# Réjoice!

## September 2017



The Magazine of the West Norfolk Methodist Circuit

#### JUST A THOUGHT.....

A Minister was talking to one of his congregation He said "When you get to my age you spend a lot more time thinking about the hereafter." "Why do you say that", enquires the woman. The Minister replies "Well, I often find myself going into a room and thinking what did I come in here after.

For many of you for differing reasons time must seem in short supply, especially if like the above Minister you have to do the same things twice because you cannot remember the first time. But seriously for some there is the harvest, endlessly ensuring they beat the rain, rushing to cut the crop whilst the sun shines. For others the children are at home from school and need to be occupied, and for others it is working long hours to make ends or time meet. For whatever reason time is taken up doing things seems to be the pre-occupation of the day.

Jesus had the same problem. From the very first chapter of Mark's Gospel, we read how he is always in demand, banishing demons, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the poor; it never seems to stop. Then, like an oasis, near the end of that first chapter a peaceful moment appears out of nowhere, and it reads:-

'In the morning while it was still very dark,(Jesus) got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed'.

Jesus needed time alone, to ask for guidance and to receive assurance he was doing what his Father willed of him.

In all the rush, the needing to do things, where is our quiet time for God? When do we take time to pray for guidance and reassurance that what we are doing is what is required of us? It is so easy to push God out of our minds as we strive to occupy our time. Of course we cannot do without the harvest, the care for the children, the work, but we should also never go without our quiet time with God.

When things get truly hectic, as it will in the coming weeks of meetings both Church and Circuit I will walk with Cai my dog to the quiet places and find that space for God which is so vital to my life. The psalmist in Psalm 16 puts it this way; '(O God) You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore'

So take time to stop and find a quiet place even for just five minutes, and pray. God will never be too busy to listen.

Steve

# Praying Together in the Circuit

The parable of the seed Mark 4: 26 - 29

Then Jesus said." The <u>Kingdom of God</u> is like a man who throws seed on the ground, and he goes to bed at night and gets up every day, and in the meantime the seed sprouts and grows; how it does this, he does not know. The earth produces crops by itself, first the blade, then the head of grain, then the mature grain in the head. But when the crop ripens, he immediately puts the sickle to reap, because the time for the harvest has come". [Amplified version]

Unseen by the human eye, not fully understood by the human mind God gives life to the seed which then becomes what it was meant to be.

A new Methodist year, a new beginning, We have a new beginning when we first believe in Jesus and our relationship grows in love and faith. Faith and love are the foundation of our service in his eternal purpose.

The hope we have in him, in his word which will accomplish all he has planned for it to do. his promises to us, his presence with us. We co-operate with God whose ways and thoughts are so much higher than ours and who works in wonderful ways seen and unseen to establish His Kingdom and to bring in his harvest.

Lord, we pray for Kingdom growth as you enable it in our churches, in the villages, towns and communities of our Circuit.

We give thanks for our Circuit churches rejoicing in the fellowship we share.

We commit each person to you, members of the body of Christ. Come, Holy Spirit come, move within us and amongst us, produce your fruit in us.

We pray that we may seek first your kingdom, your righteousness.

Empower us to proclaim Jesus, Saviour, Redeemer, Lord and King.

Guide and equip us for all you call us to be and to do.

Lord bless us abundantly as we love and serve you this new year and make each one of us a blessing to others.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

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 the other young people undergoing chemo therapy in UCLH and for their families.

For others whom we know are receiving treatment.

Any items for the OCTOBER edition should be with the editor by SEPTEMBER 12<sup>th</sup>, 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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## Coffee Morning for EACH



Downham Market representatives for MWiB held a coffee morning for the President's Charity. We had a great time, with cakes as you can see, and a few representatives of the male half of the congregation! There were so many raffle prizes that one man from St Germans very kindly gave three of his back!!

£145 was raised at the event but we had another £40 given in donations from those unable to come.

Thank you one and all.



#### Wimbotsham

We have a beautiful new Pulpit Fall, a runner for the Communion table and a matching cushion, all skilfully made and embroidered by Alice. These were prayerfully dedicated by Rev. Maurice at our monthly Holy Communion service in July. A very special thank you, Alice. Our visiting preachers, leaders and members of the congregation have continued to inspire us speaking on various biblical themes - the parables, stories of miracles and the joy of creation around us still. Margaret (Mould) treated us to the following poem she had written a few years ago for an Art Club entry at a local Church festival:

The Great Artist
He laid His palette and brushes down
For this was the seventh day
The world created, the stars in place
The sun and moon in their rightful place
And in His image the human race
He'd crafted out of the clay.

He paused, and seeing His work was good He followed His vision through By granting the gift to mankind that day Of poetry, music and art that they Might each of them share in their human way The joy of creation, too.

The Chapel function room is now our new venue for the Bible Study and Discussion Group and we have changed the fortnightly meeting dates from Thursdays to Tuesdays. Therefore, please make a diary note that the September meetings will be on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and join us over a cuppa from 10.30 am to 12 noon.

Mary Davies

#### **Downham Market**

#### Ladies Friendship Circle

We commence our new year on 13<sup>th</sup> September with a Harvest Festival theme evening. We have harvest hymns and readings and ask members if they can bring some harvest produce which we will sell during the evening. Please could you price your items as this makes it easier for us.

27th September has to be decided.

We welcome all members back and would be pleased to see new members. This is enrolment evening. The cost is £5.00 per year and £1.00 each time you attend to cover tea and coffee etc.

Best Wishes

Margaret Fox

What a really peculiar Summer we are having. I do feel guilty complaining about the hot days which I could not cope with; but it needn't have gone to the other extreme. Just back from a camping holiday in the New Forest where we managed to do what we wanted. dodging the showers, but, like this area, we had solid rain all day Wednesday week back and a bad storm that night. I had already been lifting the awning of my campervan to get rid of the rain accumulating there but when I went to do it on the Thursday morning I found the weight of the water and the wind had snapped the front pole and brought the whole awning down. My son-in-law managed to fix it temporarily to last for the rest of the holiday. There was also another leak where the cover of one of the skylights had broken and been knocked off by overhanging branches but this he fixed by cutting up a plastic chopping board and applying some sealing gunge. Even with these problems I still felt lucky to have a dry place to stay in; having camped with my children under canvas for many years I knew how difficult it made life for families in tents when the weather was both wet and cold. It also made the holiday more expensive to have to visit places and buy hot drinks rather than just an ice cream while enjoying a warm day on the beach. The families did seem to be enjoying their holiday in spite of the weather as the New Forest is so beautiful with the added attraction of all the wild ponies and very young foals and is a

good place for the whole family to cycle in. I even saw one family with a little trailer on one bike with a small dog in it.

On the Wednesday when it poured all day we were ensconced in my family's big caravan playing board games and reading, having toured the numerous charity shops and local charity fetes buying books. In one charity shop I saw one of these wooden plaques which seem so popular at the moment, the four lines reading 'Saw it, liked it, told Grandma, got it, which reminded me of how often our prayers are answered when we tell 'Grandma' providing we ask for the right things, or how often when we pray for guidance about a situation, how the situation seems to resolve itself without any action on our part.

Messy Church met in August and despite the lower numbers, ha a good time learning about faith and the Roman Centurian.

The children are now almost back at school and we will recommence our usual activities, hopefully with our batteries renewed; our premises will be busy with all the bookings we have; music will sound with all the choir practices in session as well as band practices and dance groups; our Church choir will be preparing for Harvest and Christmas. Busy, busy, lots of activity, but don't let us be just Marthas and forget Mary. We must still ask 'Grandma' or rather our Father to help us with everyday life, to say thank you and to worship with all our hearts. Hoping you have had a good Summer and that we shall enjoy a warmer pleasant Autumn. Keep gardening and walking for your physical health and keep praying for your spiritual health. God bless.

Joan Macev

#### Dersingham

September is upon us and a new year starts in Methodism. All my life September has been connected with a new start or a change, first at school with a new class or school, new uniforms, new school shoes etc. Then, after I married, September was always connected with the start of a new Methodist year with perhaps a new colleague and his family to meet, or even a move ourselves, welcome services, another manse to make into our home and new schools for the children. How glad we were that Methodism had the sense to move us all in September so that the children could start their new school at the beginning of the year rather than suddenly appearing in the middle of a term when

friendships have been made and it must be more difficult to fit in! Then, as a teacher, there was always a new class to prepare for and get to know, and new names to fit to faces.

The visit of about 40 Boys and Girls Brigade members from Chelmsford who were camping at Wolferton in July was very successful and we all enjoyed a challenging and interesting service, with some good singing, led by Barbara Foster.

We shall be celebrating our Harvest Festival on the  $24^{th}$  September when we welcome to our pulpit in the morning Greg Sargent and this will be followed by a church lunch. In the evening the Rev. Steve Oliver will lead a Songs of Praise service. Our harvest gifts will again be given to the King's Lynn Food Bank. Our monthly coffee mornings continue to be very popular and the July one raised £326.65 which was divided equally between Vasculitis UK and church funds. The Harvest Coffee morning will take place on Saturday  $23^{rd}$ September between 10am and 12 noon. This will be in aid of the Farming Community Network.

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm we will be holding an MHA Quiz Night. The cost will be £3 per person which includes light refreshments. The Rev. Pam Bayliss will also show a short film about the work of the MHA and all proceeds will go to the work of Methodist Homes. Quiz lovers from around the Circuit will be most welcome.

Rosemary Caink

#### **Terrington St Clement**

We continue to get a good number in the congregation each Sunday including Junior church. Our knit and natter Saturday mornings are well attended with lots of chatter.

New Beginnings led by Rev. Jackie Goddard had the theme of "What groups of people are badly treated and why?" We discussed what can be done to help locally and globally., and were issued with "Homework" for September!

Tea and chat has been held on some Wednesday afternoons until Network resumes in September.

September 6<sup>th</sup> Harvest themed Members afternoon.

September 20<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Sheila Johnson.

September 30<sup>th</sup> Harvest coffee morning with "Bacon Butties" and tea and cakes; stalls, raffle and competitions. 9.30am to 12 noon, all welcome. Our Sunday service on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 10.30am will be conducted by Rev. Barbara Savage.

Linda Howling

#### **London Road**

July was a very busy month for London Road.

The Scouts held their end of year celebration service, in the hall, led by District Chaplin Catherine on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>. As last year the Hall was packed with members of the Scout Group, and parents,. Members of all three sections gave an account of what had happened during the year.

The District Commissioner also attended and awarded "Beads " to one of our leaders Kate Mackelden , who has qualified by passing all her exams (Congratulations) and a "necker" for a new recruit to Adventure Scouts. The Group Chairman , yours truly, then presented Bronze awards to the Beavers who had qualified, Silver Awards to Cubs and Gold Awards to Scouts. The levels do awards and the number of badges that each section has attained this year says a lot for the dedication of the Group leaders. The Scouts then assembled in the Hall on Tuesday 25th July at 4am to start their European expedition to France-Bon Voyage.

After the Service on Sunday  $23^{rd}$  – the work force came into action to clear all the chairs from the church in preparation for the Spectrum Art Groups Annual Exhibition form Tuesday  $25^{th}$  – to Saturday  $29^{th}$  – when the Church was due to hold a coffee morning.

On Monday  $24^{\text{th}}$  the first of the revision Courses on Safeguarding was held in the hall in the afternoon – with a full quota attending.

**David Gifford** 

#### **Pott Row**

Our morning service on Sunday 13th August had more blessings than usual to give thanks for. Peter Worrell was with us and, as always, enhanced our music in worship and song. It was also lovely to welcome a family with three happy and lively children. Finally, it was great to have Janet and Peter Mason with us again after so long, and for Janet to be able to lead the service and deliver the message in her own special way.

Thank you all!

Shirley and Bill Hone

#### WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

I am writing this on the hundredth anniversary of Passchendaele, second only to the Somme as the bloodiest battle of the First World War. Before it even began, on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1917, heavy rains and a breakdown of the drainage system by German shelling turned the clay fields into a quagmire. Trenches were filled with slime. Men drowned in shell holes. Tanks and horsedrawn artillery got stuck in the mud. This was the last shred of Belgian soil left to the Allies, the nation for which Britain had gone to war, and the plan was to reach the Channel ports from which enemy U-boats were strangling Britain; so the politicians and generals were determined to hold on to this Flanders ridge, though the British prime minister, David Lloyd George, was bound to admit "Passchendaele was one of the greatest disasters of the war....No soldier of any intelligence would defend this senseless campaign." It took three months just to advance five miles. Passchendaele epitomizes the folly of war. General Haig has a lot to answer for.

At least 250,000. British and Empire men were killed or wounded in this battle. Total casualties including Germans were around 700,000.

My Uncle Hugh was one of the wounded. I have mentioned him before in my article on the Great War but my son Raymond has researched much more of his military history. He was actually named after a famous Methodist minister, the Rev Hugh Price Hughes. My grandfather was a grocer's apprentice in Oxford and his boss took him to Wesley Memorial Church where he was thrilled to hear this fine preacher. Hughes was the leader of the Forward Movement in Wesleyan Methodism at the turn of the century and superintendent of the West London Mission. In 1885 he founded the Methodist Times, precursor of the Methodist Recorder.

I knew Hugh as a cheerful, happy-go-lucky soul who never spoke of the awful experiences he had witnessed and endured. Perhaps that was the only way he could come to terms with the horror of it all. He must have found it difficult to adjust to civilian life after the war, because he was unable to help his father and elder brother in the family business and left to work for Brooke Bonds, driving one of their famous little red vans around Kent. I suppose

Hugh was typical of many teenagers of his day. He was just seventeen when war broke out but gave a false age so that he could join the British army. His photograph taken in 1914 betrays his boyish looks.

He enlisted in the 7<sup>th</sup> battalion of the Norfolk Regiment which was raised at Norwich in August 1914 as part of Kitchener's First New Army and joined 35<sup>th</sup> Brigade,12<sup>th</sup> (Eastern) Division. After completing his training at Shorncliffe and later Aldershot, Hugh embarked for Boulogne on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1915. He was soon in the front line just 8 miles south of Ypres. His first major action was almost certainly in the Battle of Loos in which a heavy German artillery attack was repelled. In this engagement 117 officers and 3,237 men of the Division were killed or wounded.

Shortly afterwards a new Machine Gun Corps was formed and Hugh was transferred to it. The guns were stationed a hundred yards apart and never left the front line, so it was a very exposed and dangerous posting. Machine guns were operated by a team of six men, so that when one was killed, wounded, sick or away on leave another soldier would step in to make up the team.

Altogether Hugh was wounded three times and gassed. After recovery he was sent back to the front line. I remember seeing the scars caused by the bullet that had passed through his neck. On the day of the first occasion his mother said, "Hugh has been hurt." It was not until several weeks afterwards word came through that he was in hospital at Cambridge and they learned that this was indeed so. This kind of premonition was not unknown in wartime.

Records show that Hugh's Machine Gun Corps was in action during the later stages of the Battle of the Somme . A photograph from our family album of Hugh and a friend, Cpl Johnson, has a caption showing that it was taken at Much Hadham. What were they doing there? We do know that there was a Military Hospital there, so it is quite possible that they would have gone there to be treated for their wounds from the Battle of the Somme .

It seems that on rejoining he was posted to a different unit, one of the four Machine Gun companies serving in the Ypres sector. The centenary programmes show vividly how horrendous Passchendaele was. It must have affected Hugh deeply for in a very rare admission he did tell his sister (my

mother Maggie) that he had been there. It was his last engagement in the war for the next news of him that we have is that on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1918 he was admitted to Huddersfield War Hospital as being `sick`. That could well have been the effect of poison gas, which affected his health for the rest of his life. On 22<sup>nd</sup> May he was honourably discharged from active service on health grounds but remained with the Machine Gun Corps at their depot in Alnwick on light duties. Officially discharged three months after the end of the war he was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. He managed to live until 1972 when he was aged 74.

Seeing the Menin Gate on television I was greatly moved to think that my uncle was one of those who passed that way to the sheer hell of Passchendaele









#### **MISUNDERSTANDING SOMEWHERE!**

In the first book of the Bible, Guinessis, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an Ark and the animals came on in pears.

Let's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.

#### 'Safeguarding

We all know that churches need to be safe places. Many of us have attended a **Creating Safer Space** training session in the past. Things have moved on since that training module was introduced. There is a fresh understanding of some of the areas of abuse and the needs of all who experience abuse. The Methodist Church has decided that those people who were trained previously now need to attend a **Foundation Module Refresher** to ensure that they are up to date.

There are many people who need to attend. They include:

- Pastoral visitors
- Anyone working with 0 18 year olds in the name of the church
- Anyone working in activities targeted at adults who are vulnerable
- Church stewards
- Local preachers
- Worship Leaders
- Presbyters and Deacons

The sessions will be held on several occasions and in different places across the Circuit. Please note these sessions are for people who have already attended the original Foundation Training. If you are in one of the above posts and have not already attended the Foundation Training, a different session will be arranged for you. There will be more information about this later.

3 sessions have already been held of the Safeguarding Refresher Course but there will be another held at Downham on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30 am. If you would like to attend this session, please book with Linda Howling at <u>lindahowling1948@gmail.com</u> or 01553 829146 or 07445340234. Booking is essential as personal copies of some literature are needed.

Further sessions of the refresher course will be planned and information will be circulated when available.'

#### Methodist Conference 2017

As many of you will know, the Methodist Conference, the governing body of the Methodist Church, meets every year and is made up of representatives from all the UK districts. Approximately 50% of the representatives are ordained and 50% lay.

It is a great privilege to be part of the Conference and this year Catherine Dixon and I were two of the representatives from the East Anglia District. We had sitting with us Rev. Jorgen Thaarup from Denmark. He spoke perfect English and it was a privilege to share with him.

There are very inspiring and uplifting times at Conference, especially when we worship together. There were challenging sermons and the singing was amazing. I especially enjoyed the singing when it was unaccompanied as you feel even more part of that great company. As with all church meetings, there were reports and routine business to do, but there were also significant discussions about important issues and difficult and challenging issues raised.

I'll give you a snap shot of some of the topics discussed. Some of these will come at some point to usat church and circuit level.

The gift of Connexion (the method by which all Methodists are connected together)

For Methodists connexionalism is not an abstract principle or a piece of historical baggage, but a way of being Christian. The principal of connexionalism remains fundamental to the Methodist people and is a great gift and we should rejoice in the relationships it brings. We are invited to discuss some questions about Connexionalism at church and circuit level.

#### Ethnic diversity

How can we become more ethnically diverse?

## Relationships between the Methodist Church and the Church of England

The report from the Faith and Order bodies of the Church of England and the Methodist Church making suggestions, mainly for the interchange of presbyteral ministries, was discussed in groups. It was

suggested that the proposals could be brought to the Conference on 2018 for debate and decision. If they are adopted, this would be followed by a 2 year process of consultation, during which Church Councils, Circuit Meetings and District Synods would vote on the proposals. The final decision would then be made by the Conference of 2020.

'Statistics for Mission' was discussed in District Groups.

It will not surprise anyone to hear that our Methodist congregations are continuing to decline. Blunt facts may prove a 'wake-up call', however. In our district in 2002 there were 9,588 Methodist members. In 2016 there were only 6,318 members! Only 3 in 10,000 members of the British population are Methodist.

You can look at this in 2 ways. It can be depressing and cause us to lose heart or, as one speaker put it, it can be very exciting as it calls us to decisive action.

One of the things that every church can do is to decide whether it wants to engage in mission or settle for maintenance! The suggestion is that if a church decides that it really wants to have an active mission in the community, it will receive more support and resources, while churches that just want things to stay as they are for as long as possible would receive a lower level of support and resources.

Hazel Miles

### To lift your spirits.

Many of us have to spend a certain amount of time in hospital. Doctors are getting younger every year and we do sometimes wonder about them

Some comments from medical notes!

The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.

Discharge status:- Alive, but without my permission.

Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.

See if you can figure out what these seven words all have in common?

- 1. Banana
- 2. Dresser
- 3. Grammar
- 4. Potato
- 5. Revive
- 6. Uneven
- 7. Assess

Answers on page 19



#### **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
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FIND ME ON
radioheacham.org.uk
(email revoliver@radioheacham.org.uk)

#### A tribute to Ann Bell

Ann came to South Wootton Chapel with her husband John in 2003. Ann had life in abundance, enjoyed so many things, always looking for the next experience; so full of joy, she was a breath of fresh air. She quickly joined the Ladies' Group, volunteered to be a model for any fashion shows we had. She loved colour in both clothes and shoes. You could never call her dull. When she and John had their Golden Wedding Anniversary they travelled by train across Canada. She was so thrilled to be introduced to a Canadian Mountie. Then she gave a talk to the Ladies' Group about her great adventure. She had so many strings to her bow.

Ann had such a lively nature then she suffered the awful mist of Dementia, although she struggled to attend many things. She still came to Chapel and managed to smile every time..

Each Sunday we can all look at a lectern where Ann embroidered a fall; another talent.

We miss her greatly but we can thank God for a wonderful life spent amongst us.

Phyllis Bowman

Perhaps Ann would have enjoyed these!

#### **Actual call centre conversations !!!!!**

Customer: "I've been ringing 0800 2100 for two days and can't get through

to enquiries, can you help?".

Operator: "Where did you get that number from, sir?".

Customer: "It was on the door to the Travel Centre".

Operator: "Sir, they are our opening hours".

#### **Samsung Electronics**

Caller: "Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?"

Operator: "I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about".

Caller: "On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?"

Operator: "I think you mean the telephone point on the wall".

In all of the words if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word.

# West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary SEPTEMBER 2017 onwards

Saturday September  $9^{th}$  Fellowship Breakfast at St Germans at 8.30 am

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September Safeguarding Refresher Course at Downham Market at 9.30 am

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>September Harvest Coffee morning at Dersingham between 10am and 12 noon.

Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup> Harvest coffee morning at Terrington St Clement from 9.30 till noon.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October MHA Quiz Night at Dersingham at 7pm.

Wednesday October  $11^{\text{th}}$  MWiB Autumn District Day at Ely Methodist Church

Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Breakfast at Downham at 8.30 am

Friday October 27<sup>th</sup> Safeguarding Refresher Course at Hunstanton at 2pm

Monday October  $30^{th}$  Safeguarding Refresher Course at London Road 2pm

Saturday November  $11^{th}$  Fellowship Breakfast at Marham at 8.30 am