

Rejoice!

September 2018



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

Just a thought....

A few months ago, I went to a relative's funeral. I was told it was to be a naturalist funeral (whatever that is), Jill thought I had said naturist which conjured up no end of possibilities and laughter, but in fact it was to be a humanist funeral.

This was a strange affair as there were obviously no hymns and prayers, but it was held in a church with the cross removed, and presided by a Roman Catholic priest in a shirt and tie. There was music played, one of which was Chris Ria's "Tell me there's a heaven". Finally, we had a blessing and the Lord's Prayer was said. It was a lovely service, and I can only presume because the spouse was religious they had decided to try and blend the two beliefs into a simple but effective farewell. Since that time, I have tried to imagine what it must be like to be a humanist and live without God in my life, and to be honest it is an impossible task. Living without God is living without the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and without that there can be no thought of forgiveness, no thought of an everlasting peace, no thought of the hope of an eternal life within the love of God, and for that alone I pray those who are yet to find God in their lives will one day hear His word and be alive to the gospel of Christ.

I remember not so long-ago John Humphrey's of Radio 4 fame questioning faith leaders from Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities on how someone like him who does not believe finds God. As I listened to them answering very searching questions, it became obvious that to explain God just through words alone to those who do not believe is extremely difficult. It also helped me understand how important the words of Jesus are when he said "***you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.***" To find God is an experience of the whole body; yes, there must be an understanding of who God is, but then it is absorbing that understanding and letting it flow throughout the body and the soul.

We who trust and believe in God must continue to explore our understanding through worship prayer and study so that those who have yet to believe may be inspired by our experience of who God is and what He can do in our lives.

Steve

Praying together in the Circuit

We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield.
In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

Psalm 33: 20 – 21

O Lord you are our God, we will exalt you and praise your name
for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things,
things planned long ago.

Our hearts rejoice in your love, your goodness, your saving grace.

We are blessed with the sure and certain hope we have in You
our all sufficient God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We step into the unknown trusting our all-knowing God.

Your word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path.

We pray for your power working in us as we go forward
seeking your plans for our Circuit at this time.

Your will, not ours Lord, Your ways, not ours Lord.

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on us.

‘To serve the present age, my calling to fulfil

O may I all my powers engage to do my masters will’

Charles Wesley

Lord, we commit ourselves to you as we make our new beginnings.

We pray for those stepping out in faith to new places of ministry.

Your blessing for children starting school, moving to new schools

young people leaving home to start University courses.

For Maurice and Janet entering their Sabbatical time.

For Catherine, the stationing process, the opening of your way for her.

For our Circuit Leadership team.

For the ministry of all believers in our Circuit.

For the unity of believers - ‘I pray that they may all be one’

For Kingdom power and authority flowing from the throne of God.

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 pray for those who have to make new beginnings because of life changing situations. For those who have been bereaved, comfort and strengthen them in their loss and be with them as they face the future. For those who can no longer live independently that you will open the way ahead for them to have the care and support they need. For those in hospital that the treatment they receive may help them. For their families.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Megan Ayres would like to thank all her friends around the Circuit for their prayers, cards and support during her recent stay in hospital. She is now well on the road to recovery.

ransomed SAVIOUR Jesus Christ LOVE	THE GOSPEL HOUR	restored JOY healed PEACE FORGIVEN
	 <p>with Rev. Steve Oliver every Sunday evening at 9.00.p.m.</p> <p>Listen on</p> <p>Radio Heacham .org.uk Local Internet Radio</p>	



Any items for the **OCTOBER** edition should be with the editor by **SEPTEMBER 12th**, earlier if possible. **If you don't get an acknowledgment of emails PLEASE enquire if I have received them as some articles have found their way into my spam bin which I don't check very often!**

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

Bookings being taken for
Craft Fairs
Saturday 27th October
Saturday 10th November
At Downham Market
Methodist Church



For enquiries phone 01366 387495

Around the churches



Terrington St Clement

The Anniversary weekend went well and we raised £170 towards church funds.

We have enjoyed our tea and chat afternoons, Network (MWiB) returns on the 5th September.

The Sunflowers have had a chequered survival rate. Some are thriving but no flowers as yet!

We had afternoon tea and fellowship in the Chapel to celebrate the birthdays of Frauke Adkins and Mary Houghton. They are both 80 in August.

We also congratulated Rev. Andrew Maguire and his lovely wife Helen on celebrating their Ruby Wedding Anniversary at the weekend. {Not that Andrew isn't lovely too!}

Our Harvest weekend is 6th and 7th of October and we hope to provide a meal on one of the days.

Linda Howling

Hilgay

On July 27th we enjoyed a well-supported Norfolk Day lunch which we arranged along with a Norfolk quiz. Thanks to all the people who came along to this event. Although we didn't make a charge for this, generous donations amounted to £145:00 Thanks again to all who helped provide everything and for the support of the village.

The Wesleyan Guild will begin the **2018/19** session on Tuesday **2nd October** at **2:30pm**.

On Sunday 7th October at 10:00 am we shall hold our annual Harvest

Festival Service which will be led by Mr Keith Penn from Ely. We also hope to hold a Harvest Meal close to this date. More details later.

Pauline Driver

Heacham

August Flower Festival - "OUR VILLAGE"

"Our Village" was the theme chosen by one of our members and the flower arrangers then chose what to depict. Splendid arrangements for all the subjects chosen: The Beach, The Post Office, The Fire Station, Lavender Farm and Tearooms, the Doctors' Surgery, Wallis Cycle and Electrical Shop, Moulam and Horn Seed and Coal Merchants, Bray's Pit (aka the duck pond), the caravan parks, the Gospel Hour as well as the Churches and War Memorial. It was a fine display of flowers and foliage - and colour. Amazingly, the arrangements survived the hot temperature of the weekend and to the last hour provided a beautiful show.

Refreshments were enjoyed by all - a varied and generous buffet was provided for lunch with a wide range of desserts (pie, fresh fruit salad, chocolate torte and cheesecake). Other cakes were available to have with tea/coffee during the mornings and afternoons. Gluten free, vegan and diabetic cakes were included.

Our thanks are due to many - particularly Messrs Wallis for the loan of an old TV set (?1950s - SO many people commented "we used to have one of those") and cycle extras and basket; and Moulam and Horn for a beautiful carved wooden stand. Photos and local history were given by them as well as the Post Office family.

Our sincere thanks to all who visited to support our event and especially for all the team who worked so hard to set up (and set down) the Church and provide the catering items. We shall be able to donate to our local causes - the Heacham Fire Station (again under threat of closure) and the local donkey carer (you will know who that is) with at least £200 each. THANK YOU.

Joan Careless

Downham Market

The Harvest Festival this year is Sunday 23rd September. Several regular helpers are going to be away during the time when we usually prepare the flowers for this special day. Please if you can help to decorate the church on Saturday September 22nd and bring a few flowers/greenery it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Meg Cooper

Ladies' Friendship Circle

We start back with a new programme.

September 12th Beetle Drive

September 26th This will be our Harvest meeting with Hymns and readings.

There will be a produce stall.

We meet in the function room at 7.30pm every other Wednesday.

If you would like to come and join us you will be made very welcome

Margaret Fox

With some welcome rain at last the riverbank where I daily walk my dog is a picture in pink and yellow with ladies' bedstraw and some odd bits of rape with pink mallow and purple loosestrife. While on holiday in the New Forest I spent a day at Compton Acres which has Roman, Italian and Japanese gardens as well as miles of shady walks, up and down hills with running water and pools and a huge area put down to heathers. The gardens are well worth a visit with the added attraction of a plant centre, albeit rather a pricey one, but I did bring back a few to plant in my garden for cuttings and breaking up for plants for my weekly stall. However, the riverbank is one of nature's rivals to their planted beauty.

Holidays nearly over and soon it will be back to our usual routines but hopefully with a fresh eye to improve some things we do or cut out things which are no longer relevant or productive. Already there is a hitch in our usual routine in that the floor of the kitchen which serves

the social centre had to be re-laid at great cost. Years ago we would have dealt with cracking edges with some sort of filler but these days Health and Safety has to be satisfied. I am reminded of Flanders and Swann and their ditty which repeated the line 'It all makes work for the working man to do' from the *Gas Man Calls*. The kitchen was out of action for a week so that the regular clientele of older folk who rely on the centre for a daily cooked lunch had to make other arrangements and also miss out on the fellowship they usually enjoy. We too will have to up our game in relation to our weekly fund raising coffee mornings to help with this extra expense. As the capitation the Church has to pay Circuit for their administration and to be passed on for Ministers' salaries and other Church expenses is now over £9 per week per person, there is always need for more money to balance our books, in looking after our premises and for our real work of outreach. Thank goodness our lettings, efficiently managed by John Roust, help us keep our heads above water and our stalwart band of volunteers helps our fund raising to keep going. Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless. I am very cheered by the amazing amount of volunteering which goes on outside our Churches, from youngsters taking a gap year to help with VSO to older folks helping to raise funds in charity shops, with folk clearing up litter especially on our beaches, helping to keep our waterways fresh and clean and helping to manage forest sites. As the Queen Mum said 'service is the price we pay for our space on earth'. Now we look forward to our church activities starting again with preparation for Harvest Festival. While our farmers have had a difficult time with the lack of rain we must remember the poor farmers in New South Wales and be grateful for our normally reasonable climate. I must admit watering every day, the plants for my stall both in the church garden and my own garden, was hard work but at least there was water to be had. When we celebrate our harvest will be the time to remember the Churches Together appeal for funds for the Christmas Hampers as some items will be bought well before Christmas, taking advantage of special offers. I know last year's

hampers were gratefully and sometimes tearfully received by needy families and we who live comfortably should welcome the opportunity of helping those who are finding life tough going. What would Jesus have done?

Joan Macey

Dersingham

The folk at Dersingham have continued to be busy during the summer in spite of the heat. The coffee morning on the 28th July raised £256 which will be divided equally between the West Norfolk Befrienders and Church Funds, and the Chicken Foot evening raised £144 which will be divided between Headway, King's Lynn and Church Funds. The next Chicken Foot evening will be on Friday 5th October at 7.30pm and tickets will be on sale in September. Twenty-six people enjoyed a chicken casserole and apple pie lunch on the first Monday in August and the Needles and Pins Club members continued to use their skills with needles and pins - and crochet hooks! Plenty of conversation takes place at all these events and folk appreciate the care and concern for one another which they encounter.

Our activities may be rather thwarted during September as major work to the floor and walls in the corridor will be starting on the 10th September and will last approximately 3 - 4 weeks. The Harvest Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 29th September and will raise money for the Farming Community Network. Our Harvest Festival Services will take place on the 7th October when the Rev. Catherine Dixon will take the morning service at 10.30am and the vicar, the Rev. Mark Capron, will take the evening service at 6pm. A harvest lunch will follow the morning service and, as in previous years, the gifts will be given to the King's Lynn Food Bank.

Our mid-week Communion services take place on the 4th Wednesday of every month and the next one will be on the 26th September at 10am.

Rosemary Caink

Highgate

King's Lynn Heritage Open Day. Sunday 16th September.

This is a great opportunity for us at Highgate to be part of the Heritage Open Day. We have much to celebrate, rejoicing in our rich heritage and the faith and vision of those who founded Highgate Chapel in 1850. Throughout the years it has been a special place, a spiritual home for many people and it continues today.

We will be open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm to welcome people and offer refreshments. At 3.00 pm we will be having a Songs of Praise led by Rev. Catherine. Visitors can choose hymns and Jenny will be ready to play their choices so we can make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Janet Mason

Gaywood St Faith's

St Faith's major event of the summer - the motorbike ride to Scotland and back by the Rector, the Rev Julie Boyd, her husband Matthew and their daughter Hattie - has now taken place (the trio left St Faith's to a rousing send-off with a blessing by the Lord Bishop of Norwich the Rt. Rev Graham James and the good wishes of crowds of people gathered to see them off and were escorted to the outskirts of Lynn in a cavalcade of motorbike riders).

This exciting and amazing fund-raising initiative attracted widespread interest and publicity and has already, through sponsorship, raised several thousands of pounds for our project, a new centre serving the heart of the community.

In this new centre, people will find a new Church office base, a drop-in centre and café with a friendly welcome and a place that serves the whole community. The idea is that local support groups and networks will be able to support the people in their care by using this new welcoming café space with private consultation rooms and gardens in the privacy of the grounds of the Church.

West Norfolk MIND will be there from the beginning. This organisation which does such important work for people will be the first user group to hold weekly meetings in the new community hub. MIND will be given free use of the space for their meetings for the first three years after the Centre is opened.

If you would like to make a donation to the Bungalow Project please contact St Faith's Office on 01553 774916 for more details.

September 1st sees the latest in the increasingly popular St Faith's Saturday Coffee Mornings and More event which is attracting growing numbers of visitors. All proceeds go towards Church funds.

The month of September at St Faith's Church means harvest celebrations and this year the special festival will be on Sunday 30th September at 10.30am (please note change of time).

During the service people will be invited to offer their harvest gifts of produce and afterwards the gifts will be given the King's Lynn Foodbank and the Purfleet Trust.

The service will be followed by the Harvest Lunch in the Gaywood Church Rooms starting from 12 noon onwards.

Bookings for places at the lunch have to be made by 23rd September and are £6 for adults and £3 for secondary school age children (free for younger age). Contact the Church office.

A small team, working under the direction of St Faith's Team Vicar, the Rev. Karlene Kerr, has arranged for an exhibition, to commemorate the centenary of the end of the World War One, is to be put in St Faith's Church. The display, which will also include a selection of WW1 memorabilia, will tell the stories of those brave men and women from Gaywood who gave their lives for our freedom in the 1914-18 conflict. The exhibition is due to open in church on Monday, October 8th and continues until Remembrance Sunday on November 11th.

Closely associated with the exhibition will be a vigil in church on Saturday, 10th November between 2pm and 8pm. The vigil will include readings of WW1 poetry, Bible readings and prose reading from the period. There will also be prayers and time for reflection. More details will be announced in October's Rejoice!

Plans are well underway for the fourth St Faith's Christmas Tree Festival which will open on December 7th. More details will appear in the October edition of Rejoice! magazine.

Richard Parr

MAURICE'S SABBATICAL

We wish Maurice well as he embarks on his sabbatical. The dates are 3rd September to 3rd December 2018.

We have agreed ministerial cover as follows for the churches in the Downham Market section:-

Downham Market Church

Catherine Dixon has agreed to be available throughout the period (except for 5th to 15th November when Andrew Maguire will be available)

Other churches in the section

September - Steve Oliver is available

October - Andrew Maguire is available

November - Steve Oliver

Andrew Maguire

FROM THE CIRCUIT LEADERSHIP TEAM AND CIRCUIT MEETING

It was with sadness that the Circuit Meeting heard that the Rev. Catherine Dixon had reached a decision that she would like to seek the curtailment of her appointment in the Circuit from August 2019. Catherine has valued greatly her time in the Circuit but feels that the time has come, after five years of two-site living, to seek an appointment in which she will be able to be together with her husband Lawrence. The Circuit Invitation Committee has considered this, and it has been shared with the Chair of District and the Assistant Secretary of Conference.

The Circuit Meeting agreed that, for September 2019, we would seek a new Superintendent Minister who will live in the Peckover Way Manse in King's Lynn. The Circuit Stewards are in the process of drawing up the necessary profile. If a new Superintendent Minister is appointed then it will mean that, from September 2019, there will be three Presbyters in the Circuit.

The Circuit Meeting also agreed that a Circuit Administrator should be appointed to work with the new Superintendent, and that possibilities should be explored for additional support from, say, a Supernumerary Minister or Lay Worker.

It was also agreed that, when the Rev. Stephen Oliver leaves the Circuit, we would explore whether a Probationer Minister might be appointed in the Hunstanton section of the Circuit.

At the Circuit Meeting we were reminded of the central importance of prayer in relation to our shared life and hopes and concerns. We are, of course, aware that many people around the Circuit regularly offer such prayer individually and together. We wish to urge all our churches, on Sunday 2nd September, to offer prayer for our Circuit and its future mission and staffing. Those leading worship on this Sunday know about this.

The Circuit Meeting was also aware that our churches regularly reflect and pray at their meetings about the life and mission of our individual churches. At the conclusion of the May meeting it was agreed that we should commend to all the churches:-

1. To engage in prayerful discernment about the ways God is leading the Church and the Circuit
2. To reflect together about lay leadership within each Church
3. To widely explore creative ways of working, particularly within the local ecumenical context
4. To seek to discern the best deployment of resources lay, ordained and financial for the most effective mission of the Circuit.

Andrew Maguire and Sheila Johnson
On behalf of the Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting

It's good to hear from friends who have moved away.

Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world" and so I went!

For the second year running I felt led to go to Hungary on mission as part of the Way of Hope Foundation. Each summer they run a number of camps where the children come each day to learn English, play games and hear the stories of Jesus. So I went as a volunteer as part of an international team to take part in this work.

The first week we were based in Nagyszokoly in southeast Hungary in a small farming community not too far from Lake Balaton. Just under 50 children came to the camp each day, starting with morning exercises to Christian songs at 8am, followed by breakfast. English lessons and Bible work lasted all morning, then after dinner it was games on the field in temperatures of 35 or so. Interestingly all the locals went to bed after lunch as it was too hot to do much else, whilst we played rounders! The children went home late afternoon and it gave the leaders time to plan and prepare for the next day as well as experience some very generous Hungarian hospitality.

I had a couple of free days between the two camps to rest and spend time with other leaders. I began to wish I had looked at a map before I volunteered! The two camps couldn't have been further apart! The second camp was a four hour drive from Budapest out towards the Hungarian/Romanian border! It was a completely different experience from the first week, but I enjoyed it just as much. Mateszalka was a small town and we were based in the Reformed Church. I had a wonderful translator called Gabor. He was a teacher at the local secondary school and volunteered to be a translator to improve his English. He loved learning about English culture and we worked well together.

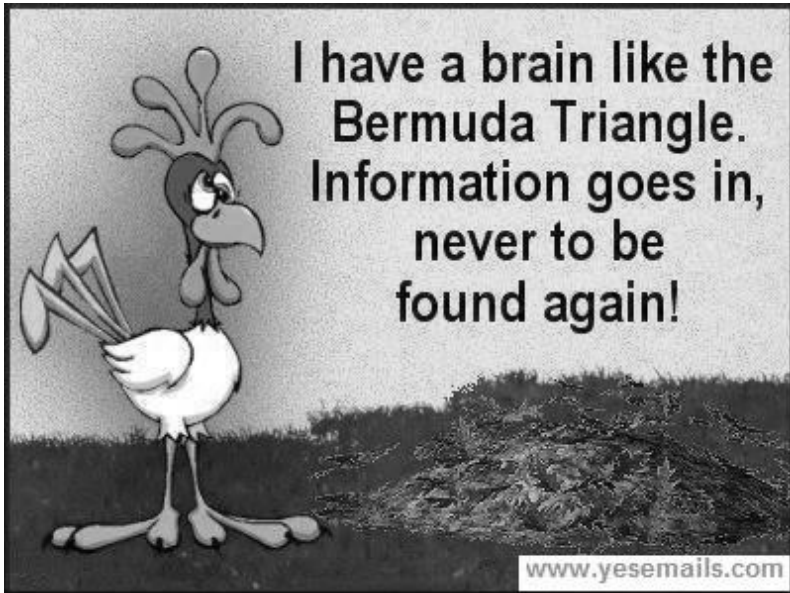
At both camps I shared the stories of Jesus where he met different kinds of people. We talked about how we feel to be different, how it is fine to be different and individual and how Jesus loves us just as we are. The eleven and twelve year olds in my class really understood these stories and shared their feelings and emotions and learned from the Bible stories.

I loved experiencing Hungarian hospitality, people serving us amazing meals in their humble homes, people lending us a bed for the night or even moving out of their home to let two or three of us stay there! It was hot and tiring mission

work, but so rewarding. It was good to meet new people in faraway places and be out in the mission field. Trying to fly back home on a weekend when loads of planes were cancelled and getting stranded in Budapest was another story, but I am trying to forget that bit of the adventure!

Jackie Austin

(I asked Jackie to write about her trip then nearly forgot to put it in!!)



And the rest of me.....

It's just over two years since I completed my 70 walks of 70 minutes and I have fallen by the wayside. So I have set myself some new challenges. One of them is to get back on my bike. (I have often been told on yer bike!) But I have lost my confidence. I need a spur. So if anyone would care to sponsor me to ride for at least 5 minutes on my trusty seed I will donate that money plus an equal amount to charity.

Ed.

Don't worry about old age. It doesn't last!



How to talk to strangers about Jesus

This is not as terrifying as it sounds!

Churches Together in King's Lynn welcome you to come and hear the Anglican Evangelist John Wright show us how to do it with lots of stories and laughter.

'Be bold, be strong, for the Lord thy God is with you!'

It will give you JOY on earth and treasure in heaven.

~~~~~

St John the Evangelist Church,  
Blackfriars Road, King's Lynn. PE30 1NT.  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September @ 10.30am.

## **Churches Together in King's Lynn AGM**

5-minute talks on projects in and by local churches

Come and be inspired, and be part of the conversation!

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm  
London Road Methodist Church

## **Rev. Maurice Stafford writes**

One aspect of the future shape of our Circuit is the possibility of appointing workers. I thought that before I go off on sabbatical I might add a contribution.

For two years I was a lay worker – I was originally called a Lay Assistant but that was changed to Pastoral Assistant – I was based at Plymouth. It was some time ago – I was 22 when I arrived.

I was paid very little – that has had to change – I did not mind, I was overjoyed to do the job. I worked full-time alongside two other ministers. I was already a local preacher so preached regularly. My original brief was to work alongside young people but that was altered as work at Devonport stopped and the second minister was very good with young people. My main work was with older people and I visited care homes, helped run a day centre, once a week. I was also involved in setting up a chaplaincy at what was Plymouth Polytechnic and followed up all the students that came to Plymouth. When a member of the Day Centre or someone I knew from the care homes died, I was increasingly involved in the funerals. It was a good two years and hopefully both the church and community benefitted. I did, learning skills I would build on later.

Many decades later I found myself in Sheffield where we had to drop staff from four to two. Both churches and Circuit began to find pockets of money to employ lay workers. I was particularly involved at Hillsborough with Yannie Duveen, who had been born in the Netherlands but had lived most of her life in the UK. I did the traditional stuff while Yannie ran holiday clubs, messy church, did baptismal preparation, conducted baptisms and the follow-up. She created a “Toddler Praise” to add to the Mother and Toddler Group that also ran once a week. It all worked very well and she was still in post when I left to come to Downham.

I recognize that the Circuit has had Lay workers before and depending on how you feel they have got on will colour your judgement. But if we engage a Lay worker they will be a fresh person with a new task to do.

There are several important questions we need to ask. What would we want this person to do? Traditional Tasks of ministry or new ones? Where should they be based? Would they be full-time, part-time or voluntary? Where in the Circuit is their work to be developed? There is a Ministerial shortage at present but there will be people out there who will apply for this work. Yannie was prepared to travel each day from Worksop to North Sheffield. Such was her motivation and commitment. Another Lay worker moved from Birmingham to work with us.

So there is a lot to think about and pray about, as we look at what can be done as we prepare to reduce our Ministerial staff in 2019.

## More thoughts from Sue

### Home and Abroad

Lord, bless those who  
Live near and far:  
In their darkness  
Be thou their star.

Give them thy hand  
To touch and see.  
Independence  
And dignity.

Lord, hear my prayer  
Let it resound  
In everything  
From all around

## SEEKING AND SAVING THE LOST

The Bible story of the Shunammite woman who built a Prophet's Chamber for the man of God reminded me of another "Prophet's Chamber", not so well known of course.

In my first circuit, Weardale, as it was then, I visited a farm house where an outside stone staircase led to a room, reserved for the use of John Wesley whenever he came, as he did, to High House in the Co Durham village of Ireshopeburn, no fewer than thirteen times. This is the Methodist chapel which is now the oldest in the world but whose future is uncertain and awaits the decision of Methodist Heritage as to its future.

However I really wanted to tell you what happened one day when Wesley was riding slowly up the steep hill to his lodging. It is a story told with all the freshness of a tradition handed down from generation to generation. Looking to the left of the road he caught sight of a young man in a field which was sloping down towards the river Wear. He must have had a wonderful memory of people he met on his travels for he recognised the lad as a member of the Junior Society when he had visited the church two years previously. Thinking it strange that he had not been at the preaching, he called out to him "Aaron Ritson!" Looking over his shoulder Aaron pretended not to hear. Wesley called again more loudly, upon which Aaron quickened his footsteps. Realising that Aaron did not mean to hear, Wesley dismounted, tethered his horse to a stone gatepost (Methodist Ancient Monument) and gave chase. Conscience stricken, Aaron Ritson took to his

heels, ran as fast as he could down the hill, alongside the river and eventually sought refuge in a shaft leading to a disused lead mine. There, in the depths of the earth, Wesley caught up with him, reasoned, pleaded, knelt down and prayed, with him, until he broke down in penitential tears. He was won back to a commitment which proved to be lifelong. For the next fifty years Aaron Ritson was a tower of strength in the church; he became a Class Leader and Sunday School Superintendent. When he became too old to hear the preacher a special chair was put in the pulpit where he could sit and listen to the word with his ear trumpet.

I met some of his descendants who were still living in the Dale in my time. The name of Ritson is an honoured one in the Methodist ministry. The most famous was Dr John Holland Ritson who became General Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society in 1899 and as a member of the Ministerial Training Committee was closely involved in the opening of Wesley House, Cambridge. He was President of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference in 1925.

All because John Wesley wouldn't let a young backslider off the hook.

John Garfoot

P.S. Since writing the above I have discovered that this story has already appeared in the Methodist Recorder in 1898, a little before even my time.



## LET'S WALK AND CIRCUIT SERVICE

The sixth Let's Walk event will take place on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September** at Downham Market Methodist Church. The theme this year is 'Our Calling'.

**A walk round Downham Market** led by Hazel and John Miles will take place at **3 p.m.**, meeting at Downham Market Methodist Church, followed by **tea at 5.00 p.m.** at Downham Market Methodist Church and a **Circuit service at 6.00 p.m.**

The walk is about 3 miles long and easy going. If you are travelling with someone who is walking and you are not taking part in the walk, you can wait in Downham Market Methodist Church while the walk is taking place.

**This event is open to everyone.** If you cannot attend all three parts, just take part in what you would like to.

To help with arrangements please let me know as soon as possible if you are joining the walk and require tea.

Elizabeth Batstone  
pebatstone@gmail.com. Tel: 01485 541068

\*Tea – You are invited to bring an item to share for tea.



**St Botolph's Church  
presents**

**The Last Night of the Proms**



**On  
Saturday 22nd September 2018  
At 7.30pm**

**With The Bilton Silver (Rugby)  
Band**



Tickets £10 including drink  
Please phone 01553 674286  
Tickets on the door  
subject to availability

St Botolph Church  
Gayton Road  
Grimston  
PE32 1BG  
Charity Number 249318

Or call 01553 674286

## **West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary**

### **SEPTEMBER 2018 onwards**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September Circuit Meeting at London Road 7pm

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September Churches Together in King's Lynn AGM, London Road Methodist 7pm

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September How to talk to strangers about Jesus, St John the Evangelist Church, Blackfriars Road, King's Lynn. PE30 1NT at 10.30am.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September Last Night at the Proms Concert St Botolphs Church Grimston 7.30pm

Monday October 1<sup>st</sup> MWiB A.G.M. at London Road

Thursday October 11<sup>th</sup> MWiB Autumn District Day

Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup> Mystery Auction at Gaywood St Faith's 7pm

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October Craft Fair at Downham

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