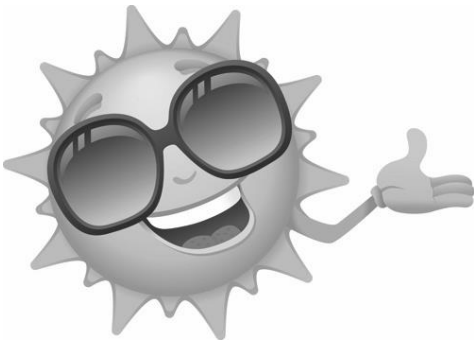


Rejoice!

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2019



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

Dear Friends,

As I settle down to write this letter it seems almost unbelievable that it is the final time that I will write in this way for “Rejoice” and that Helen and I have now been in the West Norfolk Circuit for nearly 7 years. When we moved from the North Herts Circuit in August 2012 I had it in mind that I would very likely sit down in August 2019, after 38 years in Circuit ministry. At that time 2019 seemed a long way off. But the weeks, the months and the years have simply flown by and now August does not seem very far off at all.

I began my ministry as a Probationer in the then Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Circuit (now Norfolk Broads) right over on the Eastern side of Norfolk. I conclude my ministry in the far West of Norfolk. There is symmetry to beginning and ending on different sides of the same county, but I have served in other places in the intervening years: in Crystal Palace, in Bristol and in North Herts - five Circuits in all. For more than half of those 38 years I have been the Superintendent Minister. I have seen many changes in the approach to ministry and what is expected of a minister, but I remain convinced that I would not have spent my active working years differently. In spite of the pressures involved in ministry these days it remains a joy and a privilege to be a minister with oversight of our Methodist Societies and to lead our people in worship, mission and service in our towns and villages.

Helen and I look back with many fond memories of people who have welcomed us so warmly over the years and who have shared with us in seeking to serve Christ. Since 12 years of my ministry will have been spent in Norfolk we have a soft spot for the area, particularly as Helen spent her childhood years in Norwich, and we were married in Norwich, at Heartsease Lane Methodist Church. The people are friendly, we love the charm of the Norfolk accent, and there is a great variety of contexts: rural, seaside, city, town and village. We are even moving on with the county on a bit of a high as Norwich are promoted to the Premier League. Well, we won't be too far from Norfolk – just a little over the boundary into Cambridgeshire.

We would like to say a big “thank you” for all the support we have received. There have been joyful times and some challenging times too for the churches during my years here, but the good Lord has been with us as together we have faithfully sought to serve Him. There is a good

spirit in the Circuit, a wonderful sense of commitment to our different causes and also a sense of readiness to support each other. I am sure that you will make the Rev. Robert Roberts very welcome as he takes up his ministry here as superintendent in September. His wife, Debbie, will be serving as a minister in the Fens Circuit. I am sure too you that you will offer warm support to somebody you may well know already, the Rev. Jackie Goddard as she serves as minister in Clenchwarton and Terrington St Clement.

Of course, there are actually three of the staff moving on from the Circuit this August: myself, Catherine and Irene. The farewell for us all will be at the St Faith's Church Rooms, Gaywood on Saturday 20th July at 3pm. The welcome service for Robert and Jackie will be at London Road on Monday 2nd September at 7pm.

"We'll praise him for all that is past and trust him for all that's to come."
Andrew

Andrew has written everything in his final letter, but I would like to add my thanks for all the interest you have shown when Andrew and I have talked about Kenya and for the wonderful support of these two charities at my various fundraising events. Having visited Kenya three times now, I have seen first-hand the way 'Peacemakers' International' and 'Karibuni Children' are showing God's love, through helping the poorest and most vulnerable of Kenyans to access education and health treatment, as well as supporting schools and people in the community. Thank you very much for your prayers, your help and your love shown during our seven years in this Circuit. From the hymn 'I, the Lord of sea and sky' by Daniel L Schutte very slightly adapted!
"We will hold your people in our hearts".
With love and God's Blessings from Helen.

And our love and God's blessings to you both as you enter the next phase of your life.

Praying together in the Circuit

Acts 1: 8

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Emmanuel, God with us, Holy Spirit indwelling us, empowering us.

We celebrate Pentecost and the birth of your church.

As we celebrate, pour out your Spirit afresh upon us
renew us in love and purpose.

We pray for:-

The Circuit Service at Hunstanton on 15th June

'A celebration of God's calling of His people for Mission and Worship'
May Your presence with us increase our desire to be open to you and
to your will. May we respond to you in worship and praise and go
forward to the new things you have for us as individuals and
collectively, engaged in Your Mission, enabled by your Spirit.

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal
covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great
shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his
will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus
Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Heb. 13: 20-21

We give thanks for

Rev. Andrew, Superintendent Minister, for his ministry and for Helen
and pray for them as Andrew steps down from full time ministry.

For Rev. Catherine, bless her and your plans for her.

We pray for Deacon Irene and her family.

Lord, for all who are preparing to enter a new phase of ministry, go
before them, enfold them in your peace and the assurance that those
you call you will also equip.

As we prepare for the new Methodist year in September we pray for Rev. Robert Roberts Superintendent minister and for his wife who will be serving in the Fens Circuit.

For Rev. Jackie Goddard joining in Circuit ministry.

Our Ministry Team, our Circuit leadership team, all who serve you faithfully in response to your calling. We pray for your guidance for every decision which has to be made at this time of change.

Lord we pray for 'Celebrate King's Lynn' in the Walks on Saturday 8th June, for all involved in providing the activities throughout the day. Draw people to this event. May it be a special time for them, a time of 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.

We remember friends and family of Gordon Kisby. And also Wendy Key and her family.

Having recently been in hospital for a hip operation, unsteady on my feet, the most reassuring phrase I could hear was, "I've got you." He's "got us", won't let us fall.

Different tack, reading article on forensic science; it said, "Every contact leaves a trace." Likewise every time we meet someone, be it with a smile or a grumpy manner, it leaves a trace.

In 2018 Maurice led a Lent study group, a writing of Richard Byrne (?). the phrase I gleaned from that was "stringing pearls." I interpret that as looking for good, the best in every situation,; "Stringing pearls". Many thanks to everyone for enquiries, visits, magazines etc.. they were much appreciated and helped wile away the tedious hours.

Every blessing.

Pat Benefer

Around the churches



Downham Market

Ladies Friendship Circle.

Our April meetings, a music evening with Meg and Jan, then a quiz evening with Margaret and Ruby went well and were well attended

The June 12th meeting is a Talk on Trues Yard

June 26th AGM

July 10th Entertainment by Jammers Country and Western Group

July 24th Summer Tea Party with a Pretty Decorated Hat competition.

This is the last meeting before we have a summer break. We restart in early September.

We welcome any new members.

Margaret Fox

Church Anniversary Services

Downham Market will be holding its Church Anniversary on Sunday 14th July, when the preachers will be Rev. Philip and Rev. Catherine Wagstaff. Philip was a Probationary Minister in the old Downham Circuit.

In addition to the morning service, there will also be an evening service. This will enable friends from other churches in the former Downham Circuit to share in worship with them and also renew their friendship.

Our weird and changeable weather continues. After the strong winds came freezing April showers in the form of hail stones with below average temperatures. Now it is a little warmer but with so much rain, which we desperately need. The paths along the river bank still have deep cracks where the mud has dried out and tractors are regularly pulling water sprays in the fields, so the farmers must be pleased with the deluge we have had although it probably is not enough to refill all the underground supplies. The river bank is looking beautiful in white and yellow with Queen Anne's lace (cow parsley), blackthorn blossom (sloe bushes), cowslips and the invasive dandelions. My own potted plants stored in my garden and at Church have put on a lot of growth and some flowers with the warmth and rain and I have been very busy

on Saturday mornings helping first time gardeners decide what to buy and where to put it. There are also those who just stop for a chat and when I mention the delights of our coffee mornings, they succumb to homemade cakes, bargain books and bric a brac as well as enjoying the fellowship in the social centre.

Our Church premises are always buzzing with thirty-two organisations meeting there from the purely recreational like the bridge and bowls clubs, art classes, Downham Singers with weekly practices and two concerts in the Church to the healthcare Tai Chi and Keep Fit classes and a dementia group. BOC Pulmonary care nurses also hold sessions and the One to One group (a form of Citizens Advice Bureau) are there once a week. All these lettings help to pay for the general upkeep of our premises as well as the 'household' bills. We also have dedicated volunteer gardeners keeping the approach to our buildings so beautiful as well as their care for nature in feeding the birds, attracting the butterflies and making the Memorial Garden a peaceful haven with frogs. Could do without the snails but I suppose they supply the thrushes with breakfast. Talking of our lovely grounds, we are planning a garden party on Saturday 22nd June from 2.00 to 5.00 which we hope will be in the grounds (prayers for good weather please) There will be fun and games for all the family including a show by Crazy Bananas, refreshments and cream teas and lots of stalls. Do get the date in your diary now.

Moving to Churches Together in Downham, the Walk of Witness was very well supported and we enjoyed fellowship, hot drinks and hot cross buns at our church before the 11.00 service. We are planning the Stow Picnic Service on 28th July at 11.00. After the service comes the picnic time; bring your own picnic and some chairs if possible. Lady Rose kindly opens the grounds for folk to wander around but as I am always on holiday with my family on this date I have not been able to take advantage of this opportunity to see the gardens and I am green with envy when I hear that sometimes there are plants for sale. I am assured that, so far, the weather has always been good for this service so enjoy.

Now we look forward to the summer holidays with perhaps a cessation from our usual routine. They say a change is as good as a rest, and certainly most things are more enjoyable after a break from them, so enjoy the Summer.

Joan Macey

Terrington St Clement

We will be celebrating the Chapel Anniversary on the 22nd and 23rd of June. There will be stalls and a lunch on the Saturday.

Linda Howling

Hunstanton

HELLO from everyone at HMC.

It has been some time since we last sent a report to Rejoice, but now is the time to put this right.

Our life and ministry here are guided by our Mission Statement:

Helping others encounter JESUS.

With potentially different staffing across the Circuit in the future and to enable us to maintain our focus, the leadership team had an Away Day back in November for prayer and reflection to consider the questions: Where we are now? Where do we need to be? How do we get there? What are our plans? It proved to be a profitable day.

This was followed up later with Rev Steve's challenge for Lent to pray for 10 minutes a day for church growth and renewal. This fostered quite some discussion as we took this challenge seriously.

Bible Study with Rev. Steve on alternate Mondays at 7.00 p.m., continues to grow. It is pleasing to say that we are getting around 10 – 12 people at these meetings.

The life of the church is supported in prayer through 'Coffee with God' which takes place on Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m – which is a time to listen to God and pray to energize the church, and on the 3rd Wednesday of the month we have midweek communion at 10.00 a.m. These Wednesday morning activities are also supported by members of other churches in the area enriching prayer for the locality.

We continue in our support of MHA Dementia Care as our home-based project and The Friends of Nakwero (Uganda), as our overseas project.

We look forward to times of celebration over the next couple of months:

Sunday 26th May at 10.30a.m: Guest Speaker – John Church, from friends of Nakwero reporting on his recent visit to the project.

The weekend of 8th/9th June: Celebrating Pentecost with guest speaker, Ian Coffey, Vice Principal Moorlands College. Ian will be speaking Saturday and Sunday. Further details will be circulated separately.

Saturday 15th June at 3.00p.m: A Celebration of God's calling of his people for Mission and Worship. This a Circuit event.

Other regular activities enable engagement with the local community:

Carpet bowls take place on Monday and Friday at 2.00 p.m. Tuesday afternoons we have Time 4A Yarn at 2.00 p.m. and at 2.30 p.m on the 3rd Tuesday, 'Tea with Tails'. A community lunch is served by Church volunteers on the 1st Thursday of the month when approx. 40 people sit down to a hot lunch. As the weather gets warmer we are now getting visitors most Sundays, it's lovely to meet with both old and new friends on Sunday mornings. If you feel

the need for some 'Sunny Hunny' hospitality - we would love to see you.

Pat Sharman and Julia Warnes

Hilgay

Our Guild meetings have now finished until October 8th. This session has been a long one, Fifteen fortnightly meetings and fortunately none cancelled because of bad weather. We are very grateful to all our speakers, whose subjects ranged from flower arranging to holidays, devotional and even tax, care and toyboys.

We are sorry that Rev. David Simpson and Rev. Catherine Dixon were too poorly to attend as speakers but we are pleased that David is much better now and send Catherine our best wishes.

Anyone wishing to join us in October will be made very welcome. We meet fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30pm October to Easter.

On June 9th we shall celebrate our Chapel anniversary when the service will be led by Deacon Janet Stafford.. This will be a special celebration as it is also Pentecost.

On Saturday 27th July (Norfolk Day) we shall hold a Coffee morning to raise money for Tapping House Hospice in memory of Gwen Dearsley. Gwen used to enjoy worshipping with us while she was well . She spent her last few weeks at Tapping House. The Coffee Morning will be from 10:30 -12:00 noon. All welcome.

Pauline Driver.

Stanhoe

We continue to meet for worship on alternate Sundays, sharing our services with the Burnham Market congregation - an arrangement made possible thanks to our regular drivers, John Loose, (who is also our organist), and Willie Shackcloth. We are very grateful to them both.

On Good Friday morning, we were delighted to welcome back the pilgrims from the Student Cross organisation, who had walked from Leicester over the preceding week, carrying a heavy cross, and witnessing for Jesus with their songs and hymns and their amazingly cheerful demeanour.

As it was such a lovely day, we set up the refreshment table outside the church, and hot cross buns and cheese scones were seized upon and consumed by the walkers, before we shared a short time of worship, which included an address from Sheila Johnson, who spoke on the words: "It is finished," and a testimony from one of the pilgrims - and hymn singing. It is always very moving to have the church full and to hear the voices, young and old, filling our small space - and chiming in with harmonies and descants.

We waved goodbye to our friends as they set off to walk to Walsingham, where they were due that evening and, after a quick clear up, prepared the church for our afternoon service, one of quiet contemplation, conducted by Rev. Steve Oliver.

On Easter Sunday, we shared our morning worship at Burnham Market Methodist Church. Unfortunately, one of Burnham Market's elderly members, Cliff Andrews, tripped and fell as he came into church, cutting his head. An ambulance was called, and we were able to continue the service, while two of the men stayed outside with Cliff. He was treated in the ambulance by paramedics and by the end of the service was pronounced by them fit to return home. Easter eggs were distributed at the end of the service, including to the ambulance men. I'm pleased to report that Cliff suffered no lasting damage.

We continue to enjoy our joint Bible Study sessions on alternate Mondays, (thank to Rev. Steve) and are currently studying the Apostles of Jesus.

Elizabeth MacLeod

Wimbotsham

How wonderful it is to see a Church working in harmony. How lovely to stand and welcome people to our services Sunday by Sunday! Walking in and being with the family, it gladdens an old man's heart.

I wax lyrical when I say it's like beacons of light all around but we believe and know how God is working in our little Chapel. We see prayer being answered. How good He is to us! He has brought us new faces, new life.

Our gatherings at our Bible Study/Fellowship every other Tuesday are thriving. We are learning from each other.. and there is tea/coffee and biscuits too.

The Coffee Morning once a month is steadily gathering momentum with "out of this world" sponges, cakes and biscuits lovingly made by our ladies. It's been good to see so many different people calling in for a chat and a coffee.

We even provide a couple of daily papers so they can sit and have a read.

We have so many different things happening. We have just purchased a new organ. It was lovely how our two organs sorted everything out for us ... one minute two organs not working properly .. now one new beautiful little instrument. Our thanks for them and all the music.

Our present Chapel was built in 1874 and on the 1st and 2nd of June we are celebrating its 145th Anniversary. The Chapel will be open on Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm with a display of arts and crafts together with photos, registers and histories of the Chapel and the village in bygone days. We are looking forward to Rev. Stephen Oliver taking our service at 11 am on Sunday, which will be followed by a light lunch.

How good it is to see God breathing new life into our gatherings, opening our eyes to new things, sharing a love that only He can give. Praise the Lord!

“The Rambler” Mick Banks

Dersingham

Our Easter Sunday service again included a visit from the Wisbech scouts who were camping at Wolferton for the weekend. Barbara Foster took the service and we sang favourite old Easter hymns and were introduced to new modern Easter hymns with thought provoking words. Chocolate eggs were broken and shared around and then the scouts gave out cards which they had coloured in to the congregation. It certainly was a happy Easter service. Later that week we enjoyed an evening of classical guitar when Estavao Devides from Brazil entertained us with a programme of guitar music, some of it familiar and some of it new to us. It was a delightful evening.

When you read this our Flower Festival will be over, but at the moment preparations are well under way. We hope to raise money for the Karibuni Children’s charity in Kenya which the Rev. Andrew and Helen Maguire have been supporting for some time, as well as for our church funds. The collection on Sunday will be going to the Ocean Stars Trust in Sri Lanka, a charity started after the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004 in a small way by a Sri Lankan member of Fleet Methodist Church in Hampshire. From small beginnings great things have been done and they have moved on from their initial aim of rebuilding shattered lives to ‘Empowering children in Sri Lanka’ by, amongst many other things, establishing pre-schools, paying teachers and continuing a range of child sponsorships.

The usual activities at the church continue on into the summer. The next Coffee Morning is on Saturday 27th July which will be in aid of Missions in Britain and World Missions.

Rosemary Caink

Feltwell

Sometimes it’s a challenge knowing what to share with all you readers of our Rejoice magazine. This reflects, to some degree, my thoughts on, for example, morning worship. Do we do it that way because we have always done so, it’s expected? Or do we wait and see what God puts into our heads, a bit like when God touched Jeremiah’s mouth and put His words into his mouth (Jeremiah 1 v 9), (one of my favourite passages)?

It’s amazing, when, in times of difficulty, things just work out. Actually, they don’t. It’s God working in our lives, and I usually remember to thank Him, on the spot, and that’s often when I’m in my garage/workshop wondering how I’m

going to complete a task, or what tool or device I can use to achieve something, and He puts it in my hand.

However, back to FMC. We have a newly decorated hall and our user groups are enjoying our bright sunshine colours. For those of you who know our hall, the old stage curtains and hanging wire have gone and a new timber head facia are in place. All we need now are a new rail and curtains, more efficient lighting, heating, and, hopefully some double glazing to make the heating more effective. I haven't added a photo as you wouldn't appreciate the colour. For that you'll have to visit us.

Our plans to start a Saturday morning event kicked off on 18th May, when we made available, activities for children, magazines and information leaflets, people with whom to chat. Oh, and of course, drinks and biscuits! Our Thursday Elevenzes continues to supply the community with cakes, thanks to Jean's enthusiasm for baking, and other confectionary contributors, like, Brigitte, Mavis, Ann and Marion.

Feltwell Parish will be holding its first carnival and fete, of recent years, on 15th June, and we could not possibly have missed the opportunity to promote Feltwell Methodists. So, we are having a stall on which we will have a bagatelle competition and another game running during the fete on the playing fields in Paynes Lane. We will also have flyers and information showing the community what we have to offer. I've just had another birthday celebration and received a book called "Welcome to The Old Timers' Club". It's a great laugh and 'pick-me-up'.

1 "What do gardeners do when they retire?"

2 **Bob:** What are you doing today?

Arnold: Nothing

Bob: But you did that yesterday.

Arnold: I haven't finished.

So, if you are interested, keep an eye on our page of the Circuit website or scan this QR code.



Mike Wilkinson.

Stow Bridge

Snakes and Ladders

Not only did the snakes and ladders on the board look different, they thought differently too. While the snakes were always hoping that the counters would come sliding down them the ladders did their best to encourage them to climb up. Every time a counter landed on a snake's head they wriggled their bodies in delight.

"He's back to where he started," said the snake in a pleased voice to the ladder on the next square.

“Yes,” replied the ladder quietly, “but that doesn’t bother me in the least. Even if all the snakes in the world got together they could never win at this game. You see even if you always drag the counter, no matter how many times a player slides down your slippery body he has only to try again to receive another chance to use me and start his counter climbing again.”

If we truly want to try again God will always forgive us and give us another chance to start climbing.

Peter Hewitt

St Faith's

The untold stories of their ancestors have reduced some of our famous personalities to tears - including broadcaster Jeremy Paxman.

Now the man who created the hugely popular TV programme, Who Do You Think You Are? is coming to King's Lynn.

Award-winning Alex Graham is to give an illustrated talk about the programme which has revealed long-hidden secrets in the family history of some of the country's most famous faces.

The Talk, on 28th September in Gaywood Church Rooms, starting at 7.30pm, is entitled : "Making Jeremy Paxman Cry - the story behind Who Do You Think You Are?"

Alex Graham is the founder of the Wall to Wall TV production company that is also responsible for popular TV programmes such as New Tricks and Long Lost Family.

The talk is being given as a fund-raising event in aid of St Faith's Church Bungalow re-development Project.

Together with church communities throughout Norfolk and Waveney, everyone at St Faith's Church has been delighted to hear the news that a new Bishop of Norwich has been appointed.

The Rt Rev Graham Usher is to become the 72nd Bishop of Norwich to succeed the Rt Rev. Graham James who retired at the end of last year after almost 20 years in the role.

Currently the Bishop of Dudley, Bishop Graham Ushe, 48, is due to be enthroned as Lord Bishop of Norwich at Norwich Cathedral in late Autumn this year.

It will be to Norwich Cathedral that members of St Faith's will be heading at the end of June to support curate the Rev. Laura Purnell when she is among clergy who are to be Ordained as priest at the Petertide Ordinations. The service is on June 29th at 2.30pm and is an important milestone in the Rev. Laura's ministry.

Laura joined the ministry team at St Faith's last summer following her priesting at Norwich Cathedral and since then her and her husband, Martin, a Lay Reader, have become popular figures at St Faith's. Please keep Laura, together with Martin, in your prayers as she takes this important step in her ministry.

One of the big social events this summer at St Faith's will be a Ceilidh (Barn Dance) with music by the Norwich-based Rusty Relics in aid of Christian Aid. The evening is being held on Saturday, June 22nd, starting at 7pm and ticket details are available by contacting the St Faith's Church office on 01553 774916 or the Lynn Minster office on 01553 767090. The ticket includes refreshments and those attending are invited to bring their own drinks. There will be a raffle with good prizes.

June at St Faith's Church also means the annual summer Garden Fete and this will be held on Saturday, June 15th, with doors opening at 2pm. There will be a colourful assortment of stalls and sideshows set up in Gaywood Church Rooms as well as a selection of additional stalls outside (weather allowing). These stalls and activities, mainly for children, in the garden in front of the church will continue for a further hour after the main fete ends at 4pm. Everyone is welcome to come along to the Fete and share in the fun and fellowship that it offers. Admission is free. All proceeds are to be used for the general on-going upkeep of St Faith's Church.

A new venture for people with Dementia and their carers, is being launched at Gaywood Church Rooms and will be each Wednesday afternoon starting at 2.30pm. People are invited to drop-in for a chat, friendship, support and a cup of tea.

More information about the new group is available by contacting Penny on 07796123680 or the Rector of Gaywood, the Rev Julie Boyd on 01553 770952.

Richard Parr

We hope your health is improving.

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

Autumn District Day;

10th October 2019 at Chapelfield Road Church, Norwich. Speaker to be arranged.

A.G.M; 7th October at London Road Church at 2.30pm.

Fatigue/Insomnia

Pure fatigue is
A nasty thing
It stops the brain
From functioning

It too prevents
Ways of thinking
And ways of life
Even singing

Fatigue is rife
Preventing sleep
The whole night through---
And sleeping deep.

Sue





Coffee Morning



140 Stow Road

Magdalen

In aid of MWiB President's Charity

Bees and Beds

Tuesday August 6th 10am

Raffle. Bring and Buy



Circuit Service

Saturday 15th June 2019

Hunstanton Methodist Church at 3pm.

Theme - a celebration of God's calling of

His people for Mission and Worship

Life

I wonder, as I sit here –waiting, who you are? looking sad and sitting still.

The concourse is busy, but you sit patiently, your case at your feet.

Is someone coming for you? Or are you on a journey too?

Life is a journey and yours looks long, but time is kind.

Your face is smooth, your hair is perfect although now it is white.

There is a man sitting next to you, are you together?

Aah, you move, as you look to see the platform number.

Now you are leaving and with the man!

Hope your journey continues safely and makes you smile.

Jan Jarvis

ACTION FOR CHILDREN STEP OUT 2019

When: Saturday 13th July

Start: Downham Market Methodist Church; 10.00 a.m.

Distance: 3.5 miles

Town and around with historic interest

Dogs welcome on a lead; refreshment facilities & toilets

Good shoes required with wellies if wet.

Parking at the church.

Come and join us for this year's sponsored walk, and raise money for 'Action for Children.' It's great fun and you might learn something new!

More information from John and Hazel Miles: **01366 385772**

ACTION FOR CHILDREN celebrates 150 years

The first “Children's Home”, a renovated stable in Waterloo, London, was founded by Methodist minister the Rev. Thomas Bowman Stephenson, who had been moved by the plight of children living on the streets of London.

The first two boys were admitted on July 9th 1869. In 1871 the home was moved to Bonner Road, Bethnal Green and girls were admitted. The home was approved by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference in the same year. A year later a second home opened in Edgeworth, Lancashire.

The homes were divided into small family units run by a “house mother” and “house father”. A childcare course was set up in 1878 and graduates of this programme – who were called Sisters of The Children – went on to work in the Home.

In 1994, the charity changed its name to “NCH Action for Children”. Fourteen years later, in September 2008, it became “Action for Children”. The changes reflect a shift away from providing children's homes to a wider range of services meeting needs as they arise.

“Currently there are an estimated 140,000 children whose needs cannot be met by mainstream schools, health workers or other services and are also ineligible for social care support. It is children such as these that A for C tries to help before they reach crisis point. But with funding for children's centres cut by nearly 50 per cent we need to campaign for the money we need” (Julie Bentley CEO).

Can your church help in this 150th year by holding a fund raising/awareness event to support this work?

Sheila Forth

Q: What did one D.N.A. say to the other?

A: Do these genes make me look fat?

YOUTH WORK OF OLD

In his interesting article 'Addressing the Increase in knife crime' (Methodist Recorder 22nd March 2019) Nigel Cowgill commented: "Throughout my ministry I have seen community centres and youth centres being closed because grants have been slashed to a minimum and they cannot afford to open their doors." He could have added that churches' youth clubs are few and far between.

I go back to the days when MAYC (the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs) was the largest youth organisation in the country, and this was reflected in the amount of youth work in my ministry. For one thing, nearly every church had its Sunday School. My diary was quite full with youth weeks, Young People's Sunday, Promotion Sunday, youth councils, Sunday School teachers meetings, anniversaries, outings and parties and prizegivings, and Scripture Exams.

In the 1960s I was in the King's Lynn Circuit where we had 24 churches, over 600 members and no fewer than 800 children and young people. In addition we had 4 large senior youth clubs. Mine had 70 members, many of them Teddy Boys in their Edwardian fashions. I got to know most of them. I was under no illusion that many of them had a flick knife in their pocket. The other groups were Mods and Rockers, bitter enemies distinguished by the kind of motorcycles they rode. I got letters of complaint from the local people about the motor bike noise.

One night when I heard a commotion outside, I went and found that one of them had another on the floor and was kicking him with winkle picker shoes. Visiting his home the next day, I found him very penitent and he came from a good family. I promised to go to the magistrates' court to plead that no action should be taken as we were in touch with him in the church. In another youth club a colleague had an ugly incident when knives were fetched out threateningly.

In 1960 we had a remarkable mission when the whole of Cliff College, staff, evangelists and students, descended upon the town. At that time the town was quite peaceful until turning -out time, when there was a lot of violent behaviour. The missionaries went out bravely to confront a gang of young people who drew their knives at them. The students felt that if they could get to the gang leader the others would follow suit. He was a violent character whom we will call George. They persuaded

him to come into the schoolroom for coffee, but that was as far as they got with him.

There was an interesting sequel to this. Some months later, a local preacher in one of the villages telephoned me in great distress. His daughter, an attractive High School girl whom we will call Jean, had become pregnant. The culprit was none other than George.

I went to see him and found he was very penitent and resolved to stand by Jean. The chapel people were marvellous and accepted him in their midst. I was very moved when at the covenant service he held out his hand and received the bread and wine. Unfortunately the police had not yet finished with him and summoned him for a previous case of affray. So once again I found myself going to the magistrates' court, to plead that no action should be taken against him. I also wrote to the assizes and managed to persuade them not to take proceedings against him for having sex with a minor.

In those days, extramarital childbirth was regarded as something dreadful, so to get Jean away from prying eyes and gossiping tongues we arranged for her to have the baby in a mother and baby home in Holborn. I was very touched when the couple stopped at the manse to say goodbye to me on their way to the station. In due course I christened the baby boy and when Jean was old enough I married the couple.

The boy later became a high ranking officer in the British army. George and Jean enjoyed a stable and happy family life, and I have had a Christmas card from them every year since.

I am reminded of an old army saying when we were called upon to do something out of the ordinary: "The things we do for England."

John Garfoot, dictated to Raymond.

Thank you Raymond.

The Immigrants' Creed

This inspiring reflection was shared at the Churches Together in Rome service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

I believe in Almighty God,
who guided the people in exile and in exodus,
the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon,
the God of foreigners and immigrants.

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean,

who was born away from his people and his home,
who fled his country with his parents,
when his life was in danger.

When he returned to his own country,
he suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate,
the servant of a foreign power.

Jesus was persecuted, beaten,
tortured and unjustly condemned to death.

But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead,
not as a scorned foreigner
but to offer us citizenship in God's kingdom.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,
who speaks all languages, lives in all countries,
and reunites all races.

I believe that the Church is the
secure home for foreigners and for all believers.

I believe that the communion of saints
begins when we embrace all
God's people in all their diversity.

I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God,
And in reconciliation, which heals our brokenness.

I believe that, in the Resurrection, God will unite us
as one people in which all are distinct and all are alike
at the same time.

I believe in life eternal,
in which no one will be foreigner
but all will be citizens of the kingdom where God reigns forever and ever.
Amen.

(José Luis Casal)

This was sent in by John Miles. The more times I read it the more it spoke to me. I hope it speaks to you too.



Any item for the **SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER** edition should be with the editor by **AUGUST 12th**, 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 13th to respond!!)

Mrs Barbara Foster
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Magdalen, King's Lynn
PE34 3BD
Tel. 01553 811867
E mail rabbit1308@btinternet.com

SATURDAY 13TH JULY 2019

AT HEACHAM METHODIST CHURCH 2pm

**RADICAL HOSPITALITY
WITH THE HEACHAM PRAISE GROUP**

**JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF JOYOUS
SINGING (and of course refreshments)**

Who Do You Think You Are?



"Making Jeremy Paxton Cry!"

An evening with TV producer Alex Graham

The creator of the programme

"Who Do You Think You Are?"

Saturday 28th September 28th at 7.30 pm

In Gaywood Church Rooms

Tickets £10 including refreshments,

Available in advance from St Faith's Church Office

Tel: 01553 774916

Proceeds in aid of the St Faith's Bungalow Project

Tickets on the door subject to availability as seating is limited.

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

HEACHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Invites you to

**A NORTH BEACH
SERVICE OF SONGS
OF PRAISE**

on

SUNDAY JUNE 30TH

SUNDAY JULY 28TH

SUNDAY AUGUST 25TH

COME AND JOIN US ON NORTH BEACH

A 3PM

**AND SING PRAISES TO THE LORD
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU**

There should be room for all!!

PLANTS

ENTERTAINMENT

**COME AND JOIN US FOR A
GARDEN FETE**

SATURDAY JUNE 22ND

2PM - 5PM

**DOWNHAM MARKET
METHODIST CHURCH**

CREAM TEAS

BRIC A BRAC

PLANTS

**AND CRAZY BANANAS BALLOON MAGIC
ALL MONIES RAISED GO TO CHURCH
CHARITIES**

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary

JUNE 2019 onwards

Saturday 1st June 11 am - 4 pm Wimbotsham Chapel open with a display of arts and crafts, plus photos, registers and histories of the Chapel and the village of bygone days

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

Saturday 15th June 10.15 am Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac at Wimbotsham

Saturday 15th June 3.00p.m: A Circuit Celebration of God's calling of his people for Mission and Worship at Hunstanton.

Saturday 15th June St Faith's Summer Fete 2pm

Saturday 22nd June Christian Aid Ceilidh 7-11 at St Faith's

Saturday 22nd / Sunday 23rd June Chapel Anniversary at Terrington St Clement

Saturday 22nd June Garden Fete at Downham Market 2pm - 5pm

Sunday 30th June Songs of Praise on North Beach Heacham 3pm

Saturday 20th July 10.15 am Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac at Wimbotsham

Sunday July 14th Downham Market Church Anniversary
Saturday 20th July at 3pm. Circuit Farewell for Andrew
Maguire, Catherine Dixon and Irene Tafirenyika - at
the Church Rooms, Gaywood

Sunday 28th July Songs of Praise on North Beach
Heacham 3pm

Saturday 17th August 10.15 am Coffee Morning with
bric-a-brac at Wimbotsham

Sunday 25th August Songs of Praise on North Beach
Heacham 3pm

Monday 2nd September at 7pm. Circuit Welcome
Service for the Rev. Robert Roberts as Superintendent
Minister and Rev. Jackie Goddard - at London Road

Wednesday October 10th MWiB Autumn District Day at
Chapelfield Church Norwich