

# Rejoice!

**November 2018**



**We will remember them.**

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

Dear Friends,

As far back as I can remember *Doctor Who* has always been a part of my life, and I eagerly look forward to each new series. It's always a moment of great sadness and some anxiety when one incarnation of the Doctor comes to an end (there was great drama in our house when it was time for David Tennant to regenerate). And then there are the questions. What will the new Doctor be like? Will I like them? How will things change? Will it still be as good? This year has brought the biggest change yet. Even if you don't watch *Doctor Who* it can't have escaped your notice that this time the Doctor is to be played by a female actor for the first time. Lots of *Doctor Who* fans were very cross – it was simply a change too far, they thought. And yet, the new series began recently to great acclaim. Yes, there were changes. A new costume, a new sonic screwdriver, new friends (formerly known as "companions" or "assistants" – (another change there). But with this change comes a new excitement. There are new adventures, new worlds to explore and new aliens to encounter. Yes, things are different, but the story of the Doctor continues, and those of us who are loyal viewers remain a part of that story.

Change can be hard, it can raise all kinds of questions and worries, but it can be exciting too. In Methodism we regularly face change through stationing, by which ministers move around the Connexion. It is a process that is fraught with all kinds of questions and worries for ministers and Circuits alike. Ministers are left wondering where they will be sent, and what that place will be like, what the expectations of the churches and people will be, and how they will fit in. Circuits find themselves asking whether they will be successfully matched with someone, what they will be like, and how things will change after they arrive.

This year, as a Circuit, we are seeking a new minister to come to West Norfolk as Superintendent, as Andrew sits down (the Methodist parlance for retiring) next summer, and as I move on. As a Circuit we are exploring new patterns of leadership and ministry from September 2019. So this is an unsettling time for many of us as we wonder what the future has in

store. But it is also a time of great potential and excitement as we seek to discern the ways God is ever calling us on, to *serve the present age, our calling to fulfil*. There are new friends to be made and new adventures to be had as we continue to engage in the work of the Gospel both here and wherever we are sent.

The stationing matching group meets during the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> November. Please do keep their work in your prayers as they seek to meet the needs of ministers and circuits across the whole Connexion. It's a great responsibility and not an easy task. Please also continue to pray for the life of our Circuit, that we may be open to change, and to embrace the possibilities that God opens us for us. Please, also, pray for me. I am so very sad to be leaving the Circuit and am (as I must practice what I preach) trying to embrace the excitement of change as I go through the stationing process.

We may not have a Time Lord like the Doctor travelling with us, but we do have **the** Lord, the God of all time and space, the beginning and the end of all things. Whatever change may come, we remain a part of the story of God's people, and can trust that God's love for creation is one thing that never changes.

Every blessing,

Catherine



## Praying together in the Circuit

Bless the Lord O my soul  
and all that is within me bless his holy name. Psalm 103: 1

To bless God is to offer heartfelt praise.

To pray his blessing on people is asking God to do for them what only he can do. Moses gave Aaron words to use in blessing the Israelites – as in Numbers 6: 24-26. May the Lord bless you .....

David is overflowing with desire to bless the Lord, to offer praise with his whole being. Love, affection and gratitude are welling up from deep within his heart.

We bless our gracious Lord as we offer adoration and praise coming not only from our lips but from our whole being. Acclaiming who he is and so thankful for all his blessings.

Let praise increase to our exalted Lord.

Remembrance Sunday. We will remember them

All who have served and serve in the cause of peace.

As we remember Lord, make us channels of your peace

We remember those who are living in the devastation resulting from earthquake, tsunami, hurricane and storm.

Comfort and hold secure each one in their personal suffering.

Bless the relief agencies working to rebuild lives and communities,

The Circuit plan enables us to pray for all involved in worship,

our ministers, preachers, churches, congregations

uniting us in prayer and bonding us in fellowship.

As our prayers come before your throne of grace

We ask your blessing especially at this time for:-

the stationing process, your guidance and provision as presbyters and churches throughout the Connexion seek your way forward.

Lead them according to your perfect will, give them your peace.

We pray for your appointment of a Superintendent Minister;

for Rev. Catherine, that you will open your way before her;

for the Circuit staff and leadership team planning for change.

Thank you Lord for all your past and present blessings to us.

Our unchanging God, our focus is on you,

our calling to be church as you want us to be, for such a time as this.  
Lord, we want to bless you in all we say and do.  
To be channels of blessing, helping others come to you.  
Please continue to bless our Circuit, all glory to you.

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.  
For Meg and family on the death of Robbie; for Margaret on the death of her  
grandson, Carol on the death of her husband Ken.



### Christmas Coffee Mornings

South Wootton - Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 10am-11am  
London Road - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 10am-noon  
All welcome!



### Feltwell

Some of you may have felt a judder on 3<sup>rd</sup> August when an earthquake struck West Norfolk. It measured 3.9 on the Richter scale. As a result "Feltwell" church hall became "unwell" causing a partial ceiling collapse and repairs to be necessary. Thankfully Methodist Insurance has come to the rescue.

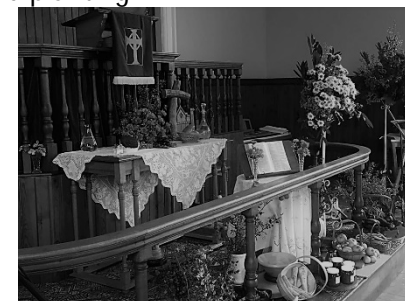


25<sup>th</sup> August saw the Church full for a wedding, which makes a change from the funerals we're used to. Mike and Brigitte's daughter, Nikki, married Glen, with Nikki's daughter Abigail as bridesmaid. Friends and family came from all over the country to help celebrate this day.

The scorching summer over, some welcome rain and cooler air. But is this how everyone sees it? At the beginning of September I read an item by Oli Smith in the Daily Express online where he said "The UK will see a welcome return of the heatwave for just two days next week". Isn't this a view of only a portion of the population? Who will be the first to complain when the price of fruit and veg, and even milk, starts to rise as a result of shortages owing to the drought? And farmers struggle to feed their families because their yields are down. This reflects the difficulties and dilemmas of life, and that life is not as simple as enjoying the sun. So summer holidays over, we are now planning for Christmas and, for the gardeners amongst us, preparing the ground for next season's sowing and planting.



Talking about sowing and planting, we celebrated harvest with a family meal with a choice of Shepherd's Pie, Cottage Pie with an blackberry and apple pie, pear and



strawberry trifle, fruit flan ice cream and custard, to which the Methwold Cub Scouts (Jean's lot) were invited. Brigitte and Jean decorated the church and members rallied to help with the washing up and clearing away. It was a great piece of teamwork, as well as creating opportunities for mission.

Feltwell is now planning its next **Christmas Hall of Stalls** for 24<sup>th</sup> November from 9.00am-1.00pm, and a new event around an exhibition of Nativity scenes created by local organisations. The idea is to create an alternative focus for the community whose attention is too often grabbed by material things and earthly pleasures. We invite all members of our Circuit to visit **"A Festival of The Nativity"** at Feltwell Methodist Church on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 3pm to 8pm and enjoy our home-made refreshments. In faith we are moving forward as an active church in the community.

Mike Wilkinson

### Stanhoe

Stanhoe Methodists enjoyed the summer as always, and welcomed various visitors, both regular and irregular (!) who were holidaying in the area. At the beginning of September we resumed our fortnightly sessions of Bible Study, together with our friends from Burnham Market, and led by the ever patient Rev. Steve. We are still working our way through the Scripture Union booklet, *Listening to God*, and our next session is entitled "Listening as Self-Discipline," based upon James 1, verses 19-27. Wow!

On 16<sup>th</sup> September we held our Harvest Festival Service, led by Rev. Steve. The church was mainly decorated by Sushila Russell, with superb displays of flowers, fruit and vegetables, and a very little help from the other church ladies. After an inspiring worship service, the produce on display, which included some of Sushila's home produced honey and jams, was sold off to members of the congregation, and the sum raised was rounded up to £125.00 and donated to the King's Lynn food bank. We are so grateful to Sushila for her generosity.

We held our usual church meeting at the end of September. Finances and Property were all reported as in good order. We miss our dear friend, Betty Holmes, suffering from severe dementia, and no longer able to attend services. However, it's a delight to see Gill Johnson, almost fully recovered from her recent surgery, and once more able to play her full part as a member of the congregation.

Now we look forward to our Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving on 11<sup>th</sup> November, and our Christmas Carol Service on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

Elizabeth MacLeod

### Terrington St Clement

At Network (MWiB) Helen and Andrew told us about their holiday in Canada. They showed slides of Calgary and Banff where the population is restricted to 8,000 people, to preserve the natural beauty. Also Jasper National Park.

Part 2 will be about the Rockies at a later date

The Harvest coffee morning raised £271.75. Thanks to all who supported us. We enjoyed a Harvest lunch after the service on Sunday.

Linda Howling

### Gaywood St Faith's

The big social event at St Faith's Church is the Christmas Fair (I know, it doesn't seem possible it is that time of year already).

The stalls and game of chance stalls will be set up in Gaywood Church Rooms on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, when it will be all the fun of the festive fair with everything designed to get you thinking about the Festive Season and the real meaning of Christmas, which is about a baby boy (the Saviour of the World) being born in a smelly stable on that first Christmas Day.

Everyone is welcome to come along when the doors open at 2pm and enjoy a couple of hours of socialising with family and friends and perhaps also pick up an early Christmas present.

There is always a warm, family, friendly atmosphere at the Christmas Fair and for the children there is a chance to have an early chat with Father Christmas and leave him with their presents wish-lists.

After you have browsed around the stalls, laden down with all manner of products, you can go into the refreshment area and enjoy a nice cup of tea and a slice of delicious home-made cake. As always with St Faith's fund-raising Fairs, there is no admission charge..

Please contact the church office on 01553 774916 if you have any unwanted goods (in reasonable condition) that you would like to donate to the Fair. Before the Fair, it is the November Coffee and More event. This will be on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November and doors open at 10am in the Gaywood Church Rooms. All are welcome to come along and meet up with friends over a cup of coffee (or tea) and select from the range of edibles. Increasingly the Coffee and More events are attracting greater numbers. As well as a range of stalls, there is a raffle. All proceeds are towards the general running costs of St Faith's Church. Raffle prizes are always needed so if you have something you would like to donate please contact the church office.

November 11<sup>th</sup> St Faith's Church Remembrance Sunday service, starting at 10am, will have special significance this year because it is the centenary of the end of the First World War. The service will be followed by the traditional parade from church to the Gaywood Clock tower war memorial and the

observance of the national two minutes silence in remembrance of all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The day before, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November, there is to be a vigil in church, from 2pm until 8pm, featuring Bible readings, poetry and prose in a reflection on the First World War and thinking and praying about peace, reconciliation and thanksgiving. The vigil is part of the First World War centenary exhibition that has been on show in church for the previous month.

Preparations for the St Faith's Church fourth Christmas Tree Festival are moving into their final detailed stage ready for the opening day on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December at 9am.

The Festival, which will continue for four days, will feature around 30 real and artificial Christmas trees that will have all been beautifully and imaginatively decorated by local school pupils, church groups and charity groups.

The church takes on a magical winter-wonderland atmosphere when all the trees are illuminated, particularly in the late afternoon as the natural light begins to fade..

As well as the trees on show, there will be two concerts. The first on the Friday evening will take the form of a Christmas variety concert arranged by local impresario and good friend of St Faith's Church, Stephen Hayter. The performance will include songs and sketches by local talented actors, singers and dancers.

The following evening, Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, will see the Big Heart and Soul Community Choir perform in concert. Refreshments will be served at the interval and there will be a raffle.

Tickets, with a discount if tickets for both concerts are bought, are available by contacting the St Faith's Church office and they can be reserved.

One of the popular features of the Festival is a stall stocked full of hand-made goods with a particular Christmas theme. Joan Greening and her team have been busy with their fabrics and needles making all manner of items which will all be for sale during the four-day Festival,.

Following last year's very successful Christmas Day lunch in Gaywood Church Rooms, aimed at those folk who would otherwise be on their own on this special day in the church year when we celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus, it has been decided to stage another lunch this Christmas Day.

Those attending are offered a traditional three-course turkey and trimmings lunch followed by coffee and mince pies. Each guest takes away a small gift. There is entertainment and Carol singing.

A small team comprising St Faith's Rector, the Rev Julie Boyd, her husband, Matthew, churchwarden Suzie Cranko-Page and deputy church warden, me, have been meeting together to plan this special lunch.

Anyone who feels they would be eligible for the lunch is asked to contact the Rev. Boyd on King's Lynn 01553 770952. We are NOT able to welcome people who turn up on the day without having been booked in for the lunch. See the December edition of Rejoice! Magazine for details of special church services and school Carol services being staged at St Faith's Church during the Christmas season.

Richard Parr.

## **Pott Row**

Once again your Pott Row correspondent is here with all our news.

As ever Stephen and Beryl, ably supported by all members, continue to arrange and enjoy many activities together. Our Church Fellowship Services seem to come more frequently, but we have many willing participants to contribute. We are also fortunate to have two organists to share the music. With our now enlarged circuit we enjoy meeting new preachers as well as welcoming back returning ones.

Our last CFS was an old style children's service arranged by Derrick, with traditional hymns and choruses, and much appreciated by all (including one member masquerading as a small boy)!

We always look forward to Catherine's monthly visits, (when along with her inimitable style of teaching, she brings us up to date with Strictly!)

It was good to see so many people, including non-members coming to the annual Strawberry Tea in July.

We celebrated our Harvest Festival and the Chapel's 142<sup>nd</sup> anniversary together, when our preacher was able to reminisce about her early years living in the village and attending the chapel as a child. After the service we enjoyed a harvest lunch together.

Now we are looking forward to another annual event - the Christmas Tree Festival on 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December.

We have also had new windows installed, and an eye catching new porch which helps us to be warmer and more comfortable!

Pott Row Correspondent

## **Hilgay**

### **GUILD**

Our first guild session was very interesting with Deacon Janet giving a talk on Bread. An important commodity in our lives and also linking the ingredients and process in making a loaf of bread to the needs of our bodies and how the Holy Spirit can work in us like a small amount of yeast helps the dough to swell, so a small amount of faith can enable the Spirit to live in us, so we can

become good followers of Christ. After the talk we tasted different types of bread and after tasting some we were pleased to have our cup of tea, although I must say most of the bread was delicious.  
Our guild session on the 16<sup>th</sup> October will have been a Members Afternoon.

On October 30<sup>th</sup> we look forward to welcoming Mrs Christine Whitehead, who will give a flower arranging demonstration.  
On November 13<sup>th</sup> we have a speaker from the Co-op Estate Planning entitled 'Tax, Care and Toyboys'.  
On 27<sup>th</sup> November our speaker will be Rev. A. Bennett who will lead a devotional meeting on the theme of Advent.  
All meetings begin at 2:30pm.  
Anyone interested please come along and join us on either or all of these occasions. We look forward to seeing you.

#### **CONCERT**

On Friday November 2<sup>nd</sup> a concert will be held in Hilgay Methodist Church at 7pm. This will be to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armistice; the end of World War One. This will consist of Music, Singing and Poetry. Free admission, but a retiring collection will be taken for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Refreshments will be served

#### **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

On 11<sup>th</sup> November the Village Remembrance Service will be held at the Methodist Church at 10:45 am. The preacher will be Rev. Chris Bishop from Ely, a former minister in the Downham Market Circuit. This will be followed by a parade to the village War Memorial for wreath laying, prayers and blessing.  
Pauline Driver.

### **Dersingham**

We have just celebrated our Harvest Festival with some rousing hymns including "Bringing in the sheaves" and "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam", a splendid roast lunch and fruit pies, and a wealth of contributions for the King's Lynn Food Bank. The Harvest Coffee morning the previous weekend raised £260.05 which will be shared between the Farming Community Network and church funds.

A record 54 people attended the Chicken Foot evening, including children who thoroughly enjoyed the fun (and practicing their mental arithmetic without probably realising it!). £248 was raised which will be shared between the Hunstanton Stroke Association and church funds.  
The workmen from C. D. Allflatt have been busy in the corridor and vestry and they managed to reinstate the majority of the corridor floor in time for the

coffee morning and monthly community lunch so disruption to our activities has been kept to a minimum. The floor boards of the former church room, which were over 100 years old, had finally succumbed to dampness and begun to rot. Before a replacement floor could be laid the pieces of floor board beneath the blockwork partition walls forming the corridor and other rooms had to be removed in stages and the gaps filled with a special cement mortar. This has been installed above a new damp proof course and the new flooring in the corridor and vestry has been laid over a thin insulation board and a double damp proof membrane to prevent any further dampness problems. Since starting work further rot in the timber supporting the partition walls at either side of the gents' toilets has been discovered which will also need repairing and a bracing system at the top of the corridor walls will also be installed to try to prevent any further movement of this area. The nature of the work means that it will be some time before it is all completed, although we are taking the opportunity it presents to carry out some additional improvements. We are grateful to all church users and hirers of our hall for their understanding and co-operation while work is taking place.  
One of our members has an organ for sale. It would be ideal for a chapel or a home. Herewith the details.

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Rosemary Caink/Paul Clay

### **Downham Market**

#### **Ladies' Friendship**

We had an interesting evening listening to Jenny speaking about the Cats Protection League. We have now had 2 meetings in September we started off with a Beetle Drive all the members enjoy this. We have a laugh at the wonderful beetles that are drawn.

Our Harvest meeting was enjoyed by all with readings from members and lovely harvest hymns and of course all our meetings end with chat and tea/coffee with biscuits.

Our November meetings are:- 7<sup>th</sup> with a Bring and Buy sale with a Blue theme  
November 21<sup>st</sup> will be a Flower arranging demonstration.

Everyone is welcome to come to our evenings.

Margaret Fox



What extremes of weather we have had recently. In my early morning walk along the riverbank going east I have been dazzled by the sunrise when days have turned very warm or nearly blown into the river on a cold day when we get the tail end of the hurricanes that devastated the American coastline. On the last Saturday on my plant stall Sandy and I nearly froze in the bitter cold, not helping us recover from fluish colds. Still the harvest seems to have been safely gathered in, something for which we have given thanks and we now prepare for Christmas. We had a good quiz and pudding evening recently with half the profit going to church funds (so much expense on the buildings recently) and half going to the Churches Together hamper fund. We have two craft fairs planned to help with church expenses on 27<sup>th</sup> October and 10<sup>th</sup> November, but our main fundraiser will be our annual Christmas Fair on 17<sup>th</sup> November from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Our hall will be full of stalls with Christmas gift bargains. Our regular commercial stall holders come back to us every year as they like the friendly festive atmosphere we generate and we have some charity stalls as well as our regular church ones. The craft room will be open again for children and adults to make Christmas decorations and gifts and the children can be safely left there while the adults shop in the main hall in peace. Our popular silly games will be set up for family members to challenge each other in splatting the snow man etc. and there is always a queue to see Father Christmas in his grotto with his sacks of gifts. Refreshments and lunches will be served for the whole period with Christmas music in all parts of our premises. Our young folk, Brownies, Guides and Boys Brigade will be running games and tempting us with home-made goodies as the whole family of the Church join in the fellowship. Talking of the young folk, Messy Church continues to be a popular event every second Friday in the month and extra helpers are always needed to do kitchen duty, help with the activities or just chat to the families to make them feel welcome, so if you are free one 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday evening do come and join us. Hazel reports the last session focussed on the parable of the lost sheep, and they thought about how God cares for us and that every last one of us is important to him.

Thinking of families, Churches Together in Downham is organising 3 sessions of carol singing at Tesco on 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December starting at 7.00 p.m. to raise money for next year's Christmas hampers for needy families. I can't see the poverty situation easing much by next Christmas and the more we raise the more hampers we can supply. So do join us if you are free on one or all of those evenings. Carol sheets are provided and Chris Young will accompany us on his keyboard at a spanking rate so let's have a good turnout to remind shoppers what Christmas is really about. The new Deanery Mission Development Officer Steve Waters has joined the Churches Together team and has hit the ground running, already organising a monthly magazine for the

Downham area churches. So much more can be achieved when we all work together.

Our weekly Saturday coffee mornings remain as popular as ever but they do involve a lot of hard work and new volunteers are needed to set up and clear away if not for the full two hours, and they provide a good session of fellowship for all who visit. With our hard earned takings we have been able to pay for the social centre kitchen floor to be relaid at a cost of over £2,000, thus fending off the risk of Health and Safety closing the kitchen down. We have also covered the cost of the new pew cushions, which make the pews more comfortable and warm in the cold weather. As our buildings and furnishings are now fifty years old we must expect more expense to keep the fabric in good condition and our fund raising is more vital but what fellowship we enjoy when we all work together.

Having just recently got over a heavy head cold (results of reaction to the new improved stronger flu jab?), I wish everyone good health for the busy months ahead and God bless.

Joan Macey

### **Some people just love to complain!**

From holiday makers!

The beach was too sandy! We had to queue outside with no air conditioning!

There was no egg slicer in the apartment!

We went on holiday to

Spain and had trouble with the taxi drivers – they were all Spanish! The roads were uneven!!

Oh dear!!!

Bookings being taken for  
**Craft Fair**  
**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November**  
**9am – 3pm**  
**At Downham Market**  
**Methodist Church**

For enquiries phone 01366 387495

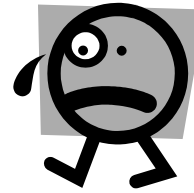
**A Poppy**  
 I am not a badge of honour,  
 I am not a racist smear.  
 I am not a fashion statement,  
 I am worn but once a year.  
 I am not a glorification  
 Of conflict or of war.  
 I am not a paper ornament  
 A token  
 I am more.

I am a loving memory  
 Of father or of son  
 A permanent reminder  
 Of each and everyone.

I'm paper or enamel  
 I'm old or shining new;  
 I'm a way of saying thank you  
 To every one of you.

I am a simple poppy  
 A reminder to you all,  
 That courage, faith and honour  
 Will stand where heroes fall.

Found on Facebook. Written in 2015.



Any items for the **DECEMBER/JANUARY** edition should be with the editor by **NOVEMBER 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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 PE34 3BD  
 Tel. 01553 811867  
 E mail rabbit1308@btinternet.com

## **CHRISTMAS CRAFTS & CAROLS**

*Heacham Methodist Church*

Invites you to join them for tea/coffee on

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018

10am – 3pm

Crafts, cakes and other items for sale

Carol singing in the Chapel

Please bring your children along

to see Father Christmas

from 11am – 12.30pm



## Synod

This year King's Lynn hosted the District Synod and the many representatives assembled in King's Lynn Academy, to be greeted by Elizabeth and her team with a welcome cup of tea or coffee, meeting and greeting old friends before settling down to business.

Many things get discussed; safeguarding, matters from Conference, Marriage and Relationships, GDPR and Mission home and away was in the mix.

The best bits as far as I am concerned are the workshops in the afternoon. I did wonder if Catherine's poetry one that I attended last time could be beaten! Equalled certainly, as I went to the songs and hymns from around the world. I love singing anyway and the ones we sang were beautiful. They were all from Singing the Faith but apart from "We are walking in the light of God", all new to me. We were encouraged to clap, beat our breasts and hit the furniture. Really praising God with our whole body, mind and voices.

As I probably said last year Synod sounds dry, dull etc. etc. but give it a go if you get the chance.

Ed.

## Action for Children

### COFFEE MORNING & STALLS

Downham Market Methodist  
Church

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 10 – 12  
noon

Christmas Cards and diaries will be  
on sale

**HALL OF STALLS**  
**Saturday 24 November**  
9.00am - 1.00pm  
**Feltwell Methodist Hall**

Crafts  
Gifts  
Home-made Cakes & Preserves  
Refreshments  
Plants

To Book a Stall  
Facebook, Message, Email, or on phone Mike Williams - 01263 251111 or 01263 251112

**Experience the Heart of Christmas**  
**A Festival of The Nativity**  
Feltwell Methodist Chapel  
**Saturday 8 December** from 3.00pm

Nativity scenes by local children,  
students & groups  
A warm welcome  
and refreshments await YOU  
and Sunday 9 Dec 10.30 - 12.30



*COME AND JOIN US FOR OPEN AIR*  
**COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING**  
*AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE*



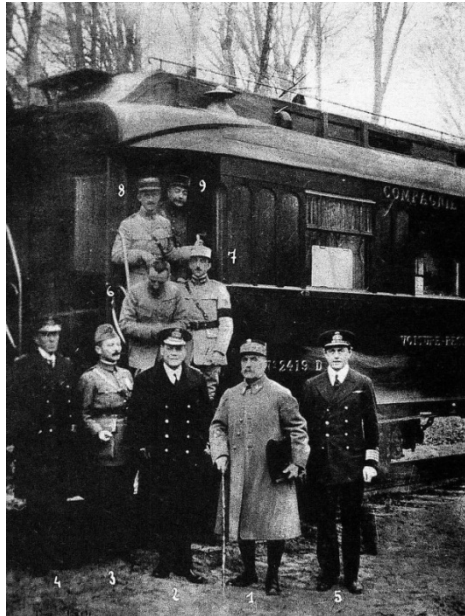
**HEACHAM METHODIST CHURCH**  
**THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**  
**6PM**

**THE ARMISTICE OF 11 NOVEMBER 1918**

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918 the guns on the Western front grew silent. On 29<sup>th</sup> September the German Supreme Army command informed Kaiser Wilhelm II and the Imperial Chancellor that the military position facing Germany was hopeless and demanded that a request be made for an immediate ceasefire. When terms were agreed leaders of the two sides met to sign an armistice in the forest of Compiègne in a railway carriage which was part of Marshall Foch's train. The terms included an immediate cessation of hostilities on land, sea and air, the surrender of warships, aircraft and military material, the release of Allied prisoners of war and interned civilians, but there was to be no release of German prisoners. A few years later I saw parties of them working on land reclamation on the marshes near my home. I was two years old at the time so it was another two or three years before I understood the meaning of the annual commemoration of Armistice Day. In days before radio, let alone television, this was announced by the sounding of our local sawmill's buzzer, when everything would come to a complete standstill for the two minutes silence. For the first minute we were to think of the millions of people who had made the supreme sacrifice or the wounded. My father was a baker and I often went with him into customers' homes on his rounds and saw on the wall a sepia portrait of a mere boy in army uniform who would never come home. The second minute was for those left behind on the home front, generally understood to be wives, children and families who had been deeply affected by the conflict, facing bereavement, hardships, shortages and anxieties. My family's chief worry was for my Uncle Hugh. He was a happy-go-lucky sort who gave a false age so that he could join Kitchener's army. He became a machine gunner and so was in an exposed position. Three times wounded and gassed he was given an honourable discharge from active service in May 1918 on medical grounds. However he was still under military discipline and was sent to work in his regiment's headquarters in Northumberland. Typical of him, to celebrate the Armistice he jumped on a train without a ticket. Having to change at Peterborough he got out of the train on the wrong side. At his home station of Sutton Bridge the station master spotted him but Hugh just cried out "My Dad will pay!" I'm sure he would have done, for like everyone else he was delighted with this day's news. My grandfather kept a row of four shops; he called all his assistants together and gave them a holiday.

The Armistice marked a victory for the Allies and complete defeat for the Germans but it was not actually surrender; the Armistice had to be renewed three times before the Treaty of Versailles in 1920

John Garfoot



Photograph taken in the forest of Compiègne after reaching an agreement for the Armistice.

Hilgay Methodist Chapel  
**Armistice Centenary Celebration**

7 pm Friday November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Free event

All welcome

Come and sing, listen to music, poetry and  
prose

## Inspired by Singing

Lord you gave me  
A good strong voice:  
Reaching high notes  
To sing, rejoice!

Enabling me to  
Sing soprano  
Tis a challenge  
Not to sing low.

So thanks Lord for  
Raising my voice:  
That much higher...  
To sing, Rejoice!

Sue

I go to Downham Stone Cross Garden Centre for coffee a couple of times a week. I met Rev. Alan Bennett and our Arthur this morning. There are four sayings written around the skylight. Here is one of them.

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain.

How true. I'll read another one for the next edition!

Ed.

## Advent Reflection Group

The Rev. Catherine Dixon will be leading an Advent Reflection Group this year on the theme *Through Advent with the Saints*. All are warmly invited to come along as they are able, to one session or all.

Tuesday mornings 10 - 11ish  
27<sup>th</sup> November, 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> December  
at South Wootton Methodist Church

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

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Celebrate Christmas at  
Pott Row Methodist Chapel  
on  
Friday December 7<sup>th</sup> 10am --4 pm  
Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup> 10am --4 pm  
Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup> 2pm-- 4 pm

Cake and Gift stalls  
Refreshments.

### **CAROL SERVICE.**

Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup> 6.30 pm

Led by Rev. Catherine Dixon.



### **So they said!**

When she fainted, her eyes rolled around the room.

The pelvic exam will be done later on the floor

## PRAISE HIM, PRAISE HIM

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

4PM

JOIN US AT HEACHAM METHODIST CHURCH  
TO RAISE YOUR VOICE IN PRAISE OF JESUS  
WITH OUR WORSHIP GROUP  
CAROL, JOELLA AND SHARON  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR COMPANY  
ALL ARE WELCOME

### ***Clenchwarton Methodist Church***

***A Concert in aid of the Samaritans Purse***

***Christmas Shoe Box Appeal***

***Entertainment by a local group***

***The Flukes Ukulele band***


***Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup>***

2 to 4 pm in the Methodist Church Hall,  
Main Road, Clenchwarton.

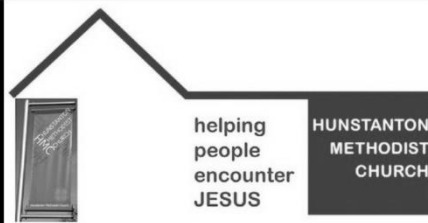
*Entry fee of £3.00 per person to include*

*Light refreshments.*

*A great afternoon of entertainment*




**You are  
invited to  
join us  
on Sunday  
2 December  
at 6.00pm  
for  
A Service of  
REMEMBRANCE and LIGHT**




**HUNSTANTON  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

**You are welcome to  
an evening with  
*Estevão Devídes*  
on guitar  
Friday 7 December  
Café opens @ 6.30  
Music from 7.00p.m.  
Tickets £7 Bookings contact:  
07799510035 or enquires@  
hunstantonmethodistchurch.com**



**FIND US : Hunstanton Methodist Church, PE36 6AL**  
**at the junction of Austin Street and A149**  
[www.hunstantonmethodistchurch.com](http://www.hunstantonmethodistchurch.com)

**Follow us on Facebook** 

## Let's Walk

These intrepid travellers (plus three others who had made a detour and one who took the photo) from around the Circuit, followed John and Hazel Miles around Downham Market, enjoyed tea then worshipped together on the theme of Our Calling.

It was a time of fellowship and exercise; nothing too strenuous. It was the sixth one since 2009. If you haven't joined one yet then you have two years to get preparing!



## MMiB

The Autumn meeting was held at Sheringham, on a beautiful day. The church was fairly full and we made a lovely noise when we sang. After Heather had welcomed us, done all the housekeeping and stuff we were privileged to hear Rev. Anne Richardson speak about "Hidden in Plain Sight" and her work with the Deaf Community. She amazed us with the things we do when speaking to a deaf person, shouting, getting closer, talking to whoever is interpreting..... all wrong! The members of the community who were there showed us just how human, normal and often mischievous they can be! After a walk in the sunshine Anne tested us and made us learn our names in finger spelling, how to say how are you, pleased to meet you!

## Cathedral@night 2018

On Friday October 5<sup>th</sup> a minibus driven by a very kind Jon Benstead set off at teatime from St Faith's with ten young people aged from 15 to a few days off 11, plus the Revd Laura Purnell and myself. We were bound for Norwich Cathedral (via the golden arches of a handy fast-food outlet!) We were off to spend the whole night in the cathedral, seeing it as I had never seen it before, its nave and presbytery lit with gorgeous changing colours, its spire and cloister arches flood-lit.

The night was punctuated by times of group worship, sometimes with very loud praise music, sometimes much quieter and more meditative (compline with singing and hand-held candles at 1.30am!) There was a late night Ceilidh session and 5am wake up Zumba exercises. Inside the west door was a Matterhorn style climbing-wall tower and around the east end of the cathedral, a range of activities, art, prayer and games. Our young people gravitated towards the cloisters, where at times there were giant inflatables and 2-a-side football (in a cage), and at others just a great space to play hide-and-seek and tag ('manhunt'), beneath the beautiful spire. It was a warm night and some of our group decided to 'kip' outside when we got to the 'quiet' part of the night. As I curled up against a cloister pillar I couldn't help smiling at a point made some hours earlier by the dean, who, with her dog had taken a group of us on a cathedral tour- the cloisters, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in England, have very good acoustics. She had got us singing but the sounds of voices and giant jenga being played on a stone floor at 3.30am also seemed magnified!

Originally I had had big doubts about an all-night event. I had missed the last one, two years ago, but been told it was very good. Having experienced it, I certainly agree. Congratulations to the diocese's Children's and Young People's team and thanks to the local Methodist Circuit who funded our minibus. Much credit is due to our young people who were a pleasure to take, good-tempered even when tired, and particularly good at looking out for and looking after each other, including two who were completely new to the group.

I hope some sense of wonder and of God's loving kindness will stay with them all.

Daphne Sampson

## West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary

### NOVEMBER 2018 onwards

Friday November 2<sup>nd</sup> Armistice Celebration at Hilgay 7pm

Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> 10 am Action for Children Coffee Morning at Downham

Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> 10 am Coffee Morning at Gaywood St Faith's

Saturday November 24<sup>th</sup> Hall of Stalls at Feltwell

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November Craft Fair at Downham

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November Christmas Fare at St Faith's

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November Christmas Fare at Downham Market

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November Christmas Crafts and Carols at Heacham

Sunday November 25<sup>th</sup> Praise him, Praise him at Heacham

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November Community Carol Singing at Heacham

Friday/Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Christmas Tree Festival at Pott Row

Friday/Monday December 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas Tree Festival at St Faith's

Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup> A Festival of Nativity at Feltwell

Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup> Concert at Clenchwarton