

# *Rejoice!*

April/May 2019



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

Dear Friends,

Some of you may recently have heard me preaching a sermon about Jesus's question "what do you want?" It is a question we can approach in many ways. What do we want for ourselves, or for others, for the country or for the world? What do we want spiritually, emotionally, or psychologically? I have been thinking about it in a much more concrete way recently. What do we want in terms of stuff? Things. Belongings. How much is too much? Do we ever have enough? Does what we have make us happy? Can even that irresistible pair of sparkly shoes bring us true and lasting happiness?

I have been influenced in my thinking and questioning by the current trend for Japanese minimalism. I was challenged by a book I read by Fumio Sasaki called *Goodbye Things* in which the author writes about how he got his life in order by getting rid of most of the things he owned. Quite a radical approach! You may have heard of Marie Kondo whose Konmari technique has swept through America and now on to our own shores. She asks us to look at each thing we own and ask the simple question "does it bring me joy?" Another radical and challenging idea. Long before this minimalist trend took hold, there was a woman called Ann Marie Heasley who announced in 2011 that she would be decluttering through the season of Lent. Her project was simply called '40 bags in 40 days'. She has now created an online community to help and encourage people each year to take up this challenge during Lent. Last year I tried it. I didn't manage the whole 40 bags (but I did get rid of my appendix along the way, so that might count!) but it did begin to shift my perspective on all the things that surround me. And all those boxes that have been sitting unpacked in the manse garage since I moved in back in the Summer of 2013.

I am not suggesting that there are not things in our lives which are precious, which have value for all kinds of reasons. Things that do bring us joy in different ways. But perhaps during this season of Lent we might question what is of true value, what brings us true joy and lasting happiness, what should be at the centre of our lives. With so much clutter it is easy to push out time to pray or to read the Bible; to fail to pay attention to the world around us and to how God is speaking in our lives; to put a greater priority on created things than on the Creator.

This is also very much on my mind and heart because as we know I am preparing to move this summer. This is a prospect that saddens me greatly as my time and ministry in West Norfolk has been so very precious. If you have not seen so much of me lately, or perhaps my smile has been less sparkly, it is simply because I am trying to manage this time of transition as best as possible. I do thank you for all the ways I have been (and continue to be) loved and supported. Please do keep me in your prayers, as I will keep you all in mine.

Every blessing  
Catherine.

I am very sorry that this year's Lent Group at South Wootton had to be cancelled at quite short notice. I trust you are all seeking to keep a holy Lent regardless.

### **Another from Sue**

Mental health is  
Quite hard going.  
Understanding  
And not knowing

Meeting people  
Just every day  
Passed in silence  
No words to say.

Crossing bridges  
Going somewhere  
Dropping grudges  
Aligned with care.

# Praying together in the Circuit

Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say?

Father, save me from this hour ?

No, it was for this very reason that I came.

Father, glorify your name ! "Then a voice came from heaven,  
"I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." John 12: 27-28

Jesus had been explaining that a grain of wheat remains a single grain unless it is dropped into the ground and dies. If it dies, then it produces many grains. He knew the time was right for him to die and through his death and resurrection his father's purpose would succeed.

It is finished John 19: 30

His purpose accomplished.

He is risen ! Luke 24: 6

His victory over sin and death

Wait for the gift I promised Acts 1:4 Empowering of the Holy Spirit

We see him now crowned with glory and honour because of the death

he suffered. Heb. 2:9

Our ascended, glorified Lord.

Thank you Lord for all you have accomplished for us.

As we prepare for Pentecost, do new things amongst us  
for your glory.

We live believing that you will come again in glory, and every knee  
will bow before you and every tongue confess that you are Lord.

Gracious God, thank you for the scriptures, Spirit breathed,  
alive and active, your powerful life giving word.

Thank you for all who preach and proclaim the truth of your word.

Thank you for the privilege of prayer, precious communion with you.

Increase our commitment to seek your face, to seek your will.

Thank you for music, for hymns and worship songs, words  
which release us in worship and unite us as one voice.

Thank you for the fellowship of believers, bind us together in  
prayer, in faith, hope and love, in harmony and purpose.

may everything we say and do be for your glory.

Sovereign Lord, hear our prayers  
that your love for the world in sending your son will touch lives and  
hearts this Easter time bringing a response to Jesus our Saviour.  
As your Spirit gives new life may each one witness to your saving  
grace.

May the light of the glorious gospel shine in our land.

Hear our prayers for your world and all its people  
deliver us from evil, your kingdom come, your will be done.

May love overcome hatred, prejudice and indifference  
and respect for every person build bridges of goodwill.

May compassionate response to the needs of others bring blessing.

Prayers have been requested for:-

Derek + Viv, Stephanie, Janice, Amy, Trisha, Linda, Andrew, Mavis  
Julia, Rachel, Judy, Dulcie+ Neil, Kelly, Kath, Stephen + Victoria,  
William, Tom, Ken + Norman, Brian Osborne, Sarah, Petula and Bob

We pray for all who have been bereaved, comfort them in their time  
of loss, as the tears flow and grief is released, let healing come.

Give courage and strength moment by moment and assurance of your  
presence. Thank you for the hope we have in You.

We pray for all who experience health problems, physical disabilities,  
restrictions, and for their carers. In pain, to know your healing

touch. In weakness, to know your strength. Receiving treatment, to  
trust your power and authority to work for good. In confusion,

mental health problems, to know your peace in body, mind and spirit.

Waiting for test results, to be held secure and trust for your way  
forward. Recovering from surgery, for time of rest and restoring.

Thank you for the prayers of caring friends and family who individually  
and as prayer groups pray in faith believing.

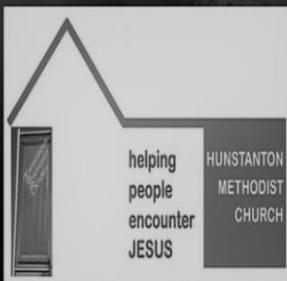
## P.U.S.H Pray Until Something Happens

Gary Pearson

JESUS IS ALIVE!

REJOICE WITH US!

Easter Sunday 21st April at 4.00p.m.



# Around the churches



## Dersingham

By the time you read this we shall be well into the period of Lent. The Lent Services in April will take place on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Mary's, Snettisham and Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's, Docking, both at 7pm. On Good Friday there will be a service at St. Nicholas Church at 10am followed by the Walk of Witness around the village, finishing at the Methodist Church for tea/coffee and hot cross buns. On Easter Sunday the morning service will be taken by Barbara Foster and then there will be an Easter Praise service at Hunstanton Methodist Church at 4pm which the Rev. Steve Oliver will lead. Our Flower Festival will take place from the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May from 10am to 4pm and on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May from 2pm to 4pm. The Service on Sunday at 10.30am will be taken by the Rev. Maurice Stafford and the Rev. Steve Oliver will lead the Songs of Praise service at 6pm. The theme this year is "Craftsmen's Art" and the proceeds will go to the Karibuni Children's charity in Kenya, which the Rev. Andrew and Helen Maguire have been supporting for some years, and to church funds. We look forward to welcoming friends from around the circuit.

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm we will be holding an evening of classical guitar music with Estavao Devides. Tickets are £7 in advance (Tel. Paul on 01485542242 or email [stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com](mailto:stewardsatdersingham@gmail.com)) or £10 on the door.

The Chickenfoot evenings which were started in 2014 by Alan and Irene Hayward have raised a considerable amount for church funds and different local and national charities. However they have become so successful that they have out-grown our premises and will be moving to St. Cecilia's Church. We thank them for what they have done and wish them continued success in their new venue.

The work on the corridor floor and wall support is complete, the corridor has been repainted, the ceiling lowered and new flooring put down. We are deeply indebted to Paul Clay for all the work he has done himself and for overseeing the contractors' work and, of course, thanks to his able assistant Jane who has helped out and cleaned up after him so that everywhere was dust-free each Sunday!

Rosemary Caink

## Feltwell

It's been a while since we last shared our Feltwell life with you all, but we have



been busy of course with Christmas, the Nativity Festival (one of the exhibits shown) and preparing for the repairs. There were 41 Nativity scenes exhibited at the festival, coming from local groups, school, cubs/scouts and individual contributors.

We had to wait for a Bat

Survey Report before we could allow contractors on site. The bats having left on their winter migration, the way is clear to begin the work, but it must be clear by the end of March when the bats are most likely to return if they decide to do so. This means our Function Hall will be closed for the month of March and activities will take place in other rooms. It will help us assess the flexibility of our premises. The Craft Group recently met with more crafters than usual and only just squeezed into their usual room. By the time you read this, we will have held our Church Council and reviewed our programme for the coming year and decided whether to hold more Halls of Stalls or create a new event for the benefit of the community. Also, whether to repeat the Festival of the Nativity in 2019 and what form it will take.

When my dad was a Methodist local preacher and subsequently Minister, he collected anecdotes and shared them. When I cleared his house, I found some of them and also feel the need to share, as they may help to lighten somebody's day. "People sometimes say the Parish magazine is a very useful, but sometimes over-serious publication. Just to show this isn't always so, here are some genuine announcements from church bulletins, (not ours)"

"Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help"

"Thursday night – Pot-Luck supper. Prayer and medication to follow"

"Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community"

"For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs".

I'll drop some more into the next edition

At our Church Council, Brigette was nominated and elected steward with pastoral responsibility. She is keen to stay in touch with our members and others who may benefit from a chat, a prayer and some support. Even just remembering their birthdays and anniversaries can make a difference. Chatting to groups and individuals who attend coffee mornings, can be a catalyst to identifying community needs. We will be expanding our coffee mornings to Saturdays to enable the working population to enjoy the facility. We hope to have a little extra event to celebrate the reopening of the hall with its new decoration. So, if you are interested, keep an eye on our page of the Circuit website or scan this QR code.



Mike Wilkinson

## St Faith's

We at St Faith's Church are well along our journey through the Season of Lent and the clergy team has arranged a number of ways in which we can focus on this important season which leads us to Holy Week and finally Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Four Lent Lunches have now been held and the next one in the Church Rooms will be on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April starting at 1pm. In the previous four lunches people have gathered for soup and bread followed by tea or coffee. After each lunch members of the clergy give a short talk under the general heading of "Spiritual Growth - stories from personal experience". The talk on 5<sup>th</sup> April is being given by Daphne Sampson and is entitled The Examen. The final talk on 12<sup>th</sup> April will be given by the Rev. Andrew Maguire on "Wisdom from the desert". All are welcome to attend these Lunches. Donations are invited for the Bishop of Lynn's Lent Appeal, supporting the Church of North India in tackling modern day slavery.

St Faith's Rector, the Rev. Julie Boyd and Curate, the Rev. Laura Purnell, have been leading a six week Lent course entitled, " Broken".

The course takes its contents from the 2017 BBC1 series, "Broken". The studies look at subjects such as abuse, prejudice, addiction, suicide, death and guilt. It is a moving and hard-hitting series and it is expected the discussions will be soul searching and, for some, may be uncomfortable. But it is hoped it will prove to be both thought-provoking and challenging. Please speak to the Revs Julie or Laura if you wish to join the remaining sessions (if places are still available).

Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> April, sees the latest in the popular St Faith's Coffee Morning and More events in the Church Rooms starting at 10am. All are welcome to come along and spend a couple of hours of fun and fellowship enjoying a lovely cup

of tea or coffee and a delicious slice of home-made cake or savoury bake. There are also a variety of charity stalls and a good raffle. If you haven't yet discovered these social get-togethers do come along; we are sure you will enjoy it.

If you enjoy crafts you may be interested in an invitation to join the Wootton Crafters, a community craft and coffee morning. The remaining sessions will be held on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> April and the 15<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30am until 12.30pm. All are welcome to these sessions held at the Scout and Guide headquarters in Station Road, North Wootton. There is a fee of £3 per person.

On 7<sup>th</sup> April, there will be an opportunity to celebrate the beginning of Passiontide with a Choral service at St Faith's at 6.30pm. The choir will sing some special anthems and this is always a moving and reflective service. The following Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April, there will be a special Family service for Palm Sunday beginning at 9.45pm. As in previous years, all those present will be handed palm crosses as we remember the triumphant ride by Jesus into Jerusalem on a donkey along a palm strewn pathway. "Ride on Ride on in Majesty....."

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April sees the start of Holy Week and on Monday and Tuesday evenings there will be sessions of Night Prayer starting at 7.30pm.

Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> starts with Stations of the Cross, an event that proved so popular last year. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 10.45am and another session of Night Prayer at 7.30pm.

At 7.30pm on the evening of Maundy Thursday there will be a service of Holy Communion.

The next morning we gather at St Faith's Church for prayer before setting off, following a large wooden cross, on the annual Walk of Witness which takes us to the Minster (St Margaret's Church) to join with other groups for a procession around the town centre. There are stops at a number of locations in the town centre when a reading is given and a hymn is sung. After arriving back at the Minster there is a final hymn and blessing followed by coffee and hot cross buns.

Back at St Faith's Church, at 2pm, there is the traditional Hour at the Cross and again, this is always a moving and reflective service as we draw closer to the glory of Easter Sunday...Jesus Christ is Risen Today...Alleluia.....

On Holy Saturday at 7.30pm there is a Taize Service in Gaywood Church Rooms.

Easter Sunday begins early with the open-air dawn Communion service starting at 6am. This service has been followed in past years with an Easter morning breakfast in the Church Rooms. There will then be an 8am Holy Communion and a 9.45am Holy Communion Service. There is an evening Easter Day service at 6.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

St Faith's Team Vicar, the Rev Karlene Kerr, has been appointed Denominational Ecumenical Officer (DEO) for Norfolk and those parts of the Waveney area around Lowestoft.

In general the new role means she will "undertake and reflect with others on the nature of the unity to which Christians are called in the light of God's purpose for the world and the Church.

"The Ecumenical Officer will be a theological resource and enabler expanding and extending the vision of Christian unity and sharing in the task of making that vision a reality"

Everyone at St Faith's congratulates the Rev Karlene on her new appointment which she will combine with her role as Team Vicar.

Richard Parr

## **Wimbotsham**

The Spring Church Council Meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> February. The good news is that the Coffee Mornings and Bible Study groups are going very well.

We have two new Church members who have decided to join us which we are very happy about. They are a great support at the coffee mornings too.

The sad news is that we have lost one of our members, Mr John Cardinal, whose funeral was held here on 21<sup>st</sup> February. Thank you to the people who came to his service from Downham Market. Ann and John Cardinal worshipped at Downham before they came to us.

We heard at the Church Council Meeting that the Wimbotsham Parish Council is still pursuing our request for a sign pointing to the Chapel. We are very grateful for their support in featuring our Chapel and activities in the "Your Wimbotsham" News Magazine.

Mary Rose

Secretary to the Church Council

## **Terrington St Clement**

We had a successful New Year Party in the chapel. Lots of quizzing, games and musical items including Helen on the violin accompanied by Andrew. A different form of Pass the Parcel organised by Sharman and activity with the Meadon family. Lots of cuppas and lovely eats!

Network: The first meeting of the year we discussed any significant happenings in the last 12 months. Next Ruth Hannay (shared not sheared) her love of sheep, with various woolly items on display.

Helen Maguire completed her account of her and Andrew's Canadian holiday, including the Rockies with lovely pictures of lakes and mountains

Our Easter Coffee Morning is on Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> 10am to 12 noon, Usual stalls, games and raffle, Hot cross buns will be served

Every Blessing Linda Howling

## Stow Bridge

I ought to have put this in the last edition; to invite everyone to come to St Peter's to see the wonderful picture of aconites growing and spreading in the Church yard. Really bright yellow petals and rich green leaves. They have been in flower now for a good few weeks and the best will be over before long.

We are in the "Yellow season" now, (as I call it) with the crocus, daffs, aconites and soon joining them the buttercups and dandelions.

I heard on Radio Norfolk of the many places we can visit to see lots of snowdrops too. And alongside the road from Narborough east towards the A47 there was a real picture of snowdrops, so many of them.

This made me think of the third day of Creation, when God created plants of all kinds and saw it was good. Yes, it was God's work and I'm sure we'll agree it is good.

Yet along the A47 alongside the road, there was rubbish of all kinds. It would have done our recycling bins a good deed! We look back and sadly some of our work is not so good. Is it fly tipping on a large scale?

We have enjoyed the warm February sunshine and we are thankful for that and for all our daily blessings. We have a new Rector in our Parish and soon will have a new Minister in the Circuit.

We were given some rose bush seeds in a proper packed parcel—no joke. The directions on the packet seem a little vague. Any help or advice please?

From us at Stow Bridge we wish you a thoughtful and happy Easter.

Peter Hewitt.

## Hilgay

On Shrove Tuesday the Guild meeting was reminding people what Shrove Tuesday is about and Ash Wednesday being the first day of Lent. At the close of Guild pancakes were served and parents with children joined us after school as well as other village people. About forty were served with pancakes and good friendly fellowship was enjoyed by all.

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March a meeting was held at Hilgay for representatives of the small village chapels in our area of the Circuit to talk together about how we can promote our churches in the villages to encourage others to join us and also ways in which we can work together to encourage one another. We ask God's blessing on this event and others to follow.

On March 27<sup>th</sup> 3pm-4:30 we hope to hold a celebration of Mothers as it is the Wednesday before Mothering Sunday. I hope to have more to report on this next time.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> the Guild speaker will be Mr Brian Bannister at 2:30pm and on April 16<sup>th</sup> the speaker will be Rev. Catherine Dixon and on 30<sup>th</sup> April we shall

hold our AGM again at 2:30pm. This will be the last session of the Wesleyan Guild until October. Thanks to all who have joined us this session and helped to make these Tuesday afternoons enjoyable especially our very willing speakers.

Shell club will meet on 13<sup>th</sup> April then on 15<sup>th</sup> of April we are holding Messy Easter 10:30 -12:00pm

At the time of writing we send greetings to members of our congregation at Hilgay who are feeling poorly, Mona and Gordon Kisby, David Driver and Emma Hartshorne. We hope you are all feeling better when you read this issue of Rejoice.

Pauline Driver.

## **Downham Market**

What weird and variable weather we do have. Last year we missed out on Spring and went straight from the Beast from the East to Summer, this year we had an early hot spell which brought all the plants and flowers on (the daffodils will be well over by Easter) then back to Winter again with low temperatures and very strong winds. I foolishly put up the gazebo for the plant stall one Saturday to get the gardening season started and of course it blew down breaking a strut which my son-in-law has thankfully been able to mend. Walking along the river bank has been hard work in the strong winds too, and with a change of companion. I now have a little Rumanian refugee (with passport) called Tapio, or Taps for short, breed very mixed. If his body were shorter or his legs longer he would be in proportion. His ears are a bit mangled, fighting in the refuge I suppose but he also has one ear completely pierced which I now understand is where a tag is put when the dogs are on sale at the meat market. I needed a dog/companion and he needed a good home and we will soon sort out any problems as he is a fast learner.

Easter nearly here again, I do think the years get shorter as you get older, and we are busy practising our Easter music for the Good Friday service at Southery which will be led by John Miles. We have been studying Luke's Gospel (caring for the poor and vulnerable) at the Start the Week Right Group and new house groups have been set up, some meeting weekly others monthly. We are all enjoying and benefiting from this time of strengthening our faith. There are so many problems in the world now and we feel so helpless to do anything when our leaders cannot come up with any solutions. All we can do is pray. I think the following sums up the cause of lots of the trouble:- People were created to be loved; things were created to be used. The world is in chaos because things are being loved and people are being used. And our bible study should help us to lead better lives as B I B L E stands for Basic instructions before leaving earth.

Where we can all help is in our pastoral work in our own Churches and in our neighbourhood. I have been particularly busy lately with several of my patch having a difficult time but we can access help. I recently found out that one lady who helps some elderly housebound folk makes good use of our excellent social centre. Having bought some freezer boxes for an elderly gentleman who had lost his wife she gets half a dozen meals at a time from the social centre to stock his freezer with food, so much more nutritious, generous in portion and less expensive than the frozen ones advertised on TV. Our coffee morning funds have helped the social centre keep going by paying some of the big bills (relaying the floor) but it is essential to keep the number of customers as high as we can to keep the centre financially viable. So do support the social centre and publicize the service to support our dedicated cooks and voluntary staff who wait on their clients hand and foot, know all their names and generally keep an eye on them.

At the Churches Together meeting the final arrangements were agreed for the Good Friday Walk of Witness which starts at St. Edmunds at 9.00 (not 9.15 as in previous years) and finishes at our Church for hot cross buns and a service at 11.00 a.m.

We had a powerful presentation from a representative from the Kairos Prison Ministry which is succeeding in turning regular offenders away from crime. The case of one prison was given where of the 600 inmates 300 were radicalising Muslims. When a new Chaplain was appointed there were ten or so inmates attending the service of worship; now there are nearly a hundred, nearly one third of the non-Muslim inmates. From not being allowed to go into prisons they now have a waiting list of prisons anxious for their help. There are three ways we can help:-

1. By prayer

2. By baking cookies which are packeted and handed to every inmate with a one line prayer wishing them the peace that the knowledge that God loves them brings. I have the recipe and these are needed twice a year 50 at a time.

3. By being a member of the team who goes into the prison for a week at a time. Training is given on 3 Saturdays and being put with an established member. Lots of the men and women who help are themselves reformed ex-offenders who can relate to what the prisoners are going through.

The success rate of non-reoffending is very high following our Lord's example of loving our enemies and doing good to those who abuse us. Certainly this is a better solution to overcrowded prisons and wasted lives than building more prisons. If you think you can help in any way Martin Taylor is our local contact on 07973 843765.

From offenders to children (we can't start too early in giving them the right values to live by. Perhaps if some of the prison population had had lots of

love, attention and early teaching their lives would have been very different) Hazel Miles reports on Messy Church. At the February Messy Church the theme was 'Self Confidence' and we thought about the story of Gideon and the need to build each other up. In March the session was called 'Dusty Drawing' and we thought about how Jesus showed kindness and forgiveness, how important friendship is and the need to be kind to others. We sang the song, 'Jesus hands were kind hands'. How many of us can remember that from our school days? We look forward to Easter with lots of lovely music and flowers, chocolate and buns. Happy Easter everyone.

Joan Macey

## **M.W.I.B. Forthcoming Events 2019.**

### Forum Meetings:

At Diss on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - 10.00am for 10.30am start.

### National M.W.I.B. Conference:

will be at Swanwick on April 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>.

The speaker is to be the Rev. Dr Val Ogden.

### Easter Offering:

15<sup>th</sup> May at London Road Methodist Church at 2.30pm.

### One Day Conference at Belsey Bridge Centre:

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, when the speaker will be Sally Anne Lomas, who is a well-known Christian Speaker and has presented Documentaries on T.V.

### Autumn District Day:

10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Chapelfield Road Church, Norwich. Speaker to be arranged.

A.G.M: 7<sup>th</sup> October at London Road Church at 2.30pm.

**DERSINGHAM METHODIST  
CHURCH  
PE31 6HP**



**FLOWER FESTIVAL**



**THEME – CRAFTSMEN’S ART**

**23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> May**

**10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**

**2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

**Books + Cakes + Cards + Gifts**

**Plants + Fair Trade products**

**Coffee + Lunches + Teas**

**Free admission**

**Sunday Service 10.30 a.m.**

**Songs of Praise 6.00 p.m.**

**Proceeds for Church Funds and  
Karibuni Children, Kenya**

## **I Love to Live**

Today, dear Lord, I'm 80 and there's much I haven't done  
I hope, dear Lord, you'll let me live until I'm 81  
But then, if I haven't finished all I want to do  
Would you please let me stay until I'm 82?  
So many places I want to go, so very much to see.  
Do you think you could manage to make it 83?  
The world is changing very fast, there is so much in store  
I'd like it very much to live until I'm 84  
And if by then I'm still alive, I'd like to stay till I'm 85!  
More planes will be in the air, so I'd really like to stick  
And see what happens to the world when I turn 86.  
I know, dear Lord, it's much to ask (and it must be nice in heaven)  
But I'd really like to stay until I'm 87.  
I know by then I won't be fast, and sometimes will be late  
But it would be so pleasant to be around at 88.  
I will have seen so many things, and had a wonderful time  
So, I'm sure I may be willing to leave at the age of 89... Maybe!  
Just one more thing I'd like to say, dear Lord, I thank you kindly  
But, if it's all the same to your, I'd love to live past 90.

*Origin unknown*

## **David Gifford**

For many years readers of Rejoice will have been kept up to date with the news from London Road by David Gifford, who faithfully submitted articles month by month. Sadly, that era has now come to an end. As many of you will already know, David was found dead at home on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019. His passing has come as a shock to so many people, and he leaves behind a great hole not just in the life of London Road but of the wider Circuit and community.

Everyone will have their own memories of David; I cannot tell all those stories, but I would like to share something of my experience. On my first day of ministry, September 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, David stood at the lectern at London Road and in that characteristic booming voice welcomed me to the church and in so doing to a whole new chapter in my life. That voice was to echo through numberless services to come. When the peace

was offered the response was never half-hearted, but a firm “and also with you”. I knew on Easter Sunday I could walk out into church and simply say “Alleluia! Christ is risen!” and would receive a ringing reply “He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”. In any responses to prayers, or in the saying of the Lord’s Prayer, his voice would be heard taking a firm and confident lead. And that spoke to me of his faith. There was no quiet, uncertain muttering. He spoke with conviction and assurance, so much so that when I was preparing his funeral the words of St Paul in his letter to the Romans came to me. For I am convinced, Paul writes, I am convinced that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. They were words that David didn’t just believe, but which he inhabited; in his faithfulness in worship; in faithfulness in service.

David served the community in many ways, always seeking to improve life for others, and he was a great servant of the church. Generations grew up under him as Sunday School Superintendent. He guided the church in his role as Senior Steward. And he took on all sorts of roles behind the scenes. I don’t think any of us know quite how much David did for the church - maintaining its life and fabric, all the details of health and safety, and enabling the hall to be widely used by the community. Indeed, it’s only as things are *not* happening at London Road what we realise quite how much he did. Sadly he didn’t do with any kind of system or order or attention to record keeping or filing! Any enquiries that came my way I simply forwarded to David, and no sooner had I done so then they were dealt with. I was at a loss to know how to sort out his funeral, because I needed David himself to book it in for me.

David loved to sing hymns and embraced the newer ones as well as the old. As I have reflected on his life of faith, the words of one of the new hymns in *Singing the Faith* came to me. It was written by John Bell of the Iona Community, and is a modern take on the hymn For All The Saints. I’m sure it will be familiar to some of you. The last verse reads as follows:

Bless all whose will or name or love  
Reflects the grace of heaven above.  
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,  
Your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

Fitting words for a good and faithful servant of Christ whose words and deeds reflected something of heaven's grace and enabled the life of God to bless our lives here. I give thanks for the support he gave me and for his generosity of time and spirit, and trust that he will now rest in peace and rise in glory.

Catherine Dixon

## N.B.



Any item for the **JUNE/JULY/AUGUST** edition should be with the editor by **MAY 12<sup>th</sup>**, earlier is good. Any received after this date will be treated as considerately as 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! (But give me till 13<sup>th</sup> to respond!!)**

**THE EDITION AFTER THAT WILL BE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER THEN NOVEMBER THEN DECEMBER/JANUARY (Unless our new Super has other ideas!)**

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# Estavao Devides

An evening of Classical Guitar  
music

7.00pm Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019

at Dersingham Methodist  
Church, Post Office Road,  
Dersingham

Doors open 6.30pm



Light refreshments served  
during the interval  
Tickets £7.00 in advance,  
£10.00 on the door

Although Lent is now nearly over maybe there's still time to  
take this on board.

**Abstinence**

Today I'll give up grumbling and complaining,  
Instead I'll be thankful for all that I have.

Today I'll quit worrying about the 'if onlys' and 'what ifs' of my life,  
Instead I'll trust that God knows and cares for even me.

Today I'll stop criticizing all those around me,  
Instead I'll take a good, long look at my own faults.

Today I'll refuse to use the words 'I'm bored!'  
Instead I'll be grateful for a brain, and for education, and for every  
opportunity to learn.

Today I'll give up speaking unkindly and negatively,  
Instead I'll make an effort to use positive words and to be an  
encourager.

Today I'll abstain from my mobile phone, my computer, my DVD player  
and all e-mails,  
Instead I'll practise the art of talking to my family and my friends,

... or I might just eat chocolate!

Thanks to Sylvia for this.

An excerpt from Jurgen Moltmann's book The Open Church

Where Jesus is, there is life. There is abundant life, vigorous life, loved life and eternal life. There is life before death. ....

I do not dispute that others find the courage for life and the power for suffering elsewhere. But for me this courage and power come again and again when I behold the picture of Christ. His passion for life led him to suffering on the cross. It is his passion and his suffering that the passion of God becomes clear to me and it is from God's passion that I receive the power to resist death. The God about whom people spoke from experience in the Old and New Testaments, however is no cold, silent, heavenly power that sits self-sufficiently upon the throne and scatters gracious alms among his subjects. He displays a great passion for creation, for human beings and for the future. Therefore according to the Old Testament, he established a marriage – like covenant with the people. And so he became vulnerable in his love. When Israel turned away from him and fell into the hands of idols he suffered because of his passion for Israel's freedom. So he accompanied Israel on the way of suffering into exile. If we were to live in a covenant with this passionate God we would not be apathetic. Our whole life would be shaped by compassion. We would suffer with God's suffering and rejoice with God's rejoicing over the world. The centre of the New Testament is the history of the passion of Christ. What is there about this life of Jesus that makes it speak to us again and again. I believe it is not one or other of the miracle stories. Jesus's life is inspired not just by the wish for life after death, but by the will for life before death. Where the sick are healed, lepers are accepted, and sins are not punished but forgiven, there life is present. Freed life, redeemed life, divine life is there in this world, in our times, in the midst of us.

Where Jesus is, there is life. The basic characteristic of the life of Jesus is this becoming human, becoming flesh, his healing of life, accepting of the oppressed and making alive the frozen relationships between human beings.

He who would keep his life will lose it and is already losing it. He who however risks his life and surrenders it will gain it and is gaining it already. To give up one's life means to go out of oneself, to love, to expose oneself and to spend oneself. In this passionate renunciation one's whole life becomes alive because it makes other life alive. If we live our lives in love we gain life though we lose it physically.

If we take our bearings from the passion of Christ we are led out of death – before life and into life - before death and our world is preserved against collapse into apathy.

Maurice



Two hedgehogs were sitting at the side of the road. One said,  
"Shall we cross now?"

"No way," said the other hedgehog. "Look at what happened to  
the zebra!"

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Downham Market Methodist Church

# Serenata

Female Voices

## It's Showtime

An afternoon of songs from the silver  
screen

Tickets £10 including refreshments

Available from [www.serenata](http://www.serenata)

[femalevoices.co.uk](http://femalevoices.co.uk) or 01223 892001

Methodist Church,  
Wesley Road, Terrington St. Clement.  
**Concert of light classical music  
on piano and violin with some  
piano and clarinet duets  
too**



Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 3.30 pm—5pm  
Admission free and donations are  
invited for Alzheimer's Society. All  
are very welcome.



## Circuit Mission Accounts 2017/18

The Mission Accounts have all now been audited. A big thankyou to all who gave and all in the churches who take on the responsibility of sending them in to me so that I can forward them to Methodist House. Amounts sent in this year as listed.

The World Mission Fund	-	£3029.61
Easter Offering Total	-	£1057.06
The Mission in Britain Fund	-	£ 787.34
The Fund for the Support of ) Presbyters and Deacons )	-	£ 245.00

**This year's Easter Offering Service** is titled:- 'Longer Tables Lower Fences'

The theme was inspired by these words:

'When you have more than you need, build a longer table, not a higher fence'.

As an act of worship it provides an opportunity to hear stories of people throughout the world who are responding to God's call to show radical hospitality and outrageous generosity. Sharing these stories, we pray for the grace and humility to share what we have been given, to extend our welcome to others and to break down the barriers that so often divide us. It has been written mainly by Anne Browse, President of MWiB 2015-2017 and a local preacher in the Tiverton and Wellington Circuit.

**Our Service will be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2.30 pm at London Road Methodist Church in King's Lynn. The Speaker will be Rev. Catherine Dixon.**

All are welcome. It is a Service for everyone – not just 'the ladies' and not just those who belong to Methodist Women in Britain but for the whole of the Circuit.

Refreshments and fellowship after the Service.

**Circuit Service**  
**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019**  
**Hunstanton Methodist Church at**  
**3pm.**  
**Theme - a celebration of God's**  
**calling of His people for Mission and**  
**Worship**

christian  
aid

# CEILIDH

To raise money for Christian Aid

with

## The Rusty Relics

Saturday, 22nd June, 7pm - 11pm

St Faith's Church Rooms, Gaywood



### Tickets

#### **In advance**

**Adult £8.50**

**Family ticket (2 adults & 2 children) £22 Child £5**

#### **On the door**

**Adult £10 Family ticket £25 Child £5**

Tickets will be available from Easter

The Minster Office Tel.01553 767090

Mon-Fri (9.30am-12.30pm)

St Faith's Church Office Tel. 01553 774916

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, (9am-noon)

**Ticket includes refreshments.**

*Please bring your own drinks*

## **Connie Cleps - 5th February, 1940 - 1st January, 2019.**

Connie, with her husband, Alan, jointly edited St Faith's parish magazine, sister publication to Rejoice!

Love of God and of people were two important aspects of the life of Connie Cleps that were highlighted during the celebration and thanksgiving service for her life. Connie had died at the Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House following a short illness. Her coffin, which was draped with her own Scottish tartan, reflecting her Scottish ancestry linked to the Ciags clan, was led in and out of church by the RAFA (Royal Air Force Association) Standard carried by Mike Ranger. Connie was always very proud of her Scottish ancestry.

Alan, who always referred to his wife Connie as his "sweetheart", very much wanted the service to be one of celebration for her life. Before the service began, he invited the congregation to join in with applause which they did with enthusiasm.

Connie loved people and she loved nothing better than spending time with people in a supportive environment.

God loved Connie and she will be held in his ever loving arms of love and she always will be. The same everlasting arms of love surrounding Connie are open to all of us, in life, in death, in life everlasting.

Jesus was talking to a group of ministers and preachers - he said to them, "The trouble is you use scripture to understand love. I used love to understand scripture"

**Terrington St. Clement**  
**EASTER COFFEE MORNING**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 10 a.m — 12 noon**  
**Coffee, cakes, raffle, games, bric-a-brac, plants and gifts.**  
**All are very welcome.**

# **West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary**

## **APRIL 2019 onwards**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 10 am Coffee Morning at Terrington St Clement

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 4pm Serenata at Downham Market

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 3.30 pm—5pm Concert at Terrington St Clement

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Saturday) 10.15 am Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac at Wimbotsham

Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> Easter Offering Service at London Road

Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> Belsey Bridge MWiB Conference

Thursday/Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> Dersingham Flower Festival

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 11 am Morning service at Wimbotsham celebrating the Chapel's 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, followed by a Bring and Share lunch.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June Christian Aid Ceilidh 7-11 at St Faith's

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm. Circuit Farewell for Andrew Maguire, Catherine Dixon and Irene Tafirenyika - at the Church Rooms, Gaywood

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 7pm. Circuit Welcome Service for the Revd Robert Roberts as Superintendent Minister - at London Road

Wednesday October 10<sup>th</sup> MWiB Autumn District Day at Chapelfield Church Norwich

