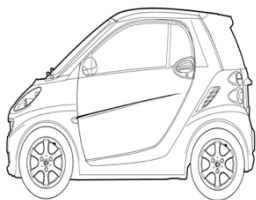


Rejoice!

April/May 2020



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



From the Little Yellow Smart Car.

As I write, anxiety about Coronavirus is growing and, by the time you read it, the situation will have moved on. We will be dealing with a new reality and that includes

within the church.

I have been challenged by a question: **if we are unable to meet, are we able to continue being church?** How do we fulfil Our Calling?

Like many other organisations, we might choose to wait until we are able to meet together again and see the time apart as an extended holiday. The hiatus would not be a wasted time, and we would continue to follow our individual faith journeys away from the meeting points we have, but we would have ground to recover, when we joined together again.

My brother and sister-in-law find themselves doing this, in Greece, as the school they teach in has been closed. My brother pointed out, this simply meant they would have to work for two weeks longer, when they go back!

Perhaps, in times of crisis, we look to those in leadership to keep the church alive. Pope Francis has suggested that priests should not be afraid to visit those who are ill - and whilst, on the one hand, this is a conviction of faith; on the other hand, it is possibly ill advised in the middle of a time of quarantine.

New technologies and social media can keep us connected - if we have become familiar and comfortable with them. They do, perhaps, offer suggestions for ways of worshipping over the internet and ensuring that pastoral care continues. They allow us

to remain in contact with each other - but we have a long way to go before that becomes a routine part of our church life.

Wherever we are up to by the time you read this, and whatever the short and medium future have in store, the crisis will pass and life will find a new normality.

The **question** will remain and it will continue to niggle me - drawing me back into Scripture to look for ways of being God's covenant people: who have responded to the gospel of God's love in Christ and strive to live out our discipleship in worship and mission. When we are unable to meet - through frailties or circumstances - we need, more than ever, to know that we belong to God's people. So, I share my 'niggle' and look forward to the conversations it generates.

Every blessing,

Jackie Goddard



Any items for the **JUNE/JULY/AUGUST** edition should be with the editor by **MAY 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!**

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Praying together in the Circuit

Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross and is now seated at the right side of God's throne. Think of what he went through, how he put up with so much hatred from sinners! So do not let yourselves become discouraged and give up. Heb.12:2-3

The lectionary readings from the gospels for April and May take us from Palm Sunday to Pentecost Sunday.

We pray for our Circuit as we focus on these scriptures.

As we hear the accounts of Jesus walking in humble obedience to death, his death on the cross,

as we sing the meaningful hymns which tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love,

may our love and our commitment deepen

may our lives sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for us

and rose victorious, was exalted to the highest place

and given the name that is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Our fervent prayer - come Holy Spirit come

that one by one people will say - "I am the Lord's"

Aldersgate Sunday - 24th May

we remember John Wesley's testimony

"I felt my heart strangely warmed.

I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation

and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine; and saved me from the law of sin and death!

Words of John Wesley

May we all experience what it is to be - not almost only
but altogether Christians !

Being justified freely by His grace,
through the redemption that is in Jesus,
knowing that we have peace with God through Jesus Christ,
rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God,
and having the love of God shed abroad in our hearts
by the Holy Ghost given to us !

Revive Thy work, O Lord, give Pentecostal showers;
The glory shall be all thine own, the blessing, Lord be ours.
[Albert Midlane 1825-1909]

Prayers have been requested for:

Derek + Viv, Stephanie, Margie, Janice, Amy, Trisha, Linda, Andrew,
Mavis & Julia, Judy, Dulcie+ Neil, Kath, Stephen + Victoria, William,
Tom, Brian Osborne, Sarah. Ann having chemotherapy and for her
husband Mike. For David having chemotherapy and for Sheila his wife
Perfect love casts out all fear.

Lord for those who are worried. anxious, concerned
help each one to cast their cares upon you, comfort them in your peace

Lord, hear our prayers
for an end to the spreading of the Coronavirus
cleansing and healing for those infected.

for climate change implications and effects
and our responsibilities to be good stewards of all you have given us.
for families and communities dealing with the destruction
caused by flooding in their homes.

for the 'Graham Tour' visiting eight cities in the UK
from May to October with a message of 'Hope in Jesus Christ'

Around the churches



Clenchwarton

Clenchwarton Chapel has been undergoing refurbishment due to the floor replacement. We have been worshipping with our fellow Christians in the Parish church and at Terrington St Clement, both have made us very welcome. On the weekend of April 18th and 19th we are planning to Re-dedicate the Chapel with a weekend of celebration, starting with a play based on the history of the chapel in Clenchwarton by CMEG and 'down memory lane' photo display on the Saturday afternoon in the Hall from 2-4 pm, light refreshments will be served. On Sunday 19th a Re-Dedication service led by Rev. Jackie Goddard at 10.30 am our new service time, after which there will be a time for coffee and fellowship. We would like to extend a welcome, to all our Circuit friends, to come and celebrate with us.

Elsbeth Hardy

Heacham

It's is and is going to be a busy time here in Heacham over the next few months.

Already we have started Lenten Cross gatherings- the first was on 3rd March with a communion service -"Bread and Wine. On 10th March the gathering is entitled Towel and Basin; 17th March Palm Leaves and, lastly, 24th March Crown and Purple Robe. All the gatherings were followed by a shared lunch of soup and bread.

The Deanery Services started on 4th March and then weekly at 7.00 pm for 5 services. (Docking, Brancaster, Snettisham, St Nicholas'

Dersingham and Sandringham.) All are invited and welcome to the last of these events.

Our alternate Tuesday afternoon Fellowship Meetings have also restarted for the year with an excellent talk from RNLI members on 3rd March.

Already we have had a delicious lunch on Shrove Tuesday (great thanks to Mark and Val, and all the helpers). As a result, we were able to send £300 to CAP (Christians Against Poverty).

Most importantly, however, we feel 2020 is going to be a year of change and action for us here, in Heacham. Change is never easy, especially when we have been blessed with six years of such wonderful leadership and friendship from Steve and Jill. In faith we look to the future.

To demonstrate his inspired input to our area, Steve has organised a major event to celebrate Pentecost - a Pentecost Event on 31st May 2020, to take place on the football field at Heacham from 10.30 am. A London gospel choir has been booked as the major attraction - with a marquee and more planned. The choir has also committed to perform at Hunstanton Methodist Church on the same afternoon. So, two events to look forward to

We are hoping for wide support and all are welcome. Do come and join us.

Joan Careless

Stow Bridge

"From everlasting to everlasting you are God"

"Come with me" he said and took me by the hand and led me out of the door. Out through the narrow corridors of my mind into the spacious vastness. And he said, "Look up," and in doing so I glimpsed the universe, millions of stars in an ink black sky, clear, calm, so still that I could hear the eternal echoing from the beginning and I beheld in that moment that it was good! And whirling thoughts were stopped, swapped for twinkling orbits. An invitation to join the dance and gaze

starry eyed on all of this, to be immersed in God's infinity. And I saw in God's creation the limitless love of God for me, a fleck, a speck amidst the spectacular but formed by the same hands as all this and held always heart close, precious and blessed and delighted upon; a wondrous rebalancing. I know and am known and from this epiphany everjoyed I return home.

I have included this piece, taken from the magazine, *Connexion*, winter issue. For anyone who hasn't seen it. I personally enjoyed the trip into God's space and the wonderful thoughts and visions it gave me.

All this from Psalm 90 verse 2.

Peter Hewitt

Feltwell

DON'T MISS IT!! An event not to be missed by all you crafters.

The Bayeux Tapestry - How the replica is being made, a presentation by the creator Mia Hansson (from Wisbech) at Feltwell Methodist Church Community Hall 1.45 for 2.00pm prompt start **SATURDAY 18th APRIL**. **ADMISSION by £5 TICKET ONLY**. Seats limited so get your tickets now from Brigette Wilkinson 01366 728797,

bridgettediwilkinson@gmail.com This has been organised by Feltwell Methodist Church Craft Group. Refreshments will be served.

Seems a while since our last reflections. We are delighted to share our enthusiasm for the changes we hope to see following the installation of a more efficient heating and lighting system in our hall. From eight hanging fluorescent tubes which were difficult to change, balanced on steps, tube in hand, we have four LED units hung higher, shining brighter and longer lasting. We are now inspired to add a coat of paint to the drab windowsills and dado rail. We have recently taken two new weekly bookings for the hall. These attend to the health and well being of their clients and add to the well being service already delivered through the FeltwellBeings group and Brownies who meet very successfully each week. We continue to have our monthly

'Elevenzes' meeting on the 1st Thursday morning each month, when oodles of cakes are also on sale.

As I write this, the sad news of the passing into eternity of Alan Tofts hits the air waves. Alan was an active, reliable and traditional Feltwell Methodist for decades. Even at my age, I could feel that as property trustee, I have become Alan's protégé. We celebrate Alan's contribution to this fellowship and his reunion with his wife who passed away last year. We pray that our pipe organ motor will be repaired and refitted before Alan's funeral (service of celebration). Following illness affecting some of our members, we hope to establish our community garden in time for spring planting. Our Old Codgers still enjoy their monthly music and quiz nights with my 10 ½ yr. old granddaughter DJing for us in February, and doing an excellent job too!! I'm training another old codger to DJ in case my holiday to Malta becomes a reality in May, when I'll miss the monthly event. He'll have to DJ in June too as I go to Bury to listen to the London Welsh Male Voice Choir.

Our Book Fayre drew over 500 books from villagers but not so many of the villagers themselves. Nevertheless we did raise £100 towards our hall improvements programme.

Our Spring Craft Fair on 21st March will have passed by the time you read this and it too struggled to muster support from the village. Only three non-church tables were let, so we decided to broaden the event to include plants and books. This trend has grown over the last year or so and if we are to maintain a presence in the village, we will have to re-invent ourselves. There will be a village fete again in June where we will be flying the flag.

Mike Wilkinson

Terrington Saint Clement

Our Easter Coffee morning will be on Saturday 4th April 10 am to 12 midday, with hot cross buns and usual stalls. All are welcome.

Rev. Jackie Goddard is having meetings for Lent on a Thursday morning 11.30 to 12.30. There are various stations around the chapel and some challenging tasks to complete.

We have our Lent banner on display, and are adding various things ie crown of thorns, scourge etc. each Sunday. The banner was kindly repaired by Lesley Best, for which we are very grateful.

Network (MWIB): Alison Norman shared her life story which she has made into a book. Elizabeth Batstone told us of the story of St. David patron saint of Wales.

Network is still well attended as is Saturday coffee morning (knit and natter)

Linda Howling

Downham Market

Ladies' Friendship

So far this year we have crossed out numbers, heard all about things we couldn't do without, (cars, jar openers, address books!) and had a speaker from the RSPCA at West Winch, who told us about sad things that they were able to rectify.

Our next meetings; April 1st we will be dining at The Castle (all being well!), April 15th we will listen to Peter Thorpe, April 29th, making a joyful noise with Cherry Marham and her hand bells. May continues musically on 13th but on 27th it's brain testing time with a quiz.

Do come and join us. As the name implies we are a very friendly lot! Meetings begin at 7.30pm.

Jan Roust

I write this article with some trepidation as I don't seem able to say the right things at the moment. In the edition before last I mentioned looking forward to returning after holidays with batteries charged ready for the busy Christmas activities and lovely music - got sent to hospital and banned from driving and so missed practically everything. In the Feb/March edition I signed off looking forward to

Spring and wishing everyone a germ free not too severe Winter; a mistake of Michael Fish proportions. Now we appear to be in limbo waiting to see how this new virus will affect us. Joining a 2/3 month queue for surgery I feel I want to carry on as normally as possible without taking any undue risks; patience and prayer is the answer. Meanwhile the year has started to rush past; already we are well into Lent with Easter celebrations very near. The last meeting of Churches Together in Downham finalised plans for the Good Friday Walk of Witness which will start as usual at 9.00 am from St. Edmunds and finish at our Church with refreshments before the 11.00 service. A Christian Aid service is being planned for 17th May at Ryston at 6.30 pm and there will be a Christian Aid Quiz at St. Edmunds on 22nd May starting at 7.00 p.m.

On the Lent theme, for some years now the emphasis has been on doing something positive rather than just trying to give up something and this certainly seems more effective in spreading the message of loving our neighbours as ourselves and obeying the command 'feed my sheep'. Recently some of us helped a member's granddaughter to show her care for others by finding paid work for her to raise the funds she needed to go to Cambodia. She has reported back:

Hello, I am Rosie Holden and in July 2019 I went to the beautiful country of Cambodia for four weeks. During this trip I endured many exciting adventures that continue to influence me today.

One of the volunteering opportunities I got to participate in was digging and making a well for a whole village to have cleaner water. I also helped teach children in a Cambodian school to learn English, built a full chicken coop for a poor family and finished building a toilet. Some of the other tasks were so large that further groups had to continue the work that we started. During this trip, we also had the opportunity to take part in some 'once in a life time' experiences. This included touring around Angkor Wat (as well as four magnificent other religious temples), a week of scuba diving where I earned my 'open

water diver' achievement, try new foods, and of course spend lots of dollars at the Cambodian Markets.

I truly believe that this opportunity changed my life because it makes me understand how fortunate and lucky I am to be living my current life. This is a positive experience due to the fact that I feel lucky enough to help people in poorer or developing countries. This is a life changing experience that my school is able to arrange every two years with the students.

I am very grateful for all the support that was offered to me during the time leading up to this trip. So, thank you to all of the people who helped me raise money by giving me jobs and work to do and the people who donated money. I am so thankful to you for making this experience a reality.

Week by week our regular activities continue alongside preparations for special events. Our social centre cooks and volunteer helpers provide an inexpensive hot meal for those who live alone and cannot cook for themselves and anyone else who comes in at the same time keeping an eye on them and looking out for any problems. Our Saturday coffee mornings continue to provide a safe space for folk to gather to enjoy homemade cakes and bargains from the bric a brac stall and our extensive library. One man brings his little dog in every week to buy him something from our varied collection of stuffed toys. I have missed not being able to get there on Saturday mornings and hope before March is out - no I daren't say it - when the weather gets warmer to start up my plant stall outside under the new gazebo, wind permitting. I have some lovely hellebores, both the white Christmas rose and the purple ones which have been in flower for some time now and some pink camellias which need good for ever homes, as they say when referring to rescue pets. I notice along the riverbank that the cowslips are appearing again to join the snowdrops which have been blooming for weeks now; no celandines though. My riverside walks have been somewhat curtailed recently with the high winds we have

been suffering, even the swans seem to spend more time roosting in the fields rather than on the river.

When the time comes to write for the June/July issue we shall be well into the holiday season with hopefully exams over and schools about to break up, if life has returned to whatever we call normal. Sit tight and pray, God bless.

Joan Macey

St Faith's Gaywood

Our Rector, the Rev. Julie Boyd has become the Rev Canon Julie Boyd following her installation into that honorary post at Norwich Cathedral on Sunday, 16th February.

The installation of Canon Julie, together with four other honorary Canons, took place during a special service of Choral evensong.

Canon Julie's new title does not affect her position as Rector of St Faith's Anglican Church which will continue, but she will have a stronger link to the Cathedral and have her own stall there. Her new title involves her becoming something of an ambassador of the fine Cathedral.

All of us at St Faith's Church, some of whom attended the service, offer Canon Julie our warmest congratulations and we will keep her in our prayers as she becomes more familiar with her new role.

This year St Faith's Church has again been arranging a series of Lent lunches. The sixth and final Lunch will be on Friday 3rd April in Gaywood Church Rooms. If you would like to help in the staging of the Lunches by making/providing soup, serving the soup or washing up afterwards please contact St Faith's Church office on 01552 774916.

The Lunch starts at 12.45pm and consists of home-made soup and bread. It is followed by a short talk. All proceeds from the Lunches go to the Bishop's Lent Appeal. Thanks are expressed to all those who provided the delicious soups or helped before or after in the kitchen.

The latest in the ever-popular Saturday Coffee and More events will be on Saturday, 4th April, in the Church Rooms. All are very welcome to come along and enjoy, from 10 am friendship and fun while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake or a savoury bite. There is a raffle and selection of stalls run by a baker and a butcher and a card-maker. Admission is free for the event that continues for two hours. The following day, Sunday, 5th April, will be Palm Sunday with a service at 9.45am and an evening Passiontide service starting at 6.30pm. This is a lovely, reflective service with special items by the choir.

On Wednesday, 8th April, starting at 10 am, will be the Stations of the Cross service with readings and hymns as those present move around the church. The service will be followed at 10.45am by the usual Wednesday service of Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday sees the Chrism Eucharist service at Norwich Cathedral when all of Norfolk's clergy are invited to attend and renew their ordination vows. This offers Norfolk church-goers the rare opportunity of seeing most of the county's robed clergy process through Norwich Cathedral. It starts at 11am. In previous years some members of St Faith's Church have travelled to Norwich for this service and lifts can usually be arranged.

Back at Gaywood, in the evening starting at 7.30pm, is the Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar service which again offers a time of reflection on Christ's passion.

Members of St Faith's Church have an opportunity to display their Faith in public in the annual Good Friday Procession of Witness, walking, following a large wooden cross, carried in turns by volunteers, from Gaywood into the town centre. The procession sets off from St Faith's Church at 10am. On its way to the Minster the Gaywood "leg" of the procession stops at Highgate Chapel and St John's Church for a Bible reading and a hymn.

Once outside the Minster, the procession makes its way through the Lynn town centre, stopping at various locations for Bible readings and hymns telling the Easter story.

The procession ends back inside the Minster for a final prayer and blessing followed by everyone sharing in home-made hot-cross buns and coffee.

"Jesus Christ is Risen TodayAlleluia " the great and glorious celebration of the resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ starts early at St Faith's Church with the 6am Dawn Holy Communion service which is usually (weather permitting) held outside at the east end of the church. This is a lovely service greeting Easter morning and is often followed by breakfast and fellowship afterwards in the Church Rooms.

The main Easter Sunday service at St Faith's is at 9.45am when there is an opportunity to sing some of those well-loved Easter hymns and hear again the Easter story as told to us in the Bible.

Children are invited to take part in a special Easter Egg Hunt around the church starting at 11am.

There is an evening service starting at 6.30pm.

Tuesday, 21st April is an important date in the life of St Faith's Church because, starting at 7pm, in the Gaywood Church Rooms, is the annual congregational meeting. It is at this meeting that the church's year is reviewed and churchwardens and deputy wardens and stewards, are elected and appointed. Church members are being encouraged to attend this meeting. More information about this meeting and nomination papers for the various officer posts are available from the church office.

Richard Parr

Dersingham

Our Good Friday service will take place at 10am and will be led by the Rev. Adrian Aubrey Jones. Following this there will be the usual village walk of witness ending up at St. Nicholas' Church for soup and a roll. On Easter Day the service at 10.30am will be led by the Rev. Steve and we hope to be joined again by the scouts from Wisbech. There will be no evening service in our church as we will be joining in an Easter Praise service at Hunstanton at 4pm with the Rev. Steve Oliver.

Then the time comes around again for our Flower Festival from the 21st - 24th May, a poster for which you will find elsewhere in the magazine. The theme this year is "Miracles - God at work". The children from the local school will be coming as usual on the Thursday and Friday mornings to open the Festival at 10am with their singing and to enjoy drinks and biscuits afterwards in the hall. It is always good to be able to welcome them and some of their parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles. And, of course, those of us who used to teach at the school find ourselves talking to former pupils who are now the parents! On Sunday 24th May the Rev. Steve will take the Festival Service at 10.30am which will be followed by a bring and share lunch, and a united Songs of Praise service at 6pm.

The Environmental Health Officer carried out another hygiene inspection of the kitchen and procedures at our March community lunch and we again passed with flying colours. The Bowls Club continues to be enjoyed by many people on a Wednesday afternoon and the church much appreciated their gift of a new fridge for the kitchen.

The AGM of the Church, to which everyone who attends our Church is invited, will take place on Tuesday 28th April at 2.30pm.

Rosemary Caink

Wimbotsham

We continue with great enthusiasm at Wimbotsham, with a few alterations at the front of the Church such as lowering the pulpit and taking the steps away to make it more accessible. Coffee mornings are going from strength to strength with new people coming for coffee and also joining us on Sundays. Next Month we start a games afternoon, day and time to be arranged.

The village of Wimbotsham is having an "Open Gardens" weekend in June. We will be opening up the chapel that weekend with a flower festival.

We have lost two members of our church very recently for which we are very sad. Our love goes out to their families at this sad time

Mary Rose

MWIB Future dates:-

Beverley Scott from Terrington St. Clement has agreed to be the new Treasurer for the West Norfolk Circuit M.W.I.B. with immediate effect.

A date has been arranged for the Easter Offering Service; 20th May 2020 at London Road Methodist Church at 2.30pm.

The A.G.M. Meeting will be held on Monday 5th October 2020 at London Road Methodist Church at 2.30pm.

REMINDER: The Spring District Day will be 23rd April at St. Ives - The speaker will be Rev. Leslie Griffiths and coffee/tea will be served from 10,00am.

The Autumn Day will be 8th October at Thetford - details to follow.

Margaret Shelton

God has no phone---but I talk to him
He has no Facebook---but he's still my friend.
He does not twitter ---but I still follow him.

When you're stressed you eat ice cream, cake, chocolate and sweets.

Why?

Because stressed spelled backwards is desserts!!! Meg Cooper

Words from Sue

Forgive/Forget

Is it so hard
To say sorry?
Admit mistakes
Or blind to see?

When something's wrong

Or out of place?
Too difficult
To even face?

Saying sorry
And with regret -
Just accepting -
And now - forget!

Changing Times

Now's the time to
Be creative
Do something new
And learn to live.

Having hobbies
And a free rein -
Gives a purpose,
Taxing the brain.

Yes, it's time to
Get creative -
Try something new,
And learn to live.

March 2020

**DERSINGHAM METHODIST
CHURCH
PE31 6HP**



**FLOWER FESTIVAL
THEME MIRACLES - GOD AT WORK**

**21st, 22nd, 23rd May
10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Sunday 24th May
2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

**Books + Cakes + Cards + Gifts
Plants + Fair Trade products
Coffee + Lunches + Teas**

Free admission

**Sunday Service 10.30 a.m.
Songs of Praise 6.00 p.m.**

Proceeds for Church Funds

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary

April 2020 onwards

Saturday 18th April Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac at Wimbotsham at 10.15

Thursday 23rd April MWiB Spring Day at St Ives

Tuesday 12th May DEADLINE FOR REJOICE

Saturday 16th May Coffee morning with bric-a-brac at Wimbotsham at 10.15 am

Sunday 17th May Christian Aid Service at Ryston at 6.30 pm

Wednesday 20th May at London Road Easter Offering Service at 2.30pm.

Thursday 21st May till Sunday 24th May. Flower Festival at Dersingham

Friday 22nd May Christian Aid Quiz at St Edmunds 7.00 pm

Saturday 20th June Coffee morning with bric-a-brac at Wimbotsham at 10.15 am

Sunday July 12th Circuit Farewell gathering for Maurice and Steve at London Road at 3 p.m

Sunday September 6th at 6 p.m. Welcome service for Paul and Rich at London Road on with Julian Pursehouse preaching.

PLEASE CHECK BEFORE YOU GO AS THINGS MAY HAVE CHANGED!!