

Rejoice!

November 2017



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

An invitation to all churches of the Downham Market section of
the Circuit:

Are We Yet Alive...?

Do we have a growth plan or an end of life plan?

19th November 2017

2.30pm to 5.00pm followed by a short time of worship

To be held at Downham Market Methodist Church

At the recent meeting of the Downham Market Methodist Church Council it was agreed to respond to the call from our Methodist Conference to explore growth and evangelism within our local area. This was not just a call to those in Downham but one that was relevant to all the churches in the section. Come and be part of the conversation and think about what the future vision and strategy for growth and development might look like in this area.

The afternoon will be facilitated by David Friswell, who is the World Church Relationships Team Leader within the Connexional Team. He lives in Boughton and worships at Downham Market Methodist Church.

Dear Friends,

This year it was my great pleasure and privilege to represent the East Anglia District at Methodist Conference. There are many aspects of Conference that I enjoy: living for a week on a 'bigger stage' and meeting Methodists from across the Connexion and the world; renewing old friendships, and meeting new people; conferring with each other about the life of our church, and taking careful responsibility for decisions both large and small. The Conference meets in session for about 8 hours each day: this includes worship and hymn singing, as well as the presentation of reports, discussion, and decision-making. For those who have the stamina, there are fringe events in the lunchtimes and the evenings hosted by a range of organisations with Methodist links, including All We Can and Methodist Women in Britain.

This year I was a co-host with The Rev. Bruce Thompson (Chair of the Lincolnshire District) of the Methodist Friends of Judaism event, which was part of the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Council of Christians and Jews. I was astonished at the level of security necessary for the event. The Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis, who was our speaker, was driven in an armour-plated car with police outriders. The meeting room and access route were checked and secured by police before the event, and there were armed police present throughout, including escorting us to the venue. It is not only sad but also shocking that in 2017 anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism are such powerful forces that that level of security is necessary, and a reinforcement of the importance of the Council's work.

This was the first time a Chief Rabbi had visited Conference, and his address was on the theme "We should know the facts before we take a stand". Peppered with great humour, the Chief Rabbi shared personal anecdotes and reflections, along with a moving account of the centrality of Israel within the history and psychology of Judaism. His reflections on the Sabbath were a challenge to many present, especially the idea of a weekly 'digital detox' for 24 hours, allowing time to step back, engage with others, and remember our Creator (no iPhone! no

iPad! no MacBook! That's my world in three devices!). The idea of Sabbath, he suggested, is more relevant than ever in our busy world.

Running through his talk was a central thread that it is the responsibility of people of faith to get on, to learn from each other, and to socialise with each other. As people of faith we were encouraged to engage in two types of prayer: thanksgiving for all the blessings given to us and for the ways the spirit of God's presence has enriched and guided our lives; and supplication for a world in great need, and for success in our common endeavours to make this, by the grace of God, a better world.

So may we take to heart the call to prayer – to give thanks for all we have, and to pray for a world in such enormous need, and to work together with all God's people to make this world, by God's grace, a better place for all.

Every blessing

Catherine

**ADVENT
ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP
AT SOUTH WOOTTON**

Led by Rev. Catherine Dixon

Looking at

NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH

10AM – APPROX 11AM

COMMENCING NOVEMBER 28TH

Then 5th, 12th, and 19th December

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ONE OR ALL

Praying together in the Circuit

When Saul came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. Acts 9: 26 - 30
Barnabas, 'son of encouragement'.

It was not surprising that the disciples were cautious about Saul, knowing of his notorious past. How encouraging for him to have Barnabas speak up for him affirming that he had totally changed since his conversion and his desire now was to preach Jesus.

We bring to mind people who have influenced us with their faith, witness, love, example, commitment, support, encouragement, testimony, courage, service and humility. Those who have been there for us, prayed for us and helped on our journey of faith.

Thank you Lord for those who have shown us your love, have taught us and trained us, spoken the truth to us in love, inspired us by their faith and led us in our commitment to you.

Lord, you affirm us as the light of the world,
Shine your light into us and through us.

You call us to be witnesses for you, to be your representatives.
Guide us by your Spirit to be alongside people on their journey as you guided Philip to be in the right place at the right time to speak to the Ethiopian official and explain the scriptures to him leading him to faith in you.

You affirm us as the salt of the world, to be an influence,
to make a difference by our presence and our prayers.

We join with the prayers of all believers for those who have not yet recognised you Lord Jesus. Open their eyes, enlighten them and by

the power of your love bring them into relationship with you, transformed to live in the newness of life. Life in all its fullness.

Prayers have been requested for:-

Derek + Viv, Stephanie, Janice, Amy, Trisha, Linda, Andrew, Mavis, Julia., Rachel, Judy, Dulcie + Neill, Kelly, Kath, Stephen + Victoria, William, Tom, Ken + Norma, Brian Osborne, Sarah. Willie receiving treatment and for Valerie, his wife. For Amy and family as her treatment at UCLH nears completion. For Mary and family as they mourn the death of Gordon. For Amy as she nears the end of her chemotherapy

For those un-named but known to us who are going through difficult times. Minister to them your healing, restoring power, your comfort and peace. Bring them wholeness in body, mind and spirit.

Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to good. Heb. 10: 24

Action for Children

COFFEE MORNING and STALLS

Downham Market Methodist Church

Saturday 4th November 10 – 12 noon

Christmas Cards and diaries will be on sale



Around the churches



Terrington St Clement

At Network [MWiB] Mary read from Revelations and Jenny read "Twiglets". Our guest speaker was Sheila Johnson who spoke about Gardens In the Bible. They were The Garden of Eden, Garden of Gethsemane, near the tomb, where Mary thought Jesus was the gardener and Paradise in heaven.

At the next meeting Lorna read "Take Time ". and our speaker was Marjorie Bocking, who showed slides of local churches, and encouraged us to understand and appreciate them.

At our Harvest Fair we were served bacon butties and toasted teacakes by the ladies in the kitchen, Ruth Hannay, Molly Hunt and Frauke Atkins.

Claire Young had her cards on display. Lorna Hunter had a stall with Books, cakes and produce. Jenny Howling had cake mice with icing tails for us to guess the length. The nearest to 5ft 2 inches were Maureen O'Brien and Rita Day.

The raffle was run by Pam and David Little.

Bryan Howling provided pictures on a large screen of "One hundred and fifty years of rural change"

We raised £235.00 towards chapel funds. Thank you to all.

Linda Howling

St Faith's

When you read this article we should be almost at the end of October and at St Faith's Church on 29th October at 6.30pm will be a special service of memorial and thanksgiving for all those people whose funerals have been held in the church and whose cremations have taken place at Mintlyn.

During this service, to which families of the dear departed have been personally invited, there will be prayers, readings and hymns to focus on remembering and giving thanks for their lives. There will be an opportunity to light a candle and St Faith's clergy will read out the names of all those people from the parish who we see no longer but whose souls are now in the loving care of God. This is always a particularly moving service.

Tuesday October 31st sees the first of St Faith's Autumn Course which is entitled Good News. During this first session, starting at 7pm for 7.15pm and running until 8.30pm the evening's speaker Daphne Sampson asks the question ; Could looking at an EcoChurch award help us live out this good news?

The second session is on 7th November when the title of the session is Good News for King's Lynn. Introduced by the Rev Catherine Dixon .Those attending will hear from speakers from projects reaching out in and around King's Lynn offering help and support to the vulnerable and those in most need.

St Faith's Rector, the Rev Julie Boyd is due to introduce the third session which is entitled Good News for Gaywood. Members of the Outreach committee will also be joining the Rector as they look at where St Faith's is being led to bring that Good News to our parish. Also during this session, St Faith's Team Vicar, the Rev Karlene Kerr, will be helping us look at what is happening on Fairstead Estate and at King's Reach.

The fourth and final session on 21st November will have a particular emphasis on our continuing development plans for our buildings. It will be introduced and led by Liz James and Matthew Boyd, project managers for the church and the bungalow development plans. .

The Rector says that those who attended St Faith's successful Away Day at Hunstanton in August 2016 when there was much debate and discussion on the future of our church buildings can hear at the last session of the progress being made so far.

November, of course, also sees the annual Christmas Fair and this year it is to be held on Saturday, November 18th in the Church Rooms.

As at previous Christmas Fairs, there will be a colourful selection of stalls and sideshows set up many of them with a festive theme and selling goods that could make lovely Christmas gifts for family and friends.

There will be a friendly, family atmosphere at the Fair as people browse the stalls and make their purchases from a variety of stalls selling home-made cakes (always popular), toys and games, books, bric-a-brac as well as inviting people to try their luck at games of chance stalls.

As usual there will be the popular refreshment area when you can sit and relax and chat with friends while enjoying a slice of delicious home-made cake and a refreshing cup of tea or coffee.

Entrance to the event is free and it opens at Gaywood Church Rooms at 2pm continuing until 4pm. Before the Fair closes, the draw is made for the Grand Raffle so remember to buy your tickets for the chance of winning a really good prize to take home.

The Church Council has recently given its approval for St Faith's Church to stage its fourth Christmas Tree Festival in December 2018. A meeting will be

called in the near future to which anyone interested in being involved in organising the Festival is warmly welcome to attend. The hope is that we can further build on the success of our three previous Christmas Tree Festivals and make it bigger and better in 2018. Anyone who has any ideas or would like to become involved in organising the event, either in the preparations for the Festival or while it is running, can speak to me or St Faith's churchwarden Sue Cranko-Page for more information.

Richard Parr.

Pott Row

Its that time again for our "Christmas Tree Festival"

Hope you will come and join us to see our decorated trees; we really enjoy seeing our supporters old and new. We are open Friday 1st December and Saturday 2nd December 10 am till 4pm Sunday 3rd December 2 pm till 4pm. There will be refreshments, stalls, gifts, books and raffle.

To finish our weekend a candle-lit service led by Rev Catherine Dixon, will be held on Sunday 3rd December at 6.30pm

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Jenny

Burnham Market and Stanhoe

Our two congregations have continued to worship together, alternate Sundays in each other's churches. We are grateful to those who make this possible by chauffeuring - John Loose, who is also our organist, and Willie Shackcloth, and their occasional substitutes. It does mean that we have congregations of up to 20 people, which would not be the case if we worshipped separately.

Burnham Market church members opened their church premises during the Burnham Market Craft Fair on 19th August and served refreshments all day long. Over £500 was raised for church funds.

Our joint Harvest Festival Service was conducted by Rev. Steve Oliver at Burnham Market on 10th September. The church was decorated appropriately, and various items of produce, fruit and vegetables, were sold off afterwards, raising the sum of £102 which was donated to the Red Cross. As always, Sushila Russell donated large quantities of fruit and preserves from her market garden in Stanhoe, and her generosity is much appreciated.

Our joint Bible Study group, which meets in the Sutton Lea community centre in Burnham Market on alternate Mondays, began the new Autumn session on 11th September, led by Rev. Steve Oliver. We are currently basing our studies on a Scripture Union booklet, Fruit of the Spirit, and so far have looked at Love, (1 John 4: 7-16) and Joy (Luke 24: 33-53). Peace, Patience and Kindness are to follow. At our meeting on 9th October we shall be saying

farewell to Ann Walters, who has finally managed to sell her house locally, and is moving to sheltered housing in Swanton Morley. She will be very much missed.

Quinquennial inspections are taking place in both churches this autumn, and we await the reports.

Stanhoe will be holding its Christmas Carol Service, led by Rev. Steve Oliver, on Sunday morning, 10th December, and it will be followed by seasonal refreshments.

Our senior Church Steward at Stanhoe, Valerie Shackcloth, has been supporting her husband, Willie, throughout the last two months as he has undergone daily radiotherapy treatments for prostate cancer. They await results. As I write, Brian Ogden, a former member of Stanhoe, who preached in this Circuit, but moved to Dereham several years ago, is seriously ill in Addenbrooke's Hospital, suffering from a deep wound infection following a triple bypass operation. Please keep these people in your prayers.

Elizabeth MacLeod

Downham Market

Ladies Friendship Circle

We now have 30 members which is a nice way to start our new year. Unfortunately through a bereavement we had to change our programme around a little and the Beetle drive was altered to the 27th September which was enjoyed by all members. Some had never played before but they coped.

October 11th was the Hockey game evening and we all had a good laugh and were exhausted and ready for our cup of tea.

Our next meeting on 8th November will be our slide show on Life in Bulgaria with Peter Thorpe, and 20th November a talk by Joan Alfred on the Downham Dementia Cafe.

Everybody is welcome

Margaret Fox

I can't believe that this contribution to Rejoice is for the November issue; where has this year gone? I think Autumn came very early, we certainly had very low temperatures for late Summer. The day I tried out my new wood burning stove was, last year, the hottest day of the year, but unlike some countries who have wall to wall sunshine, we are used to variable weather, always leaving an extra coat in the car and going out with both sun glasses and hat and umbrella. Not that the umbrella is much use sometimes because the winds are so strong. I think Mary Poppins must have been born in Norfolk. But while the weather can be somewhat inconvenient for us, to our farmers it is really crucial to their livelihoods and the food they produce for us.

Fortunately we have so much choice that if one crop fails we have plenty of alternative foods to choose from and never really face hunger as do others in the developing world. We really have a lot to be grateful for and must always give thanks.

We certainly did give thanks at our happy and joyful Harvest Festival Service led by our own Barbara Foster, supported by Ralph Perkins. We were joined by the Boys' Brigade, Brownies and Guides who all contributed to the service and we sang with gusto the old familiar and newer very relevantly worded hymns. A shared lunch and time of fellowship followed with the long life goods going to the foodbank and the money raised from the sale of fresh produce being sent to "All we can". The thirteen Church window sills had been decorated by the various organisations including the Boys' Brigade, Brownies and Guides and I am grateful to all who helped create such a splendid display. There was more food, fun and fellowship at our Quiz and Puddings evening. The light hearted quiz provoked lots of laughter and heckling and the puddings were delicious, raising money for the Churches Together Christmas hampers. Talking of Christmas, the date of our Christmas Fair is November 25th; do note the change on your calendar or diary. There will be the usual variety of stalls for inexpensive Christmas shopping, silly games where grandparents can challenge their grandchildren and a craft room to make Christmas decorations and presents. Not forgetting Father Christmas who is expected to pay us a visit and will be seated in his grotto waiting for children to call to receive their gifts. There will be refreshments served all day, including lunches, while Christmas music will be played in every part of our church premises adding to the festive atmosphere. My daughter, who organises most of the outside arrangements, has had stall holders cancelling other bookings in order to come to us because there is such a good atmosphere and they have such a happy day irrespective of how much they sell. We have quite a few charity stalls which it is always good to support. **DO COME AND JOIN US.**

Another form of outreach which involves food is Messy Church, which in October was on the theme The Ten Bridesmaids, how we react to surprise and how to prepare and be ready to meet Jesus. Their activities included making a jack in the box and a memory game as well as songs and prayers. The sessions always end with a shared meal and volunteers are always welcome to join the team either to help with the food, supervise the children or simply chat to the families and add to the fellowship enjoyed. Messy Church is always held on the second Friday of the month and is a good opportunity to come and meet other families, so if you have young children come and try it. Our Church fellowship is very thankful for this important work of outreach and grateful to all the team of volunteers led by Hazel and John. While we cannot all physically help in this work, our prayers and our donations can.

This article seems to have concentrated on food, and why not as it is both a pleasure and a necessity for a healthy life. Now that the cold weather is nearly here it is even more important to eat properly as well as exercise enough. Our physical health does affect our mental health and vice versa so join in as much fellowship as you can to keep cheerful and happy. Even some pain can be alleviated by concentrating on other things and keeping busy. All this of course is to show that we value the life God has given us and we must make the most of every opportunity to care for our neighbours and share the love we enjoy in our Church fellowships. By our lives shall they know that we are the Lord's

Joan Macey

Dersingham

Our Harvest celebrations went well with an informative and challenging service led by Greg Sargent in the morning and a joyful Songs of Praise led by Steve Oliver in the evening when we were joined by friends from St. Nicholas church. The coffee morning on the Saturday and the collections on the Sunday raised a total of £532.82, which was given to the Farming Community Network and several large boxes were needed to take all the food donations to the Food Bank. The church harvest lunch of shepherd's pie and fruit tarts was much enjoyed by about 40 people.

The next Coffee Morning will have been on Saturday 28th October and was in aid of funds for the Flower Festival. The Chicken Foot evenings continue to be popular amongst people from the village as well as church members and the participants produce much laughter and consume delicious food whilst playing with their coloured dominoes! We have lost some much-loved friends from our church community in recent weeks through death. We remember all their contributions to our fellowship in the past and uphold their loved ones in our prayers.

Rosemary Caink

Wimbotsham

The Harvest Festival service is always one of the highlights of the year. We welcomed Angela Bishop to lead our service on 24th September and all enjoyed singing well-known harvest hymns. It was then coffee time in the school room where the bountiful gifts of fruit and vegetables (fresh from local gardens), home-made cakes and other produce brought to the service by

members of the congregation were up for sale. A total of £155 was raised and sent to the charity Water Aid.

It is worth taking a few moments to look at the Water Aid website to read of the incredible difference this charity makes to millions of lives every year around the world by providing clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene. With statistics showing that 1 in 3 people on the planet don't have a decent toilet of their own and 1 in 9 don't have clean water in or close to home, examples are given that a donation of £2 buys a water system toolkit in Timor-Leste, £5 buys a tube well in Nepal and £10 buys a mason to construct a family toilet.

Too late for a report to appear in the November Rejoice, our annual Society Meeting is scheduled for 23rd October. Watch this space in the next edition for news of what will have taken place.

We are delighted that our school room is being used by our Church of England friends on the evening of 1st November for a Sausage and Mash Supper together with a Beetle Drive. This is an open event and all are invited; tickets from Don (01366 383031).

The dates of our fortnightly Bible Discussion group in November are 7th and 21st, meeting in the school room at 10.30 am till 12 noon. Please do join us for friendly discussion and fellowship over a cuppa and biscuits.

As always, we are so grateful to all who help to keep our lovely little Chapel alive and thriving with a special thank you, too, to our visiting preachers and those who lead our services throughout the months.

Mary Davies

Stow Bridge

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see our God. There are many more blessings in that passage of the Bible. The older I get the more blessings I see, know and feel.

With the views, the wonder and the produce of nature all around us, how blest are we? 100%

I have been to wedding meals and buffets, Christening buffets and of course birthday and funeral parties...and what a deal of wasted food. I have just received a copy of Barnabas, an eight page newsletter and the situation really of hungry people. I just can't take it in or hardly believe. Yet it's true in Africa and in Asia too. The story of a young mother of nine children struggling to find water for her children in Kenya. Think of the water we run to water our lawns in summer and water to wash our patios. And we must waste 1000s of cubic metres of water elsewhere.

Yes I know our sandwiches and sausages rolls that we throw away from our parties would hardly touch the feeding of so many, nor could we get our good

drinking water to the thirsty. All the same our hearts and prayers go out to them. Enough and to spare. Blest? 100%

Our governments try to be fair. I know there are problems ours is good compared with tyrannical rulers of many countries, where fiddling and unjust dealings cause their people more suffering.

Are we blest? 100%

This leads me to our N.H.S. How fortunate we are to inherit this wonderful organisation. Yet the grizzling goes on about Mr H cannot have this treatment, Mrs y cannot have these pills, they are too expensive. The ambulance was a long time coming, ops are cancelled, Mr A was given the wrong treatment and is suing the N.H>S. for thousands of pounds. So it goes on. How sad.

It is important when lives are at risk to take care. Are we human? Yes, of course we are and mistakes are made. But look at what CAN be done for us; new hearts, lungs, kidneys, blood, drugs for the cancers, joint replacements. It's usually only the ones that go wrong that get reported. The MacMillan Centre and Doctors give advice on managing our conditions. Are we blest? 100%!

One last thing, family, friends, neighbours.

There are 10,000 blessings I have not mentioned, but there is one I must. It's God's blessing, a providential and spiritual happiness.

Written by a soft hearted old man, with heartfelt feelings; as I tell many people I live like a king. Blest? 100% and I hope you are too.

Peter Hewitt

Hilgay

On October 1st we had a lovely Harvest Festival Service led by Rev. Steve Oliver. If we couldn't recall what happened on each day of Creation we should be able to now with his very interesting lesson involving chocolate bars.

Unfortunately no children attended the service which was a shame as Deacon Irene and Lesley had organised Messy Harvest on the Saturday and it would have been good to hear from the children about this. Also it meant Grown-ups had to help out with the address for which we were all rewarded with chocolate.

On October 3rd our fortnightly Wesleyan Guild meeting got off to a good start with a thought- provoking discussion with Deacon Janet. (Our President).

We have a new starting time of 2pm instead of 2:30pm to accommodate a meeting and get together for teenagers starting at 4pm.

We have Speakers and Fun times arranged between now and Good Friday when Guild finishes for Summer.

I believe Hilgay Guild is the only one remaining in our Circuit now, although I can remember the times when there were several in the Downham Market Circuit and we used to attend the Annual Guild Rally meeting up with other Guilders. Our Guild is affiliated to the Wesley Guild Organisation so we receive news of other Guilds in the country by way of the Newsletter of the National Executive. We also receive details of the Annual Guild holidays that still continue and of which I have happy memories of Youth Club holidays during the 1960s.

Our programme for November is as follows:

14th Speaker Mr Gordon Kisby; 28th An Advent Service.

Pauline Driver

MWiB

Methodist Women in Britain

When my children were young a fellow church member used to stand up in church occasionally and tell us about Women's Work. I hadn't a clue what she was taking about at the time. It wasn't until I moved to Magdalen and became involved with Network that the penny finally dropped. Network is no longer the overall title but MWiB does what Network used to!!

On October 11th it was MWiB Autumn Day in Ely. Ten of us from West Norfolk attended and saw the old President, Heather Sorrell, bow out; the new President, Ruth Arnold, inaugurated and heard all about the charity for the next two years. All this in the beautiful setting of Ely Methodist Church and wrapped around meaningful worship.

The keynote speaker was Bishop Everald Galbraith, who first knew Ruth and her husband as a 14 year old, when they began their ministry in Jamaica. He told us of the growth in the Methodist Church in Jamaica, from its first meeting in a Roman Catholic hall in 1789 up to its current project to increase employment and well being amongst Jamaican people. He himself has had a very varied life, from Cliff College, to Ireland, to America and back to Jamaica. His wife is the President of The Women's League, MWiB's equivalent in Jamaica. From his lesson from 1 Corinthians 3 he talked about God's Church

being made up of different peoples, working together and being stronger because of it.

The Charity work we will be supporting is Bees, Beds and Blessings. The Bees will make honey to be collected and marketed, (lots of jobs there from making the hives to selling the jars); the Beds will be in a Methodist Manse being renovated to provide affordable housing for teachers in a local school; the Blessings will be all the improvements, the joys of working together and the furtherance of God's work.

MWiB is the largest group in the Connexion so here is a reminder of our aims;

- To know Christ and make him known
- To encourage, equip and enable women to participate fully in the life of Church and Society
- To support the Church in becoming truly the whole people of God.

The next Spring Day will be at Ipswich, (groan, groan, long way to drive!) but as our own Rev. Catherine Dixon is going to be the speaker it is hoped to have a coach from our area.

So if you think you'd enjoy the day, ten of us did this time, look out for more details and come.

Barbara Foster

DOWNHAM MARKET CRAFT FAIR
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11TH
9.00 am - 3.00 pm
Light refreshments
Free Admission
Profits to Church Funds



NB! Any items for the

DECEMBER/JANUARY edition should be with the editor by **NOVEMBER 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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Burnham Market Methodist Church

**Saturday, 16th December 2017
from 10am**

Christmas Coffee Morning

All are welcome!



Clenchwarton Methodist Church

Christmas Tree Festival 2017

Weekend of December 9th and 10th

Saturday 10am to 7pm,

Sunday 1pm to 6pm.

*There will be entertainment by local bands, the
Flukes on Saturday and the Tildens on Sunday*

from 2.30pm

light refreshments.

Free entry

We would love to see you



Safeguarding

Our safe guarding officers are meeting after the two courses at the end of October so hopefully should have some new dates then.

Thank you to all who have attended so far.

Do we agree?

A committee is a group of the unprepared
Appointed by the unwilling to do the unnecessary!

Woody Allen



REV STEVE OLIVER

**JOIN ME
IN THE GOSPEL HOUR EVERY SUNDAY FROM
9PM
FOR THE BEST IN HYMN AND SONG
and
THE CHRISTIAN ROCK SHOW
FOR THE BEST IN HEAVY METAL AND ROCK
EVERY WEDNESDAY 7.30AM – 8.00AM
FIND ME ON
radioeacham.org.uk
(email revoliver@radioeacham.org.uk)**

MARGERY KEMPE

In King's Lynn we have a Kempe Road named after Margery Kempe who was born in what was then known as Bishop's Lynn in 1373. Almost all that we know about her is from her "Book of Margery Kempe", said to be the earliest autobiography in the English language. In the Anglican Church calendar her special day is November 9th. Her father was John Burnham, a prosperous merchant, mayor of the town and Member of Parliament. She married John Kempe when she was about 20. After the birth of their first child she was tormented by devils and demons urging her to forsake family and faith and commit suicide. She was rescued by a vision of Jesus Christ who asked her, "Daughter, why have you forsaken me, and I never forsook you?" She records many visionary conversations with God, Jesus, Mary and other religious figures and had visions of being present at the birth and resurrection of Christ. She also reports hearing a heavenly melody that made her want to live a chaste life. She tried to persuade her husband to agree to this but did not succeed until they had produced thirteen more children.

In a life of extreme devotion to God she became known for her constant weeping and wailing as she begged for mercy and forgiveness. She was many times tried for heresy, for constantly wearing white as though she was a nun and preaching without the church's permission, but was never convicted. In 1413 she began a series of pilgrimages which took her to the Holy Land, Assisi, Rome, Santiago de Compostela and other holy sites. At each one she would purchase indulgences for friends and enemies as well as for herself, to save them from many years in purgatory. She recalls that as she was riding on a donkey and saw Jerusalem for the first time, she nearly fell off because she was so much in shock from the vision in front of her.

In East Anglia we have another 14th century mystic, the anchoress Julian of Norwich. She was by no means a recluse for one window of her cell looked out on to the world and many visitors came seeking spiritual guidance. One of them was Margery Kempe who apparently stayed several days. I should like to have been a fly on the wall when these two interesting ladies met. Fortunately she tells us about it in her book (note that she talks about herself in the third person):

“And then she was commanded by her Lord to go to an anchoress in the same city who was called Dame Julian. And so she did and told her about the grace that God had put into her soul, of compunction, contrition, sweetness and devotion, compassion and high contemplation, and very many holy speeches and converse that our Lord put into her soul and also many wonderful revelations which she described to the anchoress to find out if there were any deception in them, for the anchoress was expert in such things and could give good advice.”

Julian reassured her: “Any creature that has these tokens may steadfastly believe that the Holy Ghost dwells in his soul. ...St Paul says that he causes us to ask and pray with mourning and weeping so plentifully that the tears may not be numbered.....set all your trust in God and do not fear the talk of the world.”

Margery Kempe lived seven centuries ago in a world vastly different from ours. Why then should she have a street named after her? Why should her book be available today in the Penguin Classics series? Perhaps a closer look at her times may give a clue. In the 14th century life in the material world seemed hard and precarious. Natural disasters and frequent wars made people fearful. Deep recession left the economy in tatters. She suffered for most of her own life feeling a failure, uncertain and afraid and she wanted to make sense of it all. In ways that may seem rather peculiar to us she won through to experience the love of God in her own life and in her tumultuous times. But let Margery have the last word:

“I thank you, Lord, for all those sins you have kept me from, which I have not done, and I thank you, Lord, for all the sorrow that you have given me for those that I have done and for those graces, and for all other graces that are needful to me and to all creatures on earth”

John Garfoot

When Christians see RIP on a tombstone,
We don't think Rest in Peace
We think Rejoicing in Paradise.

Saturday November 25th

**Christmas Fair at
Downham Market**

10am -2pm

**Games, Stalls,
Refreshments, Father
Christmas**

Come and join the fun!!



Christmas



CMEG presents a new musical drama:
A LETTER TO THE
QUEEN ADELAIDE



Thu/Fri/Sat 16th/17th/18th November
7.30 p.m.

Clenchwarton Methodist Hall

ADULTS £4 / CHILDREN (16 or under) £3

Bookings (01553) 772855

***Free Refreshments ● Raffle ● Raising
money for local charities***

Queen Adelaide photo by Mark Shirley

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary

November 2017 onwards

Saturday October 28th 9.00 am - 3.00 pm Craft Fair at
Downham Market

Saturday 4th November 10 - 12 noon Coffee Morning for Action
for Children at Downham Market

Saturday November 4th Coffee Morning with traders 10am -
noon at St Faith's

Saturday November 11th Craft Fair 9.00 am - 3.00 pm at
Downham Market

Saturday November 11th Fellowship Breakfast at Marham at
8.30 am

Saturday November 18th Christmas Fair at St Faith's 2pm - 4pm

Saturday November 25th Christmas Fair at Downham Market
10am - 2pm

Saturday December 2nd Coffee Morning with traders 10am -
noon at St Faith's

Saturday/Sunday December 9th/10th Christmas Tree Festival at
Clenchwarton

Saturday December 16th Christmas Coffee Morning 10 - noon at
London Road

Saturday, 16th December Christmas Coffee Morning 10am at
Burnham Market