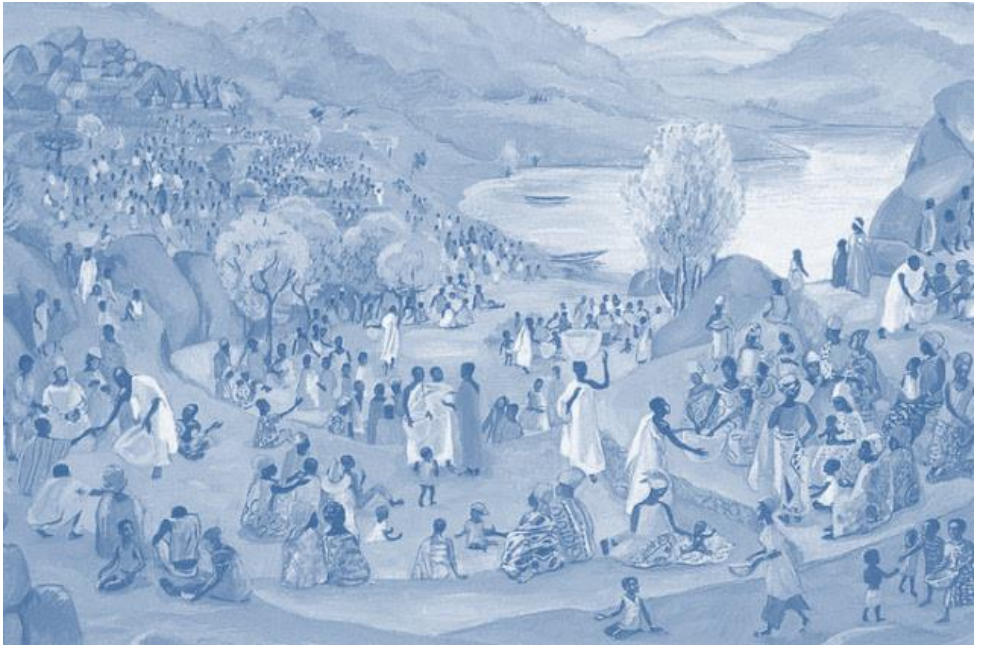


Rejoice!

May 2021



Jesus feeds us just as he fed the 5000.

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

It's Spring, Can You Believe it?

Well, how are you doing? We've completed two months of springtime and haven't our recent sunny days gotten us in the mood for summer. I've sort of felt like a hibernating critter who decided to sleep an extra month instead of getting up. But I'm ready now and May's the time to do it.

Some circuit churches have been open a month now; wasn't Easter even more special this year because of all our lockdowns. Thank you to all our preachers and worship leaders who helped us to return to in-church worship.

Unfortunately, singing is still not permitted and we need to use masks and keep ourselves socially distanced when in church. Yet, we have been able to celebrate Holy Communion together, praise God.

There will be a circuit Pentecost service in May at 6:30 pm on Zoom; hope to see you, further details will be forthcoming.

I really like this time of the year with our daylight hours getting longer each day, which reminds me of another light...

*This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine*

*Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine*

*Don't let Satan [blow] it out! I'm going to let it shine
Don't let Satan [blow] it out! I'm going to let it shine
Don't let Satan [blow] it out! I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine*

May your light shine this day and all your days, Rev. Robert

Breaking News – There's a new DOCTOR in the Circuit!!!

On 14th April 2021, The Reverend Doctor Richman Ncube attended his Virtual Graduation at the University of Pretoria receiving his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD); Thesis: Mission station in crisis: The case of the Epworth Methodist Church mission in Zimbabwe. Well done Rich.

Praying together in the Circuit

John 20: 21-22

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
as the Father has sent me, I am sending you"
and with that he breathed on them and said
"Receive the Holy Spirit".

The risen Lord Jesus breathed new life into his disciples.
Forty days later, as he was about to be taken up into heaven
he said "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you,
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and
Samaria and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8

The Holy Spirit, new life, the promise of power,
and ten days later at Pentecost the promise was fulfilled!
A new beginning, the exalted Lord enthroned on high.
The disciples now apostles, evangelists and witnesses
empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The Church was born. The Kingdom of God is at hand.
God's Mission to the world began, starting in Jerusalem
People responding to the gospel. New disciples being nurtured.
Kingdom growth.

Lord, as we celebrate the wonder of Pentecost, we commit
ourselves anew to You and Your mission to the world.
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on us.
Your Kingdom come, Your will be done.

.May the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace
as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by
the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15: 13

Abba Father, You have made us Your own, our hearts are full of praise for You. Redeeming Lord, may we live the redeemed lives you died and rose again to give us. Holy Spirit come and do new things within and amongst us. Thank You for the fellowship we share, draw us ever deeper in Your love, united in Your purpose. Sovereign God reign in us, may we be fully dedicated to serving You, seeking Your will and obedient to Your leading.

May our hearts be at one with Your heart as we pray for Your world in all its brokenness and need. We come before Your throne of grace asking that people may receive Your mercy and grace in their need, "O comforter draw near"

Lord our words cannot fully express our concerns at this time. We pray that we will come through this pandemic, which is affecting the whole world. We cannot measure the impact it has had, and continues to have on individuals, each one is known to You and we ask for your ministry to each one. Lord you came to heal the broken hearted, we pray for Your healing to bring peace and hope for the future. Thank you for all the kindness which has been shared.. For the medical staff and their professional care; please refresh them and sustain them.

Lord God our trust is in You our shield and our defender.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

Prayers have been requested for:

Derek + Viv, Stephanie, Margie, Janice, Trisha, Linda, Andrew, Mavis & Julia, Judy, Dulcie+ Neil, Kath, Stephen + Victoria, William, Tom, Sarah. Hazel and John

Around the churches



HEACHAM

It was so good to join together once more to celebrate Easter Sunday in our church building. Zoom has been wonderful, and has introduced many of us to friends in the Circuit many of whom previously were names without faces. Although contact on Sunday was very limited, we were able to look members "in the eye". We look forward to continuing our gatherings and, perhaps, even fewer restrictions in the future.

We were also blessed to have Rev. Rich take the service which included Communion.

This item can only be brief as plans for events in the forthcoming months are, so far, few. But it is a space that can be filled!

One plan that two of us do have, however, is to make use of our walking exercise. (Similar to John Miles.) Some weeks ago, Val (Fisher) suggested that we plan a sponsored walk – in aid of the Marie Curie Charity. Like many charities, donations may not have been sufficient over the last year to adequately support the demand but the demand may / will be increasing!

We have all been encouraged to take exercise/walk, etc. during the lockdown - so, Val and I planned to walk on Friday, 16th April, for a minimum of five miles – (not a marathon). Not only will exercise be taken (suitably socially distanced) but also debate/discussions shall take place between the walkers! - but most importantly support given to a very worthwhile cause.

Already several friends have given support via the internet link (www.justgiving.com/fundraising/V-Fisher1) and we are very grateful.

We are encouraged by Rev. Rich on Sunday – part of his message - "keep walking".

Part Two

Val and I completed the walk on Friday 16th – it resulted in a distance of almost 7 miles which was pleasing as it seemed to justify the amazing support and encouragement we have received. (Also, a personal achievement.)

Thanks to all.

Earlier, I mentioned the encouragement of Rev. Richman in “keep walking”. There has been other inspiration too. The following week’s sermon was on Thomas – the doubter – and I confess that on the Friday morning of the walk, I was a bit of a doubter. It was okay to plan a walk but to claim 5+ miles and accept sponsorship made me question myself. It was a needless worry because, as ever when there is a problem or doubt in yourself, you remember “you are not alone” – of course you can do this the inner voice told me.

So we walked around the lagoons at RSPB Snettisham, completing the figure of eight around them and the hide, and along the beach front. It was a breezy and often chilly day but it was bright and the sky was blue. It was fairly busy with other walkers – this meant we exchanged greetings with new people, and also had a brief reunion with a friend whom I had not met for over a year (once we had waved frantically and recognized each other).

We reached Shepherds Port and checked the pedometer – only 4 and a little bit miles!! This would not do. So we carried on back to South Beach, Heacham, hence the almost 7.

On leaving the RSPB area, we read the last notice – asking walkers to be aware of the nesting avocets in the area. (We had – but that may be due to fact we were talking so much!) However, I mention this because of another two coincidences.

On the Sunday following the walk, the BBC service talked of the walkers on the road to Emmaus. I had not before taken in that the distance they walked was almost 7 miles. Following this, Chris Packham’s brief item following the service “Tweet of the Day” was onavocets.

I have felt that Val’s suggestion to walk in aid of the Marie Curie Charity has been inspirational and so worthy. Also, that we were not alone.

Joan Careless

Terrington St Clements

Terrington and Clenchwarton have continued to worship together using the What’s App messaging app each Sunday morning. We all share our greeting with each other at the start of the service either by texting hello or using a little symbol of a happy face etc. We now have over 30 participants to the What’s app group including others from around the circuit. The advantage is if for some reason you haven’t been able to join in the service at 10.30am on a Sunday, the service is still there for you to join in later when you are available. Jackie continues to work really hard sending the services across on What’s app, email and hand delivering service sheets to the members who are not

able to access services on a mobile phone or email. It's been great to have also heard the word from other preachers. We are sometimes given homework too, like a picture to colour. The following week we will send a photo over and enjoy looking at everyone's art work or thoughts. We have also continued to use the What's App for the Tuesday afternoon prayer time and reflection. This has some interesting topics to think and pray about. Jackie has also forwarded the circuit zoom Easter services over to us. Daniel and Peter continue to make simple crafts and write letters to the congregation. They have recently made Mother's Day and Easter crafts for everyone. Some Easter church activities were also prepared and sent to the other junior church members to do during the Easter holidays.

Caroline Meaden

Hilgay

Hilgay had a service on Palm Sunday which was a communion service led by Rev. Alan Bennett. Eight people attended and were all masked and socially distanced. On Good Friday we held our final guild meeting for this season. Unfortunately we have only been able to meet three times between October and Easter, but those who came were very pleased to see each other and enjoy fellowship together.

Sadly we couldn't have our socially distanced cup of tea and individually wrapped biscuits as we had previously quite safely and of course we still can't sing although I understand a small group of people can sing for worship, but not a congregation of six, socially distanced and wearing face covering!! On Easter Sunday our service was led by me and once again people were very pleased to be together for this short time of worship. By the time you read this we should also have had a communion service led by Rev. Paul Critchley. For the foreseeable future we intend to meet fortnightly at 10 am and would welcome anyone wishing to join us as long as you contact Mrs Lesley Dent (01366) 387337 to check we have space. Praise God that all of us at Hilgay Chapel have had at least one vaccination and the majority have now had two. Stay safe and hopefully we shall soon have more than two or three or even six gathered together.

Pauline Driver.

St Faith's

An Easter Day announcement by St Faith's acting rector, The Reverend Karlene Kerr, at the start of the 'live' morning services caused great excitement among the socially distanced congregations.

The Reverend Karlene, who was appointed acting rector by the former Bishop of Lynn before his retirement, had said the congregations could, at long last, sing. However, she was quick to add that it would be outside the church.

So, it was on a bright and sunny Easter Day, the congregations, socially distanced and accompanied by organist Jonathan Chaddock sang with gusto, Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! And what a joy it was for everyone involved.

Earlier on Easter Day, starting at 6am, about fifteen people gathered on the grass outside the east end of the church for the Dawn Communion service beautifully led by St Faith's curate, the Reverend Laura Purnell.

At both morning services St Faith's welcomed the Archdeacon of Lynn, the Venerable Ian Bentley, who presided and preached at these services.

As with the previous week's Palm Sunday services, Covid 19 restrictions were in place ensuring people were kept safe.

Both the Reverend Karlene, who is also the Diocesan Ecumenical Officer and the Bishop's Adviser for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Affairs and the Reverend Laura Purnell, with assistance from church officers, have been working hard and effectively in keeping parishioners connected in various ways. This includes the distribution of weekly emails and paper bundles containing church information and service details.

Other meetings, including church council trustees, have been conducted via zoom.

Two areas of our joint church life at St Faith's – the process leading to the appointment of a new rector and the major project to convert the old church bungalow into a community hub – continue in the background with meetings via zoom. Churchwarden Susie Cranko Page said it is hoped that the building work on the bungalow will be started later this year.

Mrs Cranko Page said: "As a church, we at St Faith's feel blessed that we have the Reverend Karlene as our acting rector, working with the Methodist minister, the Reverend Robert Roberts, in leading our worship and mission during this time of vacancy".

Currently places for Sunday services in church have to be booked via our office administrator, Mrs Gill Hiles on 07841632457. The church is also open on Wednesday mornings between 10 am and 12 noon for private prayer.

Richard Parr

Stanhoe

What can I say, except that the church is still closed - but we go in regularly on a cleaning rota, so Stanhoe Methodist Church is still loved and cherished. As a congregation, we stay very much in touch, with our Minister, Rev. Richman, and each other, with phone calls and doorstep visits. Those of us who can, join with the Hunstanton Section Zoom services, and we are so grateful to all who make that possible with setting up the meetings and doing much of the preparation, (thanks to Elizabeth Batstone, Rev. Richman Ncube, Deacon

Lynne Tonge, and to Julia Warnes, still in recovery from Covid-19, who began it all last year), and especially grateful to our two musicians, Mike Warnes and David Godfrey, who accompany our hymns. The Stanhoe Prayer Chain (which also has members from Dersingham and Heacham) flourishes, with a commitment to pray daily for those who are unwell, and we have been pleased to initiate three separate prayer vigils for Rev. Steve Oliver, at points when he was dangerously ill during his treatment for leukaemia, and share everyone else's delight at the news that he is now in remission.

I've saved the best news until last - members Judith and Tim Chaloner have become grandparents for the fourth time with the birth of a granddaughter, Macie, on Easter Sunday. Congratulation to them!

Elizabeth MacLeod

Dersingham

Dersingham church friends have been kept in touch with one another by the emailing and the distribution of the fortnightly Newsletter called Keep in Touch which is edited and compiled by Elizabeth Batstone, as well as regular phone calls from class leaders to their groups. Those who can, have experienced uplifting Zoom services organised for the Hunstanton section of the circuit and also the pleasure of seeing one another's faces in our little boxes! And, of course, seeing one another's hair growing longer.... and longer! Paul Clay (who we shall soon be sadly losing as he and Jane are moving to be nearer to their daughter) made sure that the village knew we were still in existence over Easter by placing our large Cross outside the front door on Good Friday and then decorating it with the words "He is Risen! Alleluia!" early on Easter Sunday morning. However, the end is in sight and the virtual Church Council have voted to open the Church again, with all the Covid restrictions in place, on Sunday 23rd May.

Friends have not been idle during lockdown it appears. John Titcombe has been spring cleaning and re-organising his model railway layout and cataloguing the 30 engines and 75 coaches with Heather's help. Ruth Ross has developed new sewing skills and has rejuvenated an old but favourite tee shirt with her embroidery. Rene Hayward got her knitting needles out to welcome a new great grandchild with some welcome knitteds, only to find that the baby put in an early appearance and, although thankfully healthy, required everything in a smaller size. So it meant starting again! Joan Benstead happened to come across an appeal on the MHA website for telephone befrienders who would be matched up to someone needing a friend to talk to on a regular basis. She volunteered and after form filling, a telephone interview, a Zoom interview and a DBS check via Zoom she was accepted and

is awaiting the chance to cheer some lonely person's day with a call. I started researching my mother's family with Ancestry.com. I thought they had lived in and around Bromley for ever, but to my amazement I found that my great great grandfather, John Kemp, had been born in Downham Market in 1817 and had married a girl from King's Lynn, Louisa Dewson, in 1840 when she was 20! I had no idea that we had any connection at all with this part of the country. Louisa's mother, Jane Willson, had been born in Heacham and her father, Daniel Dewson, was a mariner and all their children were baptised in St. Nicholas Chapel, King's Lynn. John Kemp, a bricklayer by trade, went to London to be apprenticed to a boiler maker. Louisa joined him and they had eleven children, the eighth of which was my great grandfather George. John and Jackie Davis revealed that they had dug deep into their family history since they retired and had, with some professional help, discovered that John's mother, whose surname was Lincoln, was descended from Abraham Lincoln himself! No such fame for me, but I did discover that John started his own business next door to a Primitive Methodist Church in East London and the children were sent to Sunday School there. George became very committed to the Methodist Church and became a Methodist minister. Sadly he contracted TB and died at the age of 36 so his wife, my great grandmother Emma, moved with their six children to Bromley to be near her family. Hence the large Methodist family of Kemps that I grew up amongst.

There must be many more tales of lockdown activities of which I am unaware and I am sure that we are coming out of lockdown with new skills, more knowledge and more awareness of opportunities to serve others.

Rosemary Caink

Downham Market

Like other chapels in the circuit we are looking forward to a bigger bit of normality. We started services in church on Palm Sunday and have had morning services since then. We still have our Zoom service in the evening and usually have about 40 participants. Junior Church is in abeyance at the moment but we have kept in contact with Messy Church families with Messy Church at Home. We had Messy Easter and sent out 30 bags of activities. They were well received, especially the chocolate egg! (Well done Paul for not eating them all!)

Our canteen has not been able to have people in for meals so Diane, Dawn and Chris have prepared meals for various volunteer drivers to deliver. They have been very well received and put smiles on many faces. The centre can open again on May 16th but some meals will still be available for delivery. A main course for £5 and a dessert for £2 is definitely a bargain. Our thoughts and prayers are with Diane on the death of her husband.

We are looking forward to face to face meetings but hopefully all the phone calls and letter writing won't stop.

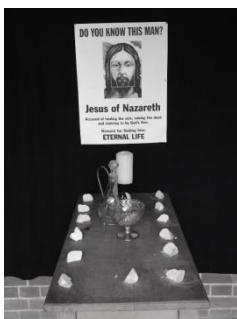
Me

Feltwell

I hope, here, to give you a flavour of what is happening in Feltwell. We have been running a **"So what's in the entrance this month?"** series in our village magazine. Here are the last three settings we have created in the porch of our church. We open the doors on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday mornings for passers-by to see. Hopefully we touch a heart occasionally.

Easter is over but not forgotten. For Christians it is the most significant event in our calendar

Our foyer during April represented 'The Last Supper' Maundy Thursday, 'The Crucifixion on Good Friday and Saturday, followed by the glorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday.



Sunday morning fellowship 11 am We welcome anyone and everyone to share our moments of peace in this hectic world. Families can sit together and other visitors have safely distanced seating. We all wear masks.

ELEVENZES – starts again in May and will continue on **FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10am**, when our usual home-made cakes and pies will be available and served with all the necessary protective clothing and behind a protective screen on the table. **The next will be on the Wednesday 2nd June.**

COMMUNITY GARDEN – WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

In our Community Garden, in front of the Meadow, we created our Calvary which was our visual message to the people of Feltwell.

Now the weather is getting milder and we can get a fork in the ground, spring veg will be planted. There still may be frosts so we have to be careful about those tender plants. Also there are still restrictions on what we are allowed to do during the pandemic. We have raised beds to construct, meadow to tend,

seeds to sow, e.g. peas, runner beans, radishes, lettuce, tomatoes and more. I have butternut squash plants to put in and broad beans, so plenty to do if we want a good harvest later. This harvest will help local people who want fresh, organic fruit and veg on their meal tables.

Old Codgers fun night is back on 27th June. Only £3 for music, quiz and a laugh!_Oh, and drinks!

Our premises are being used by an NHS eye clinic during April and May and our Community Hall will be a polling station on 6th May- all helping to recover some of our losses over the last year, but more importantly helping the visitors to recognise our presence in the community.

Some of our members have been housebound for a long time, and even now are cautiously considering if and when they might venture out to join in fellowship with us. Joyce McLeod has been in and out of hospital for many months now and Eddie has been amazing for her. We remember them in our prayers, as we do Max and Iris, Verena and Pat. We pray that whatever they do they may find peace.

We have found a new life form in 'Zoom Meetings', which although not accessible for everyone, has made an awesome impact on the environment, with carbon emissions from cars severely reduced. Let's hope we don't go backwards and turn our attentions back to our 'gas guzzlers', because however little they claim to emit..... they still emit pollutants! As Greta Thunberg said, saving the planet starts with US. What we buy influences what shops stock and where they source it. Do we buy 'out of season' produce that is shipped 3000 miles for us. What if WE stopped demanding it and only used what we produce? Are we prepared to make the sacrifice?

Mike Wilkinson

Things people say, well someone from Downham Market anyway!

Most people are shocked when they find out how bad an electrician I am.

Always borrow money from pessimists; they'll never expect to get it back.

What is the difference between ignorance and apathy? I don't know and I don't care!

I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon today. I'll let you know.

Pollution is getting completely out of control. I opened a tin of sardines today. They were all dead and covered in oil.

After the game I threw the ball into the crowd like they do on tele. I didn't realize it wasn't the done thing in a bowling alley.

Rev Paul's WW1 Wanderings (continued..!)

In October this year I will – Covid permitting(!) – be walking 100km of the WW1 Western Front to raise much needed funds for ABF The Soldier's Charity. ABF supports veterans, soldiers and their families in times of crisis and their work is very much needed. The walk takes place over three days, covering battlefields and monuments in Northern France and Belgium. In this issue I will take you through day 2 of the walk and the places I will be visiting!

After – hopefully – a good sleep at our hotel in Arras (one year when I did this walk we had a fire alarm at 3:30am!!), I will haul my aching legs out of bed at 5:30am for breakfast, ready to board the coaches for a 6:30am departure to our starting point..!

Day two begins at Neuville-Saint-Vaast German Cemetery, containing 44,833 burials making it the largest German Cemetery in France. We visit this place as we remember that the effects of war hit both sides badly and we lay a wreath, on behalf of the charity, in remembrance of those young men who died. From here we walk past Ecoivres Military Cemetery commemorating 1,728 Commonwealth burials alongside 786 French and 4 German war graves. There was a military tramway that operated here, which was used to carry supplies to the troops at the front. It also served as an ambulance bringing back dead and wounded soldiers.

The morning break – which I must let you know is an excellent spread of cakes, biscuits, sweets, fruits and nuts, alongside hot and cold drinks – takes place at the ruins of an old monastery at Mont-Saint-Eloi. French soldiers stationed here thought they had a spy in their ranks as the Germans fired on their every movement. They eventually realised that it was not a spy, but birds nesting in the towers which gave their positions away!

We walk on through the countryside, visiting cemeteries dotted along our route. As Padre, I have the privilege of leading short services of remembrance for relatives of my fellow walkers in cemeteries that we pass along the way.

Lunch was after a short climb up a very steep hill at Notre Dame de Lorette – the largest French military cemetery in the world with 39,985 casualties buried here. It is also here that one of the newest memorials on the Western Front has opened. The 'Ring of Remembrance' was opened on 11th November 2014, the 96th anniversary of Armistice Day. It celebrates the 576,606 soldiers of 40 different nationalities who died during WW1 in Nord-Pas-de-Calais region. The names are arranged alphabetically, with no regard to rank or nationality, thus displaying the cost of war to all sides. It is an incredibly powerful memorial.

Following lunch and time at Notre Dame de Lorette, we descend into a valley, before climbing once again to our final location of Day 2 – Vimy Ridge. There are a number of preserved trenches at Vimy, showing that sometimes frontlines of opposing sides were incredibly close together. Much of the land here is fenced off as it is far too dangerous to walk on and signs warn of unexploded munitions and danger to life.

Along the walk, we see various pieces of munitions that have been dug up by farmers as they ploughed their fields. They are left at the side of fields to await disposal by the bomb squad! The historian who walks with us, delighted in telling us a story of a Belgian chef who got the shock of his life when he removed a tray of baked potatoes from his restaurant oven only to discover one of his potatoes had the potential to give an unexpected kick! A hand grenade had made it through the whole process of picking, cleaning and cooking before it was discovered!!

Vimy is the second piece of Canadian Land in France (the first being Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial Park, visited on Day One) gifted to the Canadians by the French Government. The towering memorial here bears the names of 11,000 Canadians who died in France but also stands as the great memorial to the 60,000 Canadians who gave their lives during WW1.

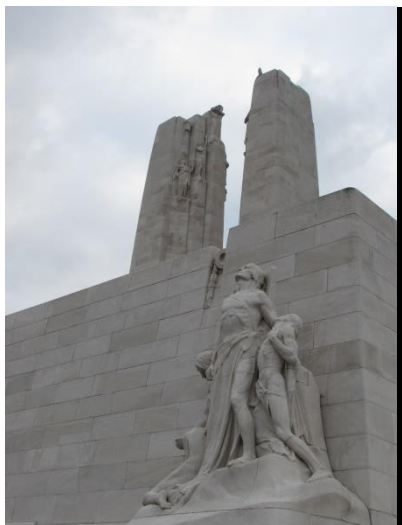
A team photo is taken here of the exhausted walkers before we board our coaches back to the hotel for an evening meal and a much needed rest.

2017 was the second year I took part in this walk and I completed the walk dressed in WW1 military kit as a Padre in honour of the 100+ Padres who lost their lives during the campaign. It was also a very personal kit to walk in as I had spent two years wearing the uniform whilst playing Rev Christopher Chavasse in a play called 'Brothers in Arms' based on the life of Christopher Chavasse. Christopher was the son of Francis Chavasse, Bishop of Liverpool and twin brother to Noel Chavasse. Christopher survived the war in France and went onto become Bishop of Rochester.

If you would like to donate towards my fundraising, every penny I raise goes to the ABF for them to help where help is needed. I was hoping to be able to do some fundraising events this year, but that is looking unlikely at the moment – maybe later in the year?! If you would like to donate you can do so in two ways either by visiting <https://events.soldierscharity.org/fundraisers/PaulCritchley/frontlinewalk21> or by sending a cheque made payable to 'ABF The Soldier's Charity' to 1, Camomile Close, Downham Market, PE38 9UJ. I can then send it into the charity and they will add it to my fundraising total!

Thanks to those who have supported me already!! Very much appreciated as the fundraising total creeps upwards..! I am aiming to raise £1,250 this year and just reached £300!!! Still a way to go...!

The third day is for the next issue and sees the walk picking up the frontline in Belgium.



Rev Paul Critchley

What could be more important to the God of transformation than children's development?

Churches Together in King's Lynn (CTKL) are hosting a public meeting about the work of the Children's Society.

Hannah Ratcliffe is the Relationship Manager of the Children's Society serving the East of England. We have provisionally booked Hannah to talk to an audience of Churches Together people at The London Road Methodist Church, King's Lynn PE30 5PU on **Wednesday evening 7th July 2021 from 7.30pm - 9pm**. We can convert to Zoom closer to the time if the government have to reimpose lockdown due to a new wave of a Coronavirus variant that's resistant to our current vaccination.

Hannah will speak about **child mental health and the importance of the first year of life in child development**. Please put the meeting date in your diary if you wish to attend.

The Children's Society newsletter is below. Best wishes, Peter

Pilate to Joseph of Arimathea: Strange that you, such a wealthy man, gave your own newly hewn tomb for the burial of Jesus of Nazareth.

Joseph of A.: Oh, I didn't! He only borrowed it for the weekend!

Take your pick, depending on space available. All are from Nordelph Congregational Church news sheet 48.

Funny how a £5 note 'looks' so big when you take it to church but so small when taken to the shopping centre.

Funny how hard it is to read a chapter in the Bible but so easy it is to read 100 pages of a best selling novel.

Funny how people want to get a front seat at a game, concert or musical but scramble for the back at a church service.

Funny how we believe what the newspapers say but question what the Bible says.

Funny how we can send a thousand 'jokes' through email and they spread like wild fire but when sending messages regarding Jesus, people think twice about sharing.

FUNNY ISN'T IT? Are you laughing or are you thinking? Spread the word and give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

Some thoughts about legacies

I am writing this on the eve of the funeral of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. My late mother used to have a postcard of him pinned to the

noticeboard in her kitchen, partly because they were born a day apart in 1921 and partly because he was someone whom she admired. Rightly, much mention has been made of Prince Philip's legacy. Living close to Sandringham, we have benefitted from the ideas he had to open up the Sandringham Estate. Many of us will know young people who have taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. His pioneering work in highlighting the fragility of the environment has been acknowledged.

Some commentators have talked about the interests that Prince Philip has handed on to his children and his grandchildren and that got me thinking about how important the legacies, which my parents left me, have been in the past year. Like Prince Philip, my father was brought up by his wider family from a young age (11) after his father died and his mother emigrated to Canada and the United States. Like Prince Philip, he served in the Second World War and like him he was mentioned in dispatches. Both emerged from these difficult circumstances with a love of making people laugh and a determination to make the best of the circumstances in which they found themselves.

My parents introduced me to several of the things, which have helped me through the periods of lockdown. Mum was the first person to teach me to pray. She set a great example of keeping in touch with friends, family and people experiencing difficulties by phone. She passed on her love of wildlife, especially birds, to me and Dad passed on his interest in gardening so I have been spending quite a bit of time trying to make our garden more wildlife friendly. Dad ignited my passion for books by reading me bedtime stories. I have had more time for baking and have used some of Mum's recipes, which Dad compiled and typed when he retired.

Lesley Dent

Eleven years ago all Churches in the Circuit were invited to go to a Circuit get together at St. Faiths Gaywood and present some ideas of what we could do in our Church to encourage others .

As Reg and I were not involved very much at Wimbotsham at that time (because of his preaching and trying to promote Modern Worship Hymns) there was nothing sent from Wimbotsham .

I was drawn to the St. Faith's stall, where they had handmade shawls, Prayer Shawls, and my thinking was that it was something we could do at our end of the Circuit .I put an article in the Rejoice Magazine and the rest is History.

In November 2010 we had our first meeting, and up until the Corona Virus Pandemic and Lock down we had 15 people male and female who knit and crochet.

It is now time for me to hand over this project because of age and Lock down

(losing contact) I'm handing overwith her agreementto Sylvia Perkins. Sylvia is the person to contact now if there are any requests for Prayer Shawls .The Shawls are given to anyone who is sick, sad, bereaved or even for babies at their Baptism .Don't be afraid to ask if you know of someone.

In the time we've been meeting we have sent out almost 300 items in the form of shawls ... crochet crosses...baby comforters...crochet booties...and knitted toys .

If you would like to join the group please contact Sylvia .I will still belong to the group and hope to see you when we can get together again.

Mary Rose

Conversation between Pilate & Joseph of Arimathea.

Pilate to Joseph of Arimathea: Strange that you, such a wealthy man, gave your own newly hewn tomb for the burial of Jesus of Nazareth.

Joseph of A.: Oh, I didn't! He only borrowed it for the weekend!

Funny how a £5 note 'looks' so big when you take it to church but so small when taken to the shopping centre.

Funny how hard it is to read a chapter in the Bible but so easy it is to read 100 pages of a bestselling novel.

Funny how people want to get a front seat at a game, concert or musical but scramble for the back at a church service.

Funny how we believe what the newspapers say but question what the Bible says.

Funny how we can send a thousand 'jokes' through email and they spread like wild fire but when sending messages regarding Jesus, people think twice about sharing.

FUNNY ISN'T IT? Are you laughing or are you thinking? Spread the word and give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

Sent in by Sylvia Perkins

An interesting story.....

Over 80 years ago, in Greece sixty thousand Jews lived peacefully in Thessaloniki. It was a valued and vibrant community.

Most of these Jews worked in the port to the point that the port of Thessaloniki was even closed on Saturday or Shabbat, the Jewish day when religion forbids working. Great emeritus rabbis also lived and studied there. Everyone hung out and liked each other.

September 2nd 1939, was the outbreak of World War II and this peaceful community would soon feel the terror of the Nazis.

On April 6th 1941 Hitler invaded Greece in order to secure his southern front before launching the famous Operation Barbarossa and his great offensive against Russia.

Of the 60,000 Jews in Thessaloniki at that time, around 50,000 were exterminated at the Birkenau concentration camp. The massacre of the Jews of Greece was brief but intense. Very few escaped. However, among the survivors was a family known as Bourla.

And after the war, in 1961, a son was born into this miraculous family in the camps. His parents called him Israel - Abraham. He grew up and studied veterinary medicine in Greece. A brilliant student, Abraham got his doctorate in reproductive biotechnology at the veterinary school of Aristotle University in Salonika.

At the age of 34, he decided to move to the United States.

He changed his first name of Abraham to Albert and met a Jewish woman named Miriam who then became his wife. Together they had two children.

In the United States Albert was integrated into the medical industry. He progressed very quickly and joined a pharmaceutical company where he became "Head manager". From there, the road was short for little Abraham (Albert) to rise through the ranks to become Chief Operations Officer before obtaining his appointment as CEO of the company in 2019.

Throughout 2020 Albert decided to direct all the efforts of the company to try to find a vaccine against a new virus which had just struck the world. He expended great financial and technological efforts to achieve his goal. A year later his work paid off and the WHO (World Health Organization) and the US government authorized his company to produce the long-awaited vaccine . . . Today, this vaccine will be distributed in several countries including Germany, which counted thousands of deaths due to the pandemic.

Ironically, this vaccine which will save the lives of millions of people around the world, including many Germans, was led by a Jew from Thessaloniki, son of Holocaust survivors, most of his people being exterminated by Nazi Germany.

And that is why Israel became the first country to receive the vaccine. In memory of his grandparents and his parents who gave birth to Israel-Abraham Bourla known today as Albert Bourla: CEO of Pfizer!

Sent in by Joan Macey

A remarkable life.

Barbara Lane was born in 1931. Her father was Fred lane, a well-known local preacher in the circuit. She lost her mother when she was 12 and was brought up partly by her Auntie Nellie who kept the post office. She went to high school in Lynn and when she left went to work as a librarian in W.H.Smith's in the

High Street. It was while she was working there that she met Harold Smith when he was preaching at Clenchwarton. Barbara's auntie was playing the organ but half way through the service a young lady took over. The preacher found out where she worked and, as he delivered parcels in High Street, he wrote to her. Their first date was at West Lynn Chapel when Harold was preaching. He proposed to her in Tower Gardens one lunchtime. "What would you say?" she asked him. He answered "Yes," so she said "Yes!" They got married in 1955 at St. James' London Road. When the children, Roger and Rosalind, came along Barbara was a dinner lady at the school. She was involved in the circuit as a Circuit Steward with Roland Hamon and was a Youth Club leader, Sunday School teacher in her own chapel and also enjoyed concerts with CMEG.

Like her father, Barbara was a magistrate at Terrington and later at Lynn, for several years. She was a school governor and on the Parish Council. She was secretary of the memorial cottages, instigated the building of the tennis courts, which is now the Bowls Club, involved in getting the pavilion. When the children grew up she became wages clerk at Baxter's factory and later at Debenham's. After she retired she helped with Meals on Wheels and delivered newspapers. She loved her garden and birds and her garden always had its birds. She spent what spare time she had in the garden. She also loved children. The three grandchildren learned that adults can be silly too, like making fish fingers and custard! She had a lovely sense of humour. When Rev. Fielder came to preach he gave Barbara an order of service and in the middle was a fig roll (he knew it was her favourite) and the instructions - not to be eaten during the sermon!

In later life she had a heart problem followed by cancer which, with treatment, she overcame. It was only the onset of Dementia which forced her to cease her organ playing at Clenchwarton Chapel after 62 years. She was cared for at home, then Terrington Lodge and, after a spell in hospital, she was moved to Summerville Care Home at Heacham where she was well looked after. She regarded Summerville as her home. She loved them and they loved her. Covid made visiting difficult but one of the highlights of her stay there was when granddaughter Jenna and Paul were married. They called at the home on their way to the reception. Summerville were brilliant. They played the wedding March, threw confetti and laid on Buck's Fizz and cake. And in the middle of the room was a beaming Granny. She was Granny to Jenna, Chris and Katy, and great grandma to Casper and new brother Taron, and Jenna and Paul's Felicity.

Her thoughts turned to her Mummy and Barbara was looking forward to seeing her again after 77 years.

Harold Smith

Oberammergau 2022

The trip Mary Cumbers organised for 2020 was cancelled. There are still 9 people booked.

The trip will now take place in 2022 all being well.

It will be from 18th to 25th May 2022. 8 days, 7 nights.

It is impossible to get tickets for the play without it being part of a holiday

The holiday part will be spent in a hotel beside Lake Garda, single and double rooms available. There will be a coach and boat trip around the Lake, a day trip to Venice, and a day in Verona. There will be a free day from the hotel OR at extra cost a day trip to the Dolomites. On our way to Oberammergau we will visit Innsbruck.

We are in Oberammergau for 2 nights; there are NO single rooms only twin rooms, so be sure you have someone you are willing to share your room with.

The cost will be about £ 1,500 per person.

Single room supplement at Lake Garda will be £119 p.p.

A £400 deposit will be needed on booking

Travel insurance is not included, you MUST have repatriation insurance. The company will arrange it if you wish.

If you are interested will you please ask for a booking form / brochure a.s.a.p.

Phone number 01366 727929 or

by email mary_cumbers@hotmail.co.uk that's Mary_Cumbers

The trip is open to all comers and should go ahead in 2022, we hope.

