES (THE FENLAND UKULELE GROUP) was ready to play. They played music from the sixties and soon had everyone singing and moving to the much loved sounds. Great fun! Refreshments were then served and a trolley did the rounds bearing the strawberries and cream. It was a very enjoyable afternoon, and many thanks were expressed to all the helpers who did a mammoth job keeping us all happy.

Bill Hone

Sorry, couldn't do picture!

North Lynn

A busy July preceded a lull in our activities in August.

First we said farewell and thank you to Clara our volunteer from Hamburg who accompanied Natalie to our Coffee on the Couch meetings. Clara had enthralled us when she told us about her week in Lourdes accompanying a party from Berlin as a volunteer aide. She showed us some photographs of the pilgrims and of herself in uniform of the Order of St John as well as views of Lourdes. Clara was taking a holiday with friends in Portugal before returning home and then will begin her studies to train as a lawyer. We have much appreciated Clara being with us. Natalie now looks forward to her new volunteer Malin, who is also coming from Germany.

Coffee on the Couch stopped in August for a break. We hope perhaps to see 'Rejoice' readers in September on a Thursday morning 10-12 for a coffee and chat.

During our informal CFS service we were delighted to have a demonstration of Christian Dance from a member's sister. We may be inspired to try more later in the year.

We have also been delighted to welcome visitors to our services all of who had past connections with North Lynn.

Our Mums and Tods group had an outing to a farm park and many of our Community Meal group spent a lovely Saturday in Hunstanton. Rev. Becca's dog George went with them and amused them all as he played in and out of the water.

The July 'Messy Church' really went 'messy' as 'following footprints' was the theme and opportunity was taken to follow a home-made footprint trail

created from our own footprints. Made by? – dipping our feet in paint and walking along a roll of paper – naturally! We shall keep the result as a souvenir!

By way of reward the 'Fellowship Group' met in 'The Willow Tree' for coffee, much enjoying the opportunity for a chat.

Guides and Brownies rounded off their term and look forward to reforming in September.

We rounded off our activities with our annual meeting followed by shared lunch.

As September approaches we look forward to restarting our activities, 'Word on the Wash' and perhaps other new initiatives to further engage with the community we serve.

Neville Posnett

Dersingham

A coach party arrived at our church in July for a tea laid on by some of our catering ladies. It was a reduced team as some of us managed to be on holiday, but as usual the few rose to the occasion and provided a good Methodist tea, including some very popular desserts, to the 40 visitors including two Methodist ministers, Steve and Andrew, and an appreciative coach driver. They had been on an outing to Thursford and a good time was had by all.

Our Harvest Festival takes place on Sunday 25th when we welcome the Rev. Derek Walker, a retired Anglican vicar living in Dersingham, to our pulpit in the morning at 10.30am. In the evening our own minister the Rev. Steve Oliver will be leading our worship. The items donated for the Harvest in church will be donated to the Foodbank and the collections at the services will be for All We Can, as will the proceeds of the Harvest Coffee morning on Saturday 24th September. Those who come to our monthly lunches and our various clubs have been invited to the morning Harvest service and to stay on afterwards for a Radical Hospitality buffet lunch to further the outreach of the church in Dersingham.

The Coffee and Chat mornings will be starting again in October and November, dates and topics to be arranged. Along with the other church clubs which meet, the Needles and Pins Group will be starting up again in September. Their numbers have increased and they now meet twice a month, knitting baby clothes for the Friends of the Hospital and knee blankets for the residents at Amberley Hall as well as knitted garments for Christian Hope

International occasionally as they send parcels out to the countries where they are needed.

Rosemary Caink

St Faith's

In her first sermon as Team Rector of St Faith's Church, Gaywood, on 10th July, the Rev. Julie Boyd, let the congregation into a secret.

She revealed to them one of the questions she was asked when interviewed for the role, namely, why had she applied for the post?

As well as being a response to the advertised post and the detailed information about the Parish contained within the Parish Profile document, Julie told us she applied because of the time she had spent on a month-long placement in Gaywood in November 2014.

Of that time Julie said : "It is true that you (the people of St Faith's) made a significant impression on me".

Julie told the congregation that she spent a lot of her time during those four weeks "observing, watching, listening and asking questions".

"I wanted to know more about your life as an LEP (Local Ecumenical Project), Methodists and Anglicans worshipping and working together. What a great witness that is and I wanted to discover more about the shape of ministry in an urban setting.

Ever since my placement, Gaywood has been on my heart and mind. I didn't realise it at first that I was being called to come closer."

"But there is something about the life of this community that excited me".

To much laughter from the congregation, Julie said : "Did you know or realise that you are exciting?"

She continued: "It wasn't just about St Faith's, it was about your neighbourhood, what an extraordinary place".

Julie said she had experienced people of the different estates within the parish and saw such diversity within the communities that exist in Gaywood.

She said she took in all the information about the many schools (nine), the care homes and sheltered accommodation complexes, the businesses, the library, Gayton Road Health Centre and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Julie confessed that she gasped at the size of the Parish (quoted as around 22,000 people), aware that there are a good many people living in the parish for whom poverty and hardship is a daily reality.

Julie said she was humbled by the ways in which so many people in the community (while recognising they are not all regular churchgoers) still look upon St Faith's as "their church".

"It is a very important place to them and so it is important to recognise that we have all been given a very special responsibility of stewardship and hospitality in making this House of Prayer open, welcoming and sacred", she said.

She continued: "And so it was your neighbourhood that made me apply for the Team Rector's post."

"I feel called to be here and care more about who our neighbours are. My hope is that we will all learn together what that means and understand more fully just what it is that God purposes for us to do here together".

She said she felt compassion for the people in these communities as they faced their challenges and longed to be able to celebrate with them in all their joys and hopes for the future.

Julie posed the question: What does it mean to be a neighbour and to have neighbours?

She referred to that morning's reading during which Jesus challenged people to re-evaluate their understanding of their neighbourhood.

The teacher of law we are introduced to asks the question: "Who is my neighbour?"

Jesus' response to this question is to tell the parable about the far wider-reaching love and grace of God and of the kingdom neighbourhood that is growing.

As we are aware, the third passer-by in the story, the Samaritan, who stopped, felt compassion and carried the wounded man to an inn to provide him with shelter and care.

Julie went on to say that this parable teaches us that God in Jesus was breaking down the neighbourhood boundaries that had been built using the law. He was not just the God of Israel but also the God of grace for the whole world.

Julie reminded us that a neighbour isn't just the person living down our road, but rather, the person, any person you are meeting with now, sharing a space

with now, the person you have the opportunity to make a difference to now or who might make a difference to you.

Julie ended her first sermon as Rector of St Faith's with these words : "May the God of mercy open our hearts and minds to see more fully the scope of our neighbourhood here in Gaywood and to reach out as Christ's Church, knowing that we are doing so in Him and for Him."

A large group of St Faith's Church members will have attended an Away Day held in Hunstanton Methodist Church on 13th August.

Our new Rector was keen for church members to spend a day together in a different location from their familiar church to look at the future Mission of St Faith's and particularly how best we can make most effective use of its set of buildings....the church itself, the nearby Church Rooms, the Church Bungalow (formerly the home of the Team Vicar the Rev Dale Gingrich) and the current Church Office.

Those taking part will split into smaller groups and discuss their ideas and hopes for the future. I am writing this before the actual event, so cannot give any details of the outcome of their discussions. I hope to do this in my article for October's Rejoice!

St Faith's Harvest Festival this year will be observed on October 2nd when there will be an All Age worship service starting at 10.30am (please note the start time) .

During this special service, there may be a chance once again to sing those old favourite harvest hymns, including We Plough the Fields and Scatter and Come Ye Thankful People Come.

During the service people will be able to offer "harvest gifts" which will be donated to the King's Lynn Food Bank.

Following the service everyone is warmly invited to join in the Harvest lunch in the Church Rooms.

This is an all-ticket event and these are £5 (free for Primary school-age children and for Secondary school age they are half-price). They can be booked by contacting the Church Office on 01553 774916 (9am to 12 noon weekday mornings).

Richard Parr

Stow Bridge

Yes, as here and nearly gone and I don't wonder at it, of how time fly. (The summer I mean!)

What do you think? I'm sat here thinking about things, all sorts of things, some very real others fairy tale like. I'm sure many of our thoughts are wishes and I shudder to wonder what our lives and the world would be like if our individual wishes were granted.

I'm sure we would be at war with everyone.

The older I get the more I think of this wonderful world, of how nature works out and repeats itself year after year. I'm thinking of daily blessings, nice holidays, family, friends with illness and people with great problems. I'm thinking of what it's like to be really hungry, to have no family at all, to wander in a dry desert area because I have been driven from my home, the pain that I would bear if I were tortured. So I could go on with my terrible things that happen to people today.

We must be thinking 1000s of thoughts every day. Some of my thoughts are useless, silly and simply not practical.

Sad thoughts are always with us and it's good to have happy, joyful thoughts too linked; linked to happy thoughts must be thankfulness.

We think of our loved ones, our daily bread and our being. We think of these things and thank our God for his teaching in Jesus.

A woman I know was taking her driving test and she was asked by the examiner, "Tell me one road sign."

My friend replied, "Pick your own strawberries."

Life is for living and enjoying. Thank you God.

Peter Hewitt

Another little gem!

Agatha had an operation. During the op she had a vision of God. She asked, "Am I going to die?"

God said, "No, you'll live another 43 years."

So she thought, "OK, I'll have a nose job, face lift and a few flabby bits done."

A year later she was run over by a bus and died. She said to God, "Why didn't you pull me from under that bus?"

God said, "I didn't recognise you after all that surgery!"

Sorry Linda, didn't find your article till I'd finished the magazine.
However, dates are in the diary!!

Churches Together in King's Lynn

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday September 21st at London Road Methodist Church, with the meeting at 7.00pm followed by "News from the Churches" and refreshments.

On Saturday September 24th we are holding a Quiet Day at Upwell Methodist Church, 10am - 4pm. The leader will be Helen Randall from Cambridge on "Exploring Prayer". Tea and coffee will be provided but packed lunches need to be brought. Anyone wishing to come please register with Peter Coates, peter@stanhoe.plus.com or phone 01485 518191

Rachel Vyse

Our History

On visiting Downham's Anniversary Flower Festival, as well as the beautiful arrangements I was really pleased to see an album showing newspaper cuttings of the fund-raising, building and opening of the church. Unfortunately there was not time to look at it completely, but I hope it will now be on permanent display for visitors to look at as it is a very important part of Downham's Social history and part of Downham Methodist History.

Pauline Driver

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, require tea.

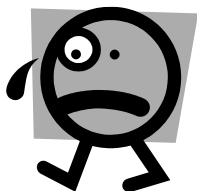
Elizabeth Batstone, pebatstone@gmail.com. Tel: 01485 541068.

Table cloths for Kenya

I have had a request from the 'Peacemakers International' charity that I support in Kivuria mid - Kenya.

The charity has built a restaurant on the Denis Marshall Foundation site along with several educational and community areas and the Prayer House. My ex Head teacher, Christine, wonders if anyone has a white tablecloth or any Church has a spare one that can be taken to Kenya for the tables. I have been given two so far, thank you.

Helen Maguire



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

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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

MACMILLAN

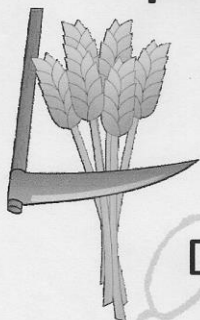


**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

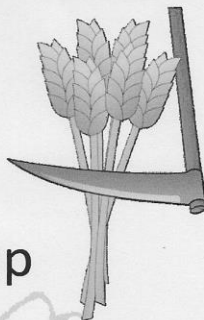
DOWNHAM MARKET METHODIST CHURCH

To celebrate Harvest

6.00pm Saturday 24 September



-Ceilidh -



Dancing to the group

Abandon

Sausage and mash supper

Bring your own non-alcoholic drinks.

to aid catering

Tickets in advance adults £10=

children £ 5=

available from

Social Centre, Saturdays 10 - 12noon only

or reserve on tel: 01366-38-8846

Kids!!

After the christening of his baby brother in church,
Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car.
His father asked him three times what was wrong.
Finally, the boy replied,
"That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian
home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they
were on the way to church service,
"And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"
One bright little girl replied,
"Because people are sleeping."

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan
3.
The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.
Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.
"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say,
Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait."
Kevin turned to his younger brother and said,
"Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A wife invited some people to dinner.
At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said,
"Would you like to say the blessing?"
"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.
"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered.
The daughter bowed her head and said,
"Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary

September 2016 onwards

Saturday 10th September Fellowship breakfast at Southery 8.30

Saturday 10th September Quiz at Terrington St Clement at 2.30pm
£3.50 to include tea

Wednesday 21st September Churches Together AGM at London Road
Methodist 7pm

Saturday 24th September Churches Together Quiet Day at Upwell
Methodist Church 10am-4pm

Saturday 24th September Ceilidh At Downham Market 6.30pm

Saturday 24th/Sunday 25th Terrington St Clements Harvest coffee
Morning and Festival

Sunday 25th September Harvest at Downham Market

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

Saturday 8th October Craft Fair at Downham Market 9am

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)

Saturday 29th October Craft Fair at Downham Market 9am

Saturday 12th November Fellowship breakfast at Wimbotsham 8.30

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