

Rejoice!

September/October 2019



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



Hello West Norfolk!!!

We are FINALLY here; we made it! It has been a long time since I received the call from Sheila Johnson, your Senior Circuit Steward, and she invited me to come for a visit. I am delighted and excited to be here with y'all [that's American Southern speak for 'all of you]. But it's not just me who's come to live in your South Wootton manse. There's my wife, Rev Debbie Caulk [appointed to the Fens Circuit] and our little dog family of West Highland Terriers. Their names are Jessie [mom], McDuff [dad], Bobbie [from the 1st litter] and Wely [from the 2nd litter]. Jessie is now 12 and Wely is 7 years old, with the other two in between those ages. [P.S. I do not go around telling other people my wife's age].

The current President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference, The Rev. Barbara Glasson and Clive Marsh, have taken as their theme for this year: 'So What's the Story?' I thought I'd give you a little of my story. I entitle my story: 'I'm just like you, only different.'

First my full name is Robert Llewelyn Roberts. And...yes, I am Welsh; I'm the grandson of a Welsh miner. My grandfather emigrated to the US about the turn of the 20th century with his wife and two boys. They moved to Terre Haute, Indiana and had two additional children: a girl and then my father, Llewelyn. My mother, Rosalia [Sally] née Nowak was one of 11 children and they were part of a large Polish community in Detroit, Michigan. Mom was one of their middle children.

I was born in Detroit and have lived in an additional fifteen places before moving here to be with you in the West Norfolk Circuit. That includes four US states, as well as Yorkshire and Norwich. I'm also an only child and always wanted to NOT be the only child.

I first came to Britain on the British American Program [BAMP] in 2005 to stay for 11 months; however, I stayed for almost 4 years. Debbie and I knew each other before I came to England whilst I was finishing my training at Candler. In the US, ministers are required to get a Master's Degree in Divinity. I'd been in Circuit a few months when Debbie came to visit; I asked her to marry me and we got married [in the US] in March. She moved to England in July. We really liked living here in Britain; however, I'd spent 4 years in probation and thought returning to my home conference was the right place to get ordained. I was ordained in 2010.

Debbie began her training when we returned to the US. When she finished, we both still felt called to ministry in British Methodism; we returned in July 2014. Debbie was ordained here in 2018 and the same year I transferred my ministerial membership [i.e., received into Full Connexion]. Our calling is to do ministry within the British Methodist Church.

Between us, we have 3 grown children; my two, Jeff and Paige, are a little older with Debbie's son, Joshua, being the youngest. There are 3 grandchildren: 2 boys, 15 and 18 plus their sister who's 2.

I've spent 17 years as a minister and before that a little over 30 years in Aerospace Engineering. When I was in school I wanted to be an astronaut [remember this is the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing]. My studies at uni started with aerospace and finished with aviation. I really like detail, small seemingly unnecessary minutia that might bore many and I'm typically mathematical, quite logical but, I just love people.

When I started loving people more than the details, I started hearing God. I worked with some absolute geniuses in a variety of engineering fields and I loved being with all of them. As I heard God's call more and more, I began doing more and more with the Methodist Church [i.e. United Methodist Church in the USA]. At

first, it was just adult social groups, then study groups and bible studies. Then I was asked to join the adults who worked with the high school youth: now, that was really a blast. About that time, I started helping with adult weekend retreats and eventually, leading some of the discussions. One of the retreat ministers who was helping out said to me, "Have you thought about doing this fulltime?" And...as they say: "The rest is history."

You might be surprised to know that I like to cook, ride a motorcycle, can fly an airplane, I'm an aircraft mechanic and I love to fix cars. Therapy for me is having gotten out a hundred tools and taken a portion of the car to bits and then putting it all back together and it works! Peace, for me, is spending time with my Westies. A year ago in Sea Houses I walked into a shop and asked if my dogs could come in, too. The reply from the shopkeeper was, "Oh, you're the man with the 4 dogs that I've heard all about. Yes they can." Comfort is knowing my wonderful wife who loves ministry even more than I do.

So, you can see: 'That I'm just like you, only different.'

Blessings,

Robert, your new Superintendent Minister



Any items for the **NOVEMBER** edition should be with the editor by **OCTOBER 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! But please give me until 15th as I am not a very quick typist!!**

Mrs Barbara Foster
140 Stow Road
Magdalen, King's Lynn
PE34 3BD
Tel. 01553 811867

E mail rabbit1308@btinternet.com

Praying together in the Circuit

In a vision Paul saw a man calling him to come to Macedonia and help them. Paul responded and arrived in Philippi knowing that God had called him to preach the gospel there. Soon after arriving

On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. She and her household were baptised. Acts 16:13-15

Paul responded to his calling. The Lord did something new in Lydia which touched her whole family. God is working His purpose out.

The calling of the Methodist Church
is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ
and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

Sovereign God, in our coming together to worship You, to express our love for you, draw us ever deeper in our relationship with you. May we come expecting to encounter your living presence with us. Open our hearts to Your word, speak to us and prepare us to respond to what you are saying to us, to the new things you want to do in our lives. We pray for our ministers and all who have positions of responsibility in our Circuit, For the ministry of prayer throughout the Circuit to uphold and encourage one another in ministry and mission.

Gracious God, our hearts' desire is for people to encounter you in our churches and fellowships - a life changing encounter. We pray for each of our Circuit churches and their ministry, their presence in the place you have positioned them and their witness and outreach in their communities. As they step out and reach out in love with the good news of the gospel, open

hearts to respond. Holy Spirit move within us and amongst us to bring light where there is darkness, and response to Jesus our Saviour, who is the gospel in person.

Redeeming God, we commit ourselves anew to you. As we go forward each day, meeting people where they are, may our lives witness to your redeeming love. In an ever changing world may we be faithful to 'Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday today and forever' our anchor, the rock of our salvation.

We pray for all who have new beginnings at this time, in ministry, in education, in work, in personal circumstances.

Remembering before you Rev. Robert Roberts and his wife Rev. Debbie Roberts ministering in the Fenland Circuit. Rev. Jackie Goddard, Deacon Lynne. Valerie Fisher, Circuit Administrator.

Those who have recently moved on from our Circuit, Rev. Andrew and Helen Maguire, Rev. Catherine Dixon, Deacon Irene. Lord, we commit each one to you, go before them, prepare their way and bless them abundantly. For those who seek you for their way forward in the coming months.

Prayers have been requested for:

Derek + Viv, Stephanie, Margie, Janice, Amy, Trisha, Linda, Andrew, Mavis & Julia, Judy, Dulcie+ Neil, Kelly, Kath, Stephen + Victoria, William, Tom, Brian Osborne, Sarah.

For Mary Holman and Mary Uttin, both in King's Lynn Hospital

We hold before you in our hearts and prayers those we know who are living with dementia and the confusion it brings. Those who experience memory loss which affects their everyday life and takes away precious memories which are such an important part of who they are. For those whose condition takes over their personalities. Lord you bring peace in the storms of life, may your peace rest upon and within each one and their loved ones. Minister to them and may they feel complete in you.

Around the churches



Hilgay

On 27th July we held a successful Coffee morning and stalls in memory of Gwen Dearsley. Thanks to all who supported this event and helped us to raise £319:84 for the Tapping house Norfolk Hospice where Gwen spent her last days.

Looking forward, our Harvest Festival service will be held on Sunday October 6th. This will be led by Rev. Arthur Windridge at 10:00am This service will be followed by tea, coffee and a shared lunch.

Our church council meeting will take place on Monday 7th October at 2pm.

The first meeting of the new Guild season will be on Tuesday 8th October at 2:30pm. The Guild meets fortnightly from October till Easter and Hilgay is the only chapel to still have a Wesleyan guild meeting in this Circuit. All are welcome to come along and bring a friend..

Pauline Driver

My thanks may be late but nevertheless very sincere.

Our friends at the Chapel make a wonderful pastoral team and I thank them for their care and concern shown in so many ways over such a long period. Gordon was always pleased to be updated regarding church events and clung on to his job as treasurer as long as he was able, So many friends within the Circuit have been such a support regarding visits, offers of help and sending messages of love and prayer. My family and I send you all our most sincere thanks.

Mona Kisby

Clenchwarton

Marjorie's Mystery Tour

It was a cold and very wet Saturday morning and the last thing I wanted to do was to go on a tour! Where were we going on a day like this?

Noreen picked me up and the coach was there at the school, waiting for us.

My walker was stowed away and I was pleased to find the coach was nice and warm with room for my legs when I sat down!

About 34 people were on the coach and it was a pleasure to see so many

people from the village that I hadn't seen for some time. The coach was from Titteshall with a very helpful driver. But where were we going?

We headed towards Norwich and, not to my surprise, we stopped at Potter Heigham for refreshments. Marjorie originally came from there.

The original idea was for a trip on the Broads but this was a non-starter as it was still raining. Marjorie consulted the driver and Plan B was put into action. We had a tour of the Broads and Norwich.

Then we went to Framlingham Piggott, where there is a very large garden centre. We had our lunch in the restaurant. Several of us sat and chatted after the meal and nobody turned us out! This gave us time to talk together.

We left and stopped along a narrow country road and were each given a present by Noreen and Marjorie. (Mine was a tape measure in case you're wondering!)

We then journeyed to South Wootton Methodist Chapel for tea. The salad and quiche which I had was lovely. Thank you very much, South Wootton. We arrived home just before seven.

Thanks to our helpful driver and especially to Marjorie and Noreen for organising the day. In spite of the rain I really enjoyed myself.

Harold Smith

Downham Market

Ladies' Friendship

We start our new term on September 11th with a new secretary and some new committee members. Our first meeting will be a Beetle Drive, with much hilarity and badly deformed beetles.

September 25th is our Harvest meeting. For our October meetings we will be learning about policing on the 9th and enjoying local fish and chips on 23rd. This evening will start at 7pm.

We are a very informal group, enjoying friendship and fun and learning from some of our speakers. New members are always welcome. We have a yearly subscription of £6 and a weekly £1 for refreshments.

Jan Roust

On holiday down in the New Forest walking my new dog, Tappi, is totally different from our usual walks along the Nar riverbank. Here it is so open and vast with ponies and cows wandering everywhere. In fact the traffic jams are caused either by cyclists on the very narrow 40 m.p.h. roads where there is no room to pass safely or groups of ponies in the middle of the road who need a bit of encouragement to move on or else they are walking sedately along, leading a stream of cars and caravans. They seem to know they have right of way and make the most of it. However, they do a good job of trimming all the grass and keeping it well fertilized and are really beautiful to watch. We have been going to lots of charity events, big shows and boot sales and I have quite

a little garden outside my campervan ready to be transported home for the weekly plant stall. The soil here is very similar to ours at home, sandy and loamy so everything should transplant easily and when the stall really picks up for Autumn I'll have plenty of new varieties on offer.

One of the last services at Church before I came away was our annual Church Anniversary Service when we had a grand day with the Rev. Wagstaff, a Minister from way back and his wife who is also now a Minister. We had lots of fun and fellowship at a shared lunch after the morning service. When I get back there will be a couple of weeks left of the summer break before we return to our usual routines with hopefully recharged batteries to prepare for our Harvest Celebrations, lots of lovely music and good food, then Christmas will be almost upon us. I hope that our break from routine will enable us to see our activities with fresh eyes to see what is really important and how we can make it more effective and what can be discarded as not worthwhile. While I have been away we have supported one or two Trussel Trust Charity shops (the food bank charity) here in Dorset and Hampshire and this made me think of our own food bank in Downham Market and then of Churches Together's annual effort with the Christmas Hampers, still so sadly needed. However well-meaning a new government is the improvements they propose seem to trickle through very slowly, whereas cuts to budgets for social care seem to happen straight away.

Still a few more carefree days before we return home and back to the routine, so I am making the most of it, being very thankful for the rest and health and my family, including the dogs who keep us healthy with having to exercise them and fairly sane with their companionship and love. I hope that you have all enjoyed your summer respite, even if not away on holiday. They do say a change is as good as a rest and I do think we enjoy and appreciate our routine more when we have had a break from it. God bless.

Joan Macey

It is always good to see our Chapel decorated with lovely flowers, but you may wonder who provides the flowers, who goes to select them then arranges them and keeps them watered during the week.....then clears away the arrangements, before buying the next bunch to start it all again.

It is certainly not just a Saturday morning job and does take some juggling to meet the needs of the flower rota for 52 weeks of flower arranging etc.that is required.

On the big Christian festivals of Easter, Harvest, Anniversary and Christmas arrangements, there is a small team of about six or seven ladies who decorate the church together with me. We're all running out of steam and I would really appreciate some more help!

You don't have to be a skilled flower-arranger: A simple vase of lilies can look absolutely stunning. The more willing HANDS the better.

Please offer to help me to keep the rota filled and the workload shared more. I will be so grateful to hear from you! Thank you in anticipation.

Meg Cooper. Tel.01366 387017

Feltwell

For a group of “retired” people we have had a busy time in recent months! We had a successful presence at the Feltwell fete, having interesting conversations with people who had been to our church or Sunday school in days gone by. However, it became obvious that some local people didn’t even know where the Methodist Church is. Hopefully our ‘Methodist Church’ sign, saved from Methwold, now puts us where Google maps say we should be. We were able, through a picture display, to show them what we have to offer in terms of events and facilities. Even though we meet in the small chapel, it has become apparent that passers-by are unaware, so we have taken to opening the main doors of our church and inviting them in.

Conversations at our “Elevenzes” Thursday coffee mornings have resulted in new attendees on Sunday mornings who are also helping to organise new activities. Moves are afoot to start a “wellbeing” group for local people in need of support, and we await the result of a funding application. In the meantime we opened our doors every Thursday in August to local families and children for ‘Family Fun Days’ where we made ‘non-computer’ games available for family challenges. Now here’s a turn-up. At our August Elevenzes the ‘more mature’ members enjoyed playing with bagatelle, chess, hoopla and Jenga(Tumbling Tower). We may have to start a “Pensioners’ Playgroup”! The celebration of our church anniversary service which was ably led by Barbara Foster in June was followed by our second family lunch when we enjoyed roast chicken and veg followed by rhubarb and raspberry pies and custard, strawberries and cream. We are planning to have another harvest family meal in September, menu yet to be agreed. These really are interesting times; or should we say promising developments.



Michael Wilkinson

Wimbotsham

On the first weekend of June we spent a glorious time celebrating the 145th Anniversary of the Opening of our present Chapel. A drop-in event on Saturday attracted many visitors to browse through photos, records, directories and stories of bygone days in the village and nearby. Throughout the day there was chatter and laughter as memories were shared whilst enjoying the beautiful flower arrangements and array of local art and crafts on display. Celebrations continued on Sunday when we were blessed with Rev. Stephen

Oliver conducting our morning service, inspiring us all to continue to have the faith and vision of our forebears as we look with God's grace to the future. Following the morning service about 25 of us sat down to a delicious salad lunch. A huge thank you to all who helped in any way in making this Anniversary such a memorable and happy occasion.

Our amazing new Digital Piano (a Yamaha Portable Grand DGX-650) had arrived in time for the celebrations to accompany our hearty hymn singing. A further cause for celebration is that the long awaited fingerpost directing to "Methodist Church" has now been erected at the top of Chapel Lane, so everyone will now know where we are! We are very grateful to Wimbotsham Parish Council for their approval and support in accomplishing this.

Looking back on the Downham Market Circuit Plan and Directory of 1976 it is so pleasing to see Don Gates and Peter Hewitt taking our services as we are reminded of their valued longstanding dedication to the Circuit. In those times we held two services on a Sunday and our membership was 35. Records of bygone days are to be treasured. As we are currently in the process of collating documents, photographs, stories etc. with particular relevance to our Chapel we would be delighted if you would please let me know if there are any you might have which you would be willing to pass to us for our permanent collection (tel: 01366 388660).

Meanwhile, we warmly welcome all who would like to join us at our fortnightly Fellowship/Bible Study Group and at our Coffee Mornings with bric-a-brac on every 3rd Saturday of each month.

Mary Davies

Highgate

King's Lynn Heritage Open Day.

Sunday 15th September. This is a great opportunity for us 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 Café Style led by Rev. David Blacklock. Visitors can choose hymns and Jenny will be ready to play their choices.

Sunday 22nd at 3.00 pm will be our Harvest Festival led by Rev. Robert Roberts.

All are welcome.

Janet Mason

Terrington St Clement

We have enjoyed "Tea ,Cake and Chat" on alternate Wednesdays .
The next Network [MWiB] is September 4th when the speaker will be Marjorie Bocking .

On 18th we will hear Elizabeth Saunby " Story Time2

Our Harvest weekend is Saturday 5th with Tea and coffee ,stalls, cards and raffle .All are welcome. Please try and support us , as we have a big bill to pay !
Our Sunday service at 10.30am will be led by Rev. Jackie Goddard.

God Bless Linda Howling

Gaywood St Faith's

The big news at St Faith's Church for September is the Who Do you Think You Are? fund-raising event that will bring the creator of the hugely popular TV programme to Gaywood Church Rooms at the end of this month.

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

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

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

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

The talk is being given as a fund-raising event in aid of St Faith's Church Bungalow Re-development Project which is set to create a new church office, a base for West Norfolk MIND, a drop-in community cafe and meeting rooms . Tickets for the talk are £10 each and are available from the church office on 01553 774916 or a limited number will be available on the door on the night. There will be interval refreshments and a raffle. All are welcome for what promises to be a fascinating and entertaining evening.

At the 7th September Coffee Morning and More event there will also be a rummage sale to add to the mix of stalls, starting at 10am in the Church Rooms. All are welcome for a couple of hours of friendly fellowship. Don't forget there are FREE refills of coffee and tea!!

Again this year, St Faith's Church will be taking part in the annual cycle, drive or walk around Norfolk Churches which aims to raise money, through sponsorship, in support of the upkeep of churches and chapels in Norfolk and North Suffolk. Anyone from St Faith's who would like to take part in the event on Saturday, 14th September, or help in welcoming visitors on the day and offering them refreshments is asked to contact me for more details.

The Forget-Me-Not Luncheon Club for the Over 50s has been running for more than 50 years in Gaywood Church Rooms and it provides a weekly two-course hot meal and fellowship for its members. The Club, under the chairmanship of Lesley Harrison, relies on volunteers to serve the meals and wash-up afterward. Now more volunteers are needed for these behind-the-scenes but all important roles. If you have a couple of hours to spare on Wednesdays from 12.30pm, the Club would love to hear from you. More information is available from Mrs Harrison on 01553 672966. Give her a call if you think you can help. All of us at St Faith's were deeply saddened by the death on 15th May of Methodist steward Irene Ellen Moll. Warm tributes to Irene's quiet and dedicated contribution to the life of St Faith's Church, where Anglicans and Methodists worship together, were paid at her funeral service on June 5th which was led by Rev. Andrew Maguire. A full obituary report appears in the September edition of the Anglican Together magazine. Copies are available at the back of the church at St Faith's.

Sunday, 29th September is the date of St Faith's Harvest Festival Service which is always a popular service attracting a large congregation. It is an opportunity to give thanks for all of God's gifts to us. It is also an opportunity to sing again those wonderful, traditional harvest hymns including We Plough the Fields and Scatter, Come Ye Thankful People Come. The charity that is being supported this year at the harvest service is Deepen Your Roots. It aims to show how the lives of people in some of the poorest countries of the world, can be transformed by the power of the humble potato. The morning service will be followed by the ever-popular harvest lunch served in the Church Rooms. Please book your place as spaces are limited. More details available from the church office.

Richard Parr

Dersingham

September in Methodism has always been associated with new beginnings, a new Methodist Year. In our childhood September was always a time of new school uniforms, a new class or school and new teachers. In Methodism there is a period of farewells in July and August and then a welcome as new members of staff join the team. So, having said our goodbyes to the Rev. Andrew and Helen Maguire and the Rev. Catherine Dixon we look forward to welcoming the Rev. Robert and Rev. Debbie Roberts (who will be serving in the Fens Circuit), and the Rev. Jackie Goddard (who will be looking after Terrington St. Clement and Clenchwarton). The Rev. Robert Roberts will be taking our evening service on Sunday 8th September so we are fortunate to be able to have a chance to meet our new Superintendent Minister early in his ministry in the Circuit.

Our Harvest Festival will be celebrated on 13th October when Irene Garrard will be taking the morning service and Sheila Johnson will be with us in the evening. There will be the usual Harvest lunch after the morning service and we shall again be supporting the local Food Bank with our harvest gifts. The Harvest Coffee Morning will be earlier, on Saturday 28th September and the proceeds will go to Water Aid. The July coffee morning raised £220.20 for Methodist Missions in Britain and World Mission as well as our own funds.

Rosemary Caink

Stow Bridge

We are pleased to announce that our Harvest Thanksgiving will be on October 6th at 3pm. Rev. Maurice Stafford will lead our service. You will all be welcome guests.

While leading our CFS my talk was about TRUTH. And of course we had to mention the Way, the Truth and the Life, Jesus' own words and certainly we hang on to this statement.

Here are some truths. By the time you're 80 you've learned everything, you just have to remember it! Four old men were playing golf. One complained, "The hills are too high!" The second complained, "The bunkers are too deep!" The third said, "The holes are too far apart.

The fourth one said, "Shut up, at least we are still on the right side of the grass!"

Peter Hewitt

Oasis Christian Books THE FUTURE???

Oasis Christian Books started in 1976 because churches were saying how difficult it was for them to get the books they wanted (what a different world it was!) Pat Winters (Methodist Circuit and Tydd Gote Chapel) took early retirement and the work began on Nene Quay. In 1988 we moved to Norfolk Street and Richard and Maggie Welford (the King's Church) ran the shop from 1989 til 1993 when Syd Barton (Wisbech Baptist Church) took it on until 2002. Richard and Maggie came back to Wisbech at that time and, with a team of volunteers, have been running Oasis ever since' The shop has always aimed to be open to people of all denominations and none.

The world has changed vastly over that time and it is obvious by the recent lack of footfall that the shop is no longer needed to supply books to the Christians of Wisbech and the surrounding area. In the past ten years we have been led more into the drop-ins which we run on Wednesday evenings at our house and on Friday evenings at the shop. Quite a few of the people who come have mental health issues. Not everyone. A few years ago we had plenty of people coming in for tea and coffee and chat during the day but some of them have died, others have fallen out with us or with others so the café side of things has got considerably quieter. In view of this and after prayer and consultation with our team and volunteers, we think that the shop in its present form will probably close at the end of 2020. We would continue with the drop-ins which could both be run from our house if necessary.

We could put the building on the market at that point. But we have also been praying about whether or not it could be used more for Churches Together initiatives after this time. Maybe keep a small stock of Christian items there and be open once or twice a week. After we had spoken about this at the Churches Together meeting in January we were encouraged by one or two people saying that they thought maybe the building could be changed inside and used for one

of the outreaches to the poor and/or homeless as well as the drop-ins. If it could be useful in this way we are open to that and are asking for everyone to pray about what God's plans are at this time. It may be that we should shut completely so something totally different can be started in Wisbech. Or it may be that it should continue in a different form with a team of people involved in taking it forward into a new direction - with preferably some younger people included!

M.W.I.B. Reminder:-

Forum Meeting at Diss on 20th September 2019 at 10.00am

A.G.M.at London Road on 7th October 2019 at 2.30pm.

Autumn District Day at Chapelfield Road Church, Norwich on 10th October 2019 at 10.00am for coffee.

Margaret Shelton

We had a successful coffee morning in Magdalen and all together raised £141 for the President's charity. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Top tip

Don't stop halfway up the stairs. You'll never remember which way you were going!

(Apologies to any young people, but you may experience it later!)

N.B

The next edition of Rejoice will be for November then there will be a December/January edition.

St Botolph's Church Grimston

Presents

Last Night at the Proms Concert

On

Saturday 21st September 2019

At 7.30pm

(doors open at 6.45pm)

With

The Bilton Silver (Rugby) Band

Tickets £10, including a drink

Please call David on 01553 674286

or Joy on 01485 600402

Tickets at the door subject to availability



Who Do You Think You Are?



"Making Jeremy Paxton Cry!"

An evening with TV producer Alex Graham

The creator of the programme

"Who Do You Think You Are?"

Saturday 28th September 28th at 7.30 pm

In Gaywood Church Rooms

Tickets £10 including refreshments,

**Available in advance from St Faith's Church
Office**

Tel: 01553 774916

Proceeds in aid of the St Faith's Bungalow Project

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

NORTH LYNN METHODIST CHURCH

Come and join us for our

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

on

SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER
from 10am to 3pm

CRAFT STALL

RAFFLE

CHRISTMAS TOMBOLA

CAKES & PUDDINGS

BRIC - A - BRAC

REFRESHMENTS

**All proceeds for our Church Building
Project**



THE GAP

Way back in the early years of the New Millennium, Bishop Graham was calling for Churches to think new thoughts and consider reaching outside of the usual Church buildings to set up Fresh Expressions of Worship.

Here in Grimston we felt led by the Lord to do just that. We knew our Fresh Expression was to be called 'THE GAP', since, as we know, within us all, whether we believe or not, there is a gaping hole or 'gap' which only God can fill. We reckoned "Only God can fill the Gap" would be our strap line, as it were....and so The Gap was born – we had a logo, but we didn't have a location!! We set about finding somewhere we could call home – we prayed earnestly, both individually and at group prayer gatherings. Several places were considered, we were even offered an 'upper room' in a Hotel, which seemed perfect. It was large and it was offered to us free of charge – only one problem – it was NOT in the village!

We prayed on..... one day a local farmer, who had recently given his life to The Lord, said we could use his barn, but it would need a lot of work doing to clean it up and make it fit for worship, as it was dark (no windows) and dirty (tractor oil)!! We went to look at it and knew with a capital 'K' that it was the right place. A working party was set up to install electricity and lighting and to decorate the place. As we were painting, Shirley Hone, one of Pott Row's Saints, noticed a small, but perfectly formed cross in the brickwork at the end of the Barn. It seemed as if this was the final and ultimate seal of approval!

We worshipped in the Barn for several years – Bishop Graham came to speak to us one wet Sunday afternoon, wearing his long Bishop's robes etc. and was very amused at having to pick his way between the muddy puddles in the farm yard – great fun!! We really appreciated his encouragement and his words from Peter's sermon "We are living stones".

Our worship continued at the Barn until, very tragically, our beloved farmer died and the Barn was to be sold, We found ourselves homeless and praying once more.....our friends at The Chapel in Pott Row said, "Well, you can always worship here you know!"and the rest, as they say, is history.

With grateful hearts we accepted this kind offer and now worship in the warmth and comfort of Pott Row Chapel on every 4th Sunday of the month at 4pm, where all are welcome.

We are conscious of God's grace and mercy for every single one of us – as Jeremiah reminds us in Lamentations 3 verses 22, 23....

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness".

Rosemarie Bowers

Moving on.

Fond farewells have been said to Rev. Andrew Maguire, who has retired after nearly 40 years in the ministry and to Rev. Catherine Dixon who is moving from King's Lynn to a new post in Ely.

At a farewell gathering on 22nd July warm tributes were paid to Andrew, who served as West Norfolk Methodist Superintendent but was also Methodist Minister at St Faith's Church, Gaywood, where Anglicans and Methodists worship and enjoy social activities together.

Church members from around the West Norfolk Methodist Circuit came together for a service of hymns and prayers and to say their farewells to Andrew and his wife Helen. They were also saying a fond farewell to the Rev. Catherine Dixon who, in her six years in the area, has become a popular figure. Her love of TV's Strictly Come Dancing was reflected in the "glitter" ball given as one of her leaving gifts. She was also given a miniature silver shoe because of her passion for shoes.

Also moving on from the local Circuit is Deacon Irene Tafirenyika who, after three years of working with children and families in Downham Market and Hilgay, is moving to Crawley to take up a new post in the Redhill and East Grinstead Circuit.

Rev. Andrew Maguire told the gathering that he had thoroughly enjoyed his seven years in West Norfolk and his involvement in the area's churches and chapels had been a "great blessing" for him in the final years of his 38-year ministry. He and his wife are moving to Ely in retirement.

He thanked fellow ministers and lay people around the Circuit for all their support shown to him. "There have been challenging times and good times and it had been a privilege to share in the life of village communities around West Norfolk," he said.

There has been a wonderful variety in his ministry, the town churches and chapels of King's Lynn and Downham Market, the smaller rural communities and the coastal communities to the north of the Circuit.

"It has been good for me to share my ministry with everyone in the Circuit and thank you for all your love, care and support," he said. Methodist ministers, Rev. Steven Oliver and Rev. Maurice Stafford, spoke of the contribution the two ministers had made to the Circuit in various ways. On Sunday Rev. Maguire gave his final sermon at St Faith's Church and he and his wife were guests-of-honour at a farewell reception afterwards. He cut a leaving cake that had been made by church choir member, Sue Benstead.

Richard Parr

"Andrew and Helen would like to say a big thank you for the lovely Circuit farewell and tea on Saturday 20th July. It was a memorable occasion with a great tea prepared by people around the Circuit. We were really grateful for the flowers and generous leaving gift. It was great to see so many there and to share the event with Catherine. Our move went smoothly and we are gradually settling into Ely and looking forward to retirement.

Best wishes –

Andrew and Helen”

DOWNHAM MARKET METHODIST CHURCH

CRAFT

FAIR

Saturday 26th October

9am – 3pm

Admission Free

Raffle & Refreshments

In aid of church funds

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary **SEPTEMBER 2019 onwards**

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

Saturday 21st September Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac at Wimbotsham 10.15

Saturday 28th September "Who do you think you are" St Faith's

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

FRIDAY OCTOBER 11TH DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE

Saturday 19th October Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac at Wimbotsham 10.15

Saturday October 26th Craft Fair at Downham Market

Saturday October 26th Coffee morning at Dersingham

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12TH DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY ISSUE

Saturday 16th November Coffee Morning with bric-a-brac at Wimbotsham 19.15

Saturday 23rd November Christmas Fayre at North Lynn