

Rejoice!

June/July/August 2023



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

Summer and Summertime

When does summer begin for you? Does the summer solstice trigger your thoughts of sunny days, being outside more than during spring, picnics and barbeques, or stretching out on a nice grassy spot and spending time looking up at the clouds and seeing what images pop into your mind? Or, perhaps it's the idyllic thought of summertime fun that changes our attitudes about going out and about in search of that illusive ray of warm sunshine.

Personally, I take it when it comes, regardless of when the solstice occurs. Case in point, I enjoyed the sunshine so much yesterday that I now have a slight sunburn from going to the seaside with my Westies for the afternoon. The day was refreshing, extra special, out of the ordinary and ended with an unplanned stop at a pub for an outstanding meal of freshly made and baked beef and bacon pie with mashed potatoes and lightly cooked peas, carrots, and cauliflower, topped with gravy. It was absolutely delicious.

What about the coming of the spirit: the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost? Does it matter when the Spirit came or comes? Our celebration of Pentecost is Sunday, the 28th of May this year. Or you could say, according to the Gospel of John, where Jesus comes to the disciples in the upper room, Jesus breathed on them and gave them the Spirit, which would have been sometime in the afternoon on what we call Easter Day. Is it best to just take when the Spirit comes? For some, 40 days is a long time and that's just like it felt. Rev Graham Thompson reminded us at spring synod, that '40 days' is a biblical euphemism for a long time. For others, Jesus coming into our lives, includes the Spirit's presence, too.

May you all be blessed with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Shalom, Rev Robert, Superintendent

P.S. Are you ready for a 'Happy Lent', next year? [see prior Rejoice]

Praying together in the Circuit

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13: 14

Words of Paul to the Corinthian Christians. Words we often share in worship. Words with a depth of meaning and which encapsulate his own experience. Paul shares more in 1 Corinthians 15:9-10

"For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect".

Paul's experience on the road to Damascus was life changing, from being fervent in his desire to persecute Christians to one who was passionate to tell and teach people the good news of the gospel. The effect of the grace of God in his life led to him being used greatly for the Kingdom of God. A life transformed by our triune God.

His grace to me was not without effect - what is our response ?

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith.

It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift,

so that no one can boast about it. Ephesians 8-9

Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see

The very dying form of one who suffered there for me

And from my stricken heart with tears, two wonders I confess

The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

[Elizabeth Cecilia Clephane].

The love of God

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John.3:16

O love of God, how strong and true, eternal and yet ever new
uncomprehended and unbought, beyond all knowledge and all thought

[Horatius Bonar]

The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit

Your life in Christ makes you strong, and his love comforts you.

You have fellowship with the Spirit, and you have kindness and compassion for one another. I urge you, then, to make me completely happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and being one in soul and mind. Philippians 2:1-2

O breath of life, come sweeping through us

Revive your church with life and power;

O breath of Life come, cleanse, renew us,

And fit your church to meet this hour

[Bessie Porter Head 1920]

Gracious God, May our love for you grow with every passing day,
May worship increase within us.

May our lives be an offering of worship, our witness reveal the grace
we have experienced through your redeeming love.

May faith deepen within us and be activated as you guide and lead us in
the unity of your Spirit. May we truly believe that with you all things
are possible 'Let there be enlightenment' as the Spirit leads us into all
truth, and brings transformation as people experience your love, your
grace, your peace and unspeakable joy.

Our desire, our prayer, for your glory to be revealed in all the world.

We pray for the East Anglia District and for Pray 2-3

Praying, Renewing, Healing.

Prayers have been requested for : Derek, Stephanie, Margie,
Janice, Trisha, Linda, Andrew, Mavis and Julia, Judy, Kath,
Stephen + Victoria, William, Tom, Sarah.

Easter Sunday 2023.

Paul's Easter Sunday Morning Service at Downham Market.

During that service we heard the words, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" In the afternoon I walked up Rouses Lane to the cemetery, as is now my normal habit, to visit Hazel's grave. I wasn't looking forward to it - the 'firsts' of anything after loss are painful. As I reached the entrance, however, I was filled with peace... "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" came back to me. As a Christian, why was I looking for the living among the dead? The physical body is in the ground but the spirit, the soul if you like, is elsewhere - in heaven with all the choirs of angels singing out 'Hallelujah! He is risen indeed!' Those of us who have suffered loss will be sad - we can't help but be sad at times when someone we dearly loved is no longer with us. But death is not the end - we have a resurrection hope - a promise that when our earthly life is over there is eternal life awaiting us.

Hallelujah, Christ is risen - He is risen indeed! JM



Around the churches



Terrington St Clement

Thanks to all who attended the " World Day of Prayer at TSC. Thanks also to those who were at the Easter Coffee Morning , making it such a good success. We are hoping to have a 3pm service ,instead of 10.30, on SUNDAY the 27th August followed by a Tea party, all are welcome. Rev. Robert Roberts is joining us on June 11th for our Anniversary. Saturday coffee mornings continue to be well attended with good fellowship. Aspects of Faith continues on the last Thursday of the month. We have our tea and chat monthly in the summer and all are welcome, Wednesdays at 2pm.

Linda Howling

Stanhoe Methodist Church

We had a busy, happy Easter weekend: as usual, on Good Friday, we welcomed 22 pilgrims from the Midland Leg of the Student Cross, who had set out the week before, to walk from Leicester to Walsingham, carrying a heavy wooden Cross. They stop off for mid-morning refreshments and a short time of worship with us, before reaching their final destination of Walsingham that evening. We welcomed old friends and other new ones - they are an inspiration to us, and we look forward every year to their coming. On Good Friday afternoon, Elizabeth and Philip Batstone led an inspirational Service of quiet reflection, and we celebrated Easter Sunday, with Sheila Johnson as our preacher. We were well served! Personally, I had the great privilege of receiving my certificate for 25 years as a Local Preacher at a Circuit Service held at Hunstanton on 30th April. I am so grateful to all who supported me, either by organising the whole event (Elizabeth Batstone); preaching (Rev. Richman Ncube); accompanist and Senior Steward, (Jean Hornbuckle); hosting and catering (the wonderful Hunstanton members), or by just being there. We were all pleased to have Rev Steve Oliver and his wife, Jill, with us - both looking well and relaxed. Now we look forward to 20th May when the forthcoming Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of the late and much loved Enid Poll, formerly a member at Burnham Market, will be held at our church - we shall report further in the next edition of Rejoice.

Elizabeth MacLeod

And a tribute.

What a Trojan Enid was! Living next door to the Methodist Church at Burnham Market enabled her to love and care for it. Cleaning, brewing tea, preparing for worship services, carol services, meetings and Bible studies, Christian Aid lunches, harvest suppers and jumble sales - all of which were her specialities? Enid was always in the midst with a happy band of helpers. Always welcoming newcomers, like us, thirty years ago.

Thank goodness she made her 90th birthday tea party. How wonderful was that!

Burnham Market church was at the centre of her life offering practical Christianity. We owe her such a debt of gratitude for keeping things going for so long. We always found such love and happiness amongst the Christian fellowship of our friends there.

God bless you all for the Christian message you continue to proclaim. Long may your members continue worshipping at Stanhoe.

We thank God Enid for your faithful Christian service at Burnham Methodist Church.

We were sorry to see it close and pray that it will rise again, in whatever form, to God's praise and glory.

David and Barbara Ralphs Hunstanton

Downham Market

Our zoom services continued to be quite popular with Downham people but also included some from other parts of the circuit. For the summer, the zoom services will only be on the third Sunday of each month. Its main usefulness was during the lockdown when we couldn't have normal services. Many will hope they can return in the winter and will possibly be preferred to a 4pm service in church.

We had our Mothering Sunday service on 19th March, We had interesting dramas from Fensong and two young boys from the Boys Brigade. It was a shame that no Guides or Brownies came – I can remember 'Church parades' yesteryear when I was in the Scouts.

The service was led by Rev. Paul, who asked the congregation for what qualities the ideal mother would have. He read Colossians 3: 12 – 14 which proved to be almost a copy of that list.

Posies of flowers were given out (by members of Fensong) not just to all mothers and grandmothers, but to most of the congregation. Definitely a

service to remember.

The church took part in the Downham Market Walk of Witness, with the cross, on Good Friday.

I notice that Fensong are now using our hall for their rehearsals, and also worship in our church on a Sunday morning at 11-30 (I believe) after our own service. They are very welcome indeed.

Sadly, some well-loved members have passed on recently. I quote from Rev. Paul's notice concerning Hazel Miles.

"Hazel died peacefully at home on Sunday 5th February surrounded by her family. We celebrate and give thanks for her ministry here amongst us in living and preaching the Gospel of Christ, and we remain thankful for the friendship that she offered to us."

Ruth Bannister has also passed away having been ill for some time. Many will remember that her father, Brian, was a preacher in the circuit. Her mother, Jill, and Ruth herself, were members of the church choir. Ruth belonged to the Ladies' Friendship Circle and was in charge of birthday cards, remembering all of the members' birthdays. Our sympathies go out to Brian and Jill at this sad time. A service for the celebration of Ruth's life took place on Wednesday 10th May in our church.

The Lent course this year was based on Les Miserables and, as a follow up, there is a trip to see the musical in London on June. This should be a very enjoyable occasion and give us food for thought. There is room on the coach if anyone fancies a trip to London. Contact Rev. Paul for more details.

The Ladies Fellowship group is also having an outing (of a more leisurely nature!) to Southwold on Wednesday 21st June.

Messy Church continues to function and numbers are increasing. It takes place every four weeks.

Dudley Pickston

And from our Newbies!
Hello everyone!

We are the new Kids on the Block, namely FenSong. We are a group of Children and Adults, who are part of the Congregational Church. Our aim is to give kids access to Performing Arts, and we believe profoundly that teaching performance skills helps people socialise, gain a friendship group, and allows

people to feel more confident and increases their ability to improvise and use imagination.

We teach; juggling, British Sign Language, singing, acting, Physical Theatre (This is when someone uses their body to mimic and inanimate object, or through movement, expresses an emotion), puppetry, mime, mask-making etc. We often use Bible stories and over the years have performed "The Daniel Jazz", "Joseph's Dreamcoat", "The Passion", "The Alternativity". We have a keyboards section where students learn to play piano using an electronic weighted keyboard and ALL tuition is FREE. FenSong is run by a dedicated group of people, and those teaching have qualifications in Drama, Singing, Music etc. Cate Waters is the Director (and many students will have known her as Cate Markwell, when she was Head of Drama at Downham Market Academy for 25 years)

We meet at the Downham Methodist Church on Wednesdays from 5.30pm - 7pm for Young people aged 5 upwards and then the Seniors meet from 7-9pm.

On Saturday morning, we meet again, all players from 10-12 noon, and keyboards start at 12.30pm for 45 minutes for beginners, but intermediates meet from 1.15-2pm. Again, ALL tuition is free.

Juniors are currently performing "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" and we are still in need of some rats and some children, so all are welcome.



Terry Pratchett fans will be pleased to hear the Seniors are performing "Carpe Jugulum", and we are still a few characters short, so if you fancy being in a comedy, we would LOVE to hear from you.

FenSong has won three regional awards and two National awards.; we tour our productions, usually to 4 different venues, and we have outings together to the theatre or bowling, ice skating, roller blading, laser quest etc, and in the

summer we have a four day camp where the children basically camp and do lots of exciting things like hiking, attending the theatre, have lots of lovely meals together, watch a film etc, and this year we intend to visit the seaside. If you want further information as you have a child/ children, or grandchild/ grandchildren who you think might be interested, please contact us on **07943523437**

And remember, if you have a shy child/ adult, we are always looking for technicians to paint scenery, run the stage show, the lights, the sound or make the costumes/Props. We train people to acquire these skills and putting on a show is always very rewarding.

Cate

And sadly - After nearly 8 years, the interpreted service at Downham Market will come to an end.

The Church has welcomed deaf people who use British Sign Language regularly every month with a variety of sign language interpreters visiting the church. I think I may have been the first one, and Ros Hunt has been the latest regular interpreter. We will both be present on Sunday 2nd July which will be the final interpreted service.

Over these years, we have enjoyed being at the church very much. The welcome from the preacher and the members alike has been warm and friendly. Some folks learnt a few signs so they could better welcome deaf people, and this has been greatly appreciated by all who came along. In one way, it's sad to see this stop, but everything has a season. Some of our regular deaf friends have moved away, and some have stopped coming due to age or illness. Very few live locally and travelling to get to Downham Market for 10am has not been possible. However, when there is a special service, or event, if an interpreter can be arranged, we will let people know and hope to join you.

I would like to thank Rev Jan Smith, the Chaplain among Deaf people for the Ely Diocese, who has supported this interpreted service and arranged interpreters when I went back to Circuit ministry in 2020. Without her help, we would not have made it this far!

Rev Anne Richardson

Hilgay and Southery

On Sunday May 7th Hilgay Chapel had bunting up inside and out as we had a Celebration Songs of Praise and tea for the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Knitted versions of them sat on the table and guest of honour was that furry friend of the late Queen, Paddington Bear with specially made marmalade sandwiches.

It was lovely to see people from Wimbotsham, Downham and Ely congregations joining us and singing together joyfully.

Hilgay and Southery folk worked well together to provide a wonderful spread for the tea which was enjoyed by all.

Donations at the service amounted to £120:00 which will be split between our church and the school in Africa the circuit is supporting to repair or replace their water system. Thanks to all who helped in any way on this occasion.

Pauline Driver.

Hunstanton

Hunstanton has had quite a busy few months including hosting the World Day of Prayer Service, and the presentation to Elizabeth MacLeod of a certificate marking 25 years of service as a local preacher. Carers' Day and a Retreat Day for South Wootton also brought visitors to our church. We will be hosting the service for dedication of the Easter offerings on May 24th.

We have been running a 'Warm Space' throughout the winter months on a Thursday morning, inviting people to come for coffee or tea and biscuits. We have a number of regulars as well as occasional visitors calling in for warmth and company each week. It has proved popular and will continue throughout the year. We were fortunate to receive financial help through the Crowdfunder scheme and are very grateful to all who supported us with donations.

We have been establishing contact with friends from other churches in Hunstanton, and invited members of the Union Church to join us for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services; some of our members joined them for their services at other times during the Easter weekend. We look forward to working together and building up the friendship between the churches.

On Coronation Bank Holiday Monday, we held a party in the afternoon with the Heacham Methodists. Members of Union church, The Way, The RC and other Methodists in the area were invited to come and celebrate with us. We were pleased to see the Mayor of Hunstanton who came to visit us. There were

quizzes, games, a sing along led by John Harris, Richman and his family sang some Zimbabwean music, and there was even some dancing! Altogether there were 38 people representing 5 different churches in the area enjoying themselves as they celebrated King Charles' coronation.

It's always good to have pictures to prove what happened!



Greeting the Mayor

Dersingham

At the time of writing we are busy preparing for the Flower Festival which starts on Thursday 25th May. The theme is Psalms of Praise. Already there has been much preparing of posters and fliers, and putting advertisements in local papers and magazines. Freezers have been filling up with items for the cake stall and light refreshments each day, cards have been made, seeds have been sown and nurtured, and items and books are being collected for the other stalls. First of all, however, a band of moppers and dusters and polishers and chair movers will be at work to give the premises a good spring clean before the flower arrangers get to work and visitors arrive. Proceeds this year are for Toilet Twinning and church funds and we look forward to seeing friends from around the circuit. The local school children will be coming on Thursday and Friday mornings at 10am to open the proceedings.

A small number of new people have started to worship with us over the last few weeks and months and are beginning to volunteer to take part in Local Arrangement services, to join the Sunday morning coffee rota and to help at the Flower Festival. They are obviously feeling part of our fellowship now and it is good to have them with us. Our church organised activities such as the

Jigsaw Club and the Bowls Club continue to be friendly and appreciated groups which offer somewhere to come and meet friends and produces an interest in the church and all that goes on there.

Rosemary Caink

Gaywood St Faith's

Just a week after he played a central role in the Coronation of King Charles III in Westminster Abbey, the Bishop of Norwich was at St Faith's Anglican to officially open its new Community Hub.

Before the actual dedication and blessing of the new facility, the Rt Rev Graham Usher, led a Confirmation service during which he also confirmed three candidates.

The Bishop, together with the Bishop of Hereford, had been personally invited to be Queen Camilla's "assistants" and to simply be alongside the Queen in what Bishop Graham described as that "prayerful and very spiritual moment in the Coronation service".

He chatted with people involved in the re-modelling of the old Church bungalow which was previously used for clergy housing.

Bishop Graham said: "I'm delighted to open this vital community hub that has long been the vision of those at St Faith's, Gaywood. Thanks to their sterling fund-raising efforts and determination, this wonderful facility is now available to all in the local community. I'm particularly struck, during this Mental Health Awareness Week, of the important role that will be fulfilled in these premises by Norfolk and Waveney MIND."

Bishop Graham continued: "This parish church has enabled this to happen - yet another wonderful act of service, following in the footsteps of Jesus, to offer life in all its fullness." The Mayor Leslie Bambridge and her deputy Margaret Wilkinson also attended.

Chair of the Bungalow Project and St Faith's Churchwarden, Susie Cranko-Page said that she and her small team were delighted that the plans had become a reality.

"We wish to thank all those who have supported the Project in numerous ways. It has been a joy to see the project completed and we all look forward to it playing a leading role in Gaywood and the wider community," she said.

Mrs Cranko-Page said special thanks go to the various grant-making bodies for their positive interest in the scheme.

As well as several meeting rooms, (that are available for hire) the new re-modelled bungalow includes a new Church office, fitted kitchen and utility area and toilets. Rev. Kyla remarked it was such a joy to see The Hub in use.

"It is truly a working model of church and community working together."

The volunteer members of St Faith's fund-raising group have been hard at work planning the annual Summer Fair which is being held in Gaywood Church Rooms on Saturday, 17th June starting at 2pm and continuing until 4pm. There will be a colourful assortment of stalls and, as always, at St Faith's fairs, a chance to pick up one or two bargains.

The stalls will include the ever-popular home-made cakes, hard back and paper-back books, toys, puzzles and bric-a-brac. There will also be the main raffle with some good prizes, tombola and other games of chance.

This year there will be burgers and hot-dogs cooked by the Rector's husband, Pete on his mobile kitchen. Refreshments, including delicious cakes and pastries, will be served with tea and coffee. All proceeds from the Summer Fair are for the general upkeep and running costs of St Faith's Church..

There were many opportunities at St Faith's to mark and celebrate the great Festival of Easter with a series of services and events.

One of my personal high-lights was the Easter Day dawn (6am) service which this year was held in the Rectory garden with those attending being warmed by a blazing brazier. The moving Communion service, led by the Rector, was followed by breakfast.

On Good Friday morning a group of people gathered at St Faith's at the start of the silent Procession of Witness. At the head of the group a large wooden cross was carried by a number of volunteers.

From St Faith's, the Procession headed into the town centre with stops along the way at Highgate Chapel, and at St John's Church in The Walks.

For me, personally, I was particularly pleased to take my turn in carrying the cross from St John's Church because I was baptised by Canon Allworthy, in Its font in February 1953. I carried the cross until reaching the Minster. We then joined those gathered outside the Minster and processed through the town centre stopping at a number of locations for a Bible reading and a prayer. We completed the Procession at the Minster for final hymns and then enjoyed hot cross buns and tea and coffee.

The memorial service for the Rev. Heather Berry, who tragically died in early December 2022, soon after arriving by plane in Australia to visit relatives, was held at St Faith's Church on 10th March and was led by the Rector Rev. Kyla, , and the team vicar, the Rev Karleen.

During the service, the mourners were told about the Rev. Berry's life and times. The Rev. Berry, who was associated with St Faith's Church for several decades, retired early from her post as Head of Geography at Gaywood's Springwood High School and later became Ordained. As well as serving at St Faith's, the Rev Berry also served in the Weasenham St Peter Group, and at West Winch and Middleton. She was actively involved in many aspects of church life, including Churches Together in King's Lynn. She was involved in

the Open Book ministry (through which volunteers are invited into local schools to present dramatised Bible stories). The Rev. Berry was also well-known for her passionate and enthusiastic work for the Christian Aid charity heading up and developing a West Norfolk support group. Donations given at the funeral raised £750 for Christian Aid. Her funeral had been held in Somerset and she was laid to rest with her parents.

A special service was held on Sunday, May 7th, to mark the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla. Prayers were said for the King's reign over England and the Commonwealth. The church had been decorated with some beautiful floral arrangements on the window ledges and on several pedestals. Church members, Tim and Claire Rees, designed and assembled a large striking purple royal crown which was hung above the Chancel surrounded by the circular Corona, decorated with garden greenery, gold crowns, Union flags and red, white and blue ribbons. The crown drew many admiring comments. f All of us at Faith's Church join in congratulating long-serving choir member Olwyn Barber for being named a finalist in the 2023 Your Local Paper Local Hero Awards. Olwyn, aged 88, had been nominated by deputy warden, Richard Parr, in the Lifetime Achievement category and was one of three people selected as a finalist. A packed audience in the Corn Exchange watched a large screen video of Olwyn talking about her 77 years as a member of the choir. Filmed in St Faith's Church, Olwyn said she had always loved being part of the choir since she joined as a schoolgirl with her friend, the late Pearl Grumnett.

Richard Parr

Heacham

Glad to report that the Lent events went very well – delicious soups and company shared with St Mary's Church members. Thanks to all who contributed.

Our building has been enhanced by a few changes – new blinds above the entrance mean that the leaders of worship are no longer “blinded” but the bright natural light is enjoyed. The congregation is also able to see the items portrayed on the screen when it is used. (This means that the projector can now be used more often.)

Our application to have a defibrillator assigned to our building was approved and the equipment has now arrived and should be fully installed shortly. Thank you to our generous contributors who inspired as well as helped to fund this. We think the village should feel safer to have this lifesaving equipment available.

The school room has also been made secure as the roof was found to be leaking. It has now been completely restored and safe for another 26+ years. All in good time for start of the “Noah's Ark” baby and toddler group that is starting on Wednesday, 31st May. (1.30 – 3.00 pm).

Two of our members have died recently, Mavis and David. They will be sadly missed.

Joan Careless

Feltwell

Feltwell Methodist community is still trying new ventures to encourage the village to use and engage in our premises. A craft club meet Tuesday mornings 10 to 12 and you are all welcome. It offers different crafts including sewing, flower arranging, box and bag making, crochet, embroidery, quilts, painting garden ornaments etc. We will be having a craft sale in September. We now have a table tennis group with three tables and a dozen or more enthusiastic players Tuesday afternoons. Pilates have stopped meeting in our hall.

Many of you will never have visited Feltwell or may not have for a long time. We are keeping the grounds under control as a garden and wild area which is slowly being used more by the community. Sprouts and kale are in and the raspberry fruits are forming, as are the strawberries in the raised beds. The raised beds are made from our old metal chair frames topped with Belfast sinks obtained from Icenii Academy Methwold.

Sunday fellowship is going well and, depending on the topic, is providing good discussion and helping us develop our understanding of the Bible and its relevance to our daily lives. With the hymns and prayers we have a relaxed meaningful time together. Over the Easter period we considered how we would have felt if we were there. How wonderful or gutted would we have felt if we could say, as Max Boyce said “I was there”! We then asked ourselves..... we have not seen Jesus in the flesh; so what makes us believe? Are we like Thomas?

You are welcome to come and see us anytime. We have recently visited Lakenheath Methodist Chapel for morning worship where we were welcomed and enjoyed a cuppa after worship.

Mike Wilkinson

Wimbotsham

It is with sadness that we have lost Don Gates from our midst. He will long be remembered for his talent of never needing any notes as he often said. He was always able to stand and deliver a meaningful sermon with a valuable message.

Many years ago Don was a Circuit Steward and a hands-on helper with the paper work done prior to the building of the new Methodist Church at Downham Market. He worked together with others clearing the plot ready for building work to commence. We miss Don's leadership and involvement at Wimbotsham after so many years of service. Some of you will remember his humour and expertise at the Harvest Festival auctions of produce! A clever man of words!

Our coffee mornings are enjoyed every third Saturday in the month, 10.30 – 12, with our homemade sausage rolls and cakes and sharing of much chatter and friendship.

Next year we celebrate 150 years of witness in the village and planning is in place for a special June celebration.

Meg Cooper

A report about the East Anglia District Synod

(Hopefully more interesting than it sounds!)

The most recent meeting of the East Anglia Representative District Synod took place at Chapelfields Methodist Church in Norwich on Saturday, 22nd April. Over a hundred people attended in person with more people joining by Zoom. As a member of a small Methodist congregation, I value the opportunity to be part of a much larger gathering of Methodists and I would like to share some aspects of the day with the readers of *Rejoice*.

At Synod, you get the chance to catch up with old friends and acquaintances and to meet new people. This time, the new district safeguarding officer Mr Neil Holland was introduced. He was there with Jane Gay, who was in the process of handing over to him. She was warmly thanked for all she has done to establish good safeguarding practice in the district.

Graham Thompson, this year's President of the Methodist Conference was present at Synod as part of a visit to the East Anglia District. He led the opening worship and after lunch led a Bible study based on Revelation, Chapter 2, verses 1 to 7 during which he posed the question, "What is the Spirit saying to the church today?" We are all aware of the challenges we face but how can we be faithful to the message of the Gospel in the present day?

After Graham Thompson had led us through the context and content of the passage from Revelation and spoke about the challenges facing the church today, we divided into discussion groups. We were asked to identify the strengths and weaknesses of churches and to ask ourselves whether we have experienced a loss of passion like that of the church in Ephesus, to help us respond to the overarching question "What is the Spirit saying to the church today?"

Earlier in the day, Rev. Robert Roberts and I presented a proposed memorial to the Methodist Conference, which originated from David Elvidge of Hunstanton Methodist Church. The memorial had been passed by West Norfolk Circuit Meeting and now needed approval from District Synod to be forwarded to conference in June 2023. The gist of the memorial was that the term which Presidents of the Conference serve should be extended from one to five years in order to help raise the profile of the Methodist Church in the UK. After Robert and I spoke to propose the memorial, a good discussion ensued but the majority of members of the synod voted against forwarding the memorial to conference. However, I think it did raise an important point about raising the profile of the Methodist Church nationally, regionally, at circuit and at church level. Furthermore the discussion took place in the presence of the current President of the Conference. At the end of the synod, I was just about to walk past Graham Thompson, when I heard him say, "How are you Lesley?" A short conversation ensued, in which he told me it was good to hear me speak and then to my surprise, as it is several years since he had seen us at the annual District Treasurers' meetings, he asked how Des was. I think the day illustrated to me one of the strengths of the Methodist Church, that of Connexion. But it does beg the question do we always make best use of that gift? So if this article has sparked interest in the idea of raising the profile of the Methodist Church locally, District Mission Enabler, Dr Yasmin Finch

gave an update on resources available to churches through the Pray 2-3 initiative, including free postcards and up to three lovely posters per church. I recommend looking at East Anglia District Website under Pray 2-3. It can be accessed via [www. Methodist church.org.uk](http://www.Methodistchurch.org.uk) where there is a link on the home page to other Methodist websites.

Lesley Dent

IS YOUR CHURCH MAD?

That's what a sign says on the door to Highgate chapel; along with a poster from the very talented Janet Taylor which says "we're not mad, we're Making A Difference" (anybody wanting to view it for themselves would be very welcome to join us at 3 o'clock on a Sunday afternoon).

So I ask you, is your church mad? Are you making a difference within your communities, within individual lives? And perhaps the most important question of all, are you making a difference only to those who come within the walls of your church, or are you able to make a difference beyond those boundaries?

Christ came to make a difference. Part of this was in the form of salvation for all, but He also made a difference by healing people, welcoming the outcasts, seeing to people's spiritual and physical needs. He didn't just come to help those who were amongst His closest friends, or even just the Jewish people, He helped Samaritans and Romans too. And not just intending this to be a one-off, He instructed Peter in a vision to reach out to the Gentiles (see Acts 10:9-29).

Is your church MAD like Jesus? I hope so.

Jenny Sargent

Trinity

A puzzle for some, a helpful model for others. It's all to do with experience. The key is the Holy Spirit. We experience God as Creator and Father through the Spirit. We experience the Son, Jesus, as human being and teacher, through the Spirit, and we experience guidance, encouragement and protection through the Spirit.

It's all the Spirit, and it's all God. Jesus said "God is Spirit". Let us not try to think of mysterious figures in the sky, and concentrate on experiencing the Holy Spirit, which is God.

The Night Shelter

The Night Shelter remains open until 30th June and has had a busy year. It has been full since reopening for the season in October and has consistently had an extensive waiting list of people in need of help. In addition to the 22 people accommodated to date, by the end of April a further 200 people had been given assistance "at the door" with food, hot drinks, sleeping bags, advice and referrals. The Night Shelter believes that 63 of these had nowhere to go, with the remainder "sofa surfing" or otherwise vulnerably housed.

The Night Shelter is now beginning to plan for the Autumn. This will only be possible with adequate funding. The Night Shelter has had its most difficult financial year to date as we received no Government grant and the Local Authority's contribution has been less than in previous years. We will be launching a fundraising appeal in the local media shortly for October 2023.

The Trustees are full of gratitude and admiration for the work that Julian Hallett has given the Night Shelter over the last 6 years as Treasurer and as Chair. His role as Treasurer has been taken on by Martin Green. The Charity is very keen to appoint a Trustee with links to the Lynn's Eastern European community and would be glad to hear from anyone interested.

Anyone wishing to donate to our October appeal can do so via our website www.knightshelter.org.uk/giving or transfer money to Lloyds Bank, Sort code: 30-99-08, Account number: 23417260, A/c name: King's Lynn Night Shelter, or contact Lucy nightshelter.steering@gmail.com

Pop-up bookshop at the Baptist Church.

We have a new initiative starting at Kings Lynn Baptist Church that I am eager to share with other local churches.

We are all too aware that Christian Bookshops on the high street are closing down because of the competition from online retailers such as Amazon etc. We have been approached by Green Pastures Christian Bookshop in Dereham to regularly host a 'pop-up bookshop' at KLBC to provide a wide range of Christian books, cards and gifts etc to the churches in the area.

Our first pop-up bookshop will be on Wednesday 31st May, it will open at 10am and the trustees of the bookshop will give a short presentation of the various services they offer at 10:30am. The bookshop will then stay open for the morning. We plan on hosting subsequent bookshops monthly - or more often if they are required.

We are really excited to partner with Green Pastures in this venture to try and provide good quality Christian merchandise at affordable prices, and make it accessible to the people of our town - we know how good online shopping is, but there is something rather special about being able to hold a book and look through it before purchasing it.

I would be incredibly grateful if you could share an invitation to your Church members and Church Ministers and also for anyone else in our churches (or further afield) who may be interested.

Every blessing

Rev June Love
Cornerstone Kings Lynn Baptist Church
juneklbc@gmail.com



PENTECOST

Pentecost always comes on a Sunday. Unlike Christmas and Easter this day passes with such little fanfare that there is a good chance you will not think about it or be reminded of it. But it is the 'when' as well as the 'what' of Pentecost that shows it is a Sign. It was a remarkable allusion of the Gospel that deserves our full attention. However, to see this we need to understand its place in the Biblical story.

In fact, 'Pentecost' was a regular Old Testament festival. In the time of Moses, several annual festivals were prescribed and celebrated throughout the year. The festival of Passover was the first to be celebrated in the Jewish year. Exactly 50 days after Passover Sunday the Jews celebrated the Feast of Pentecost. And they had been doing so yearly for 1500 years by the time the events of Acts 2 happened. In fact, the reason that there were people from all languages who were in Jerusalem that day to hear Peter's message was precisely because they were there to celebrate the Old Testament Pentecost.

Some thoughts for Pentecost

Let's have a think about the elements of Pentecost; the wind and the fire. Both of them can be felt, but only the fire can be seen and apart from that, they have many similarities.

Fire and wind can both cleanse.

Together they can warm us, or create a powerful force, as in a furnace.

They can soothe and comfort, depending on the circumstances.

They can present a beacon for all to see.

They can make a great noise.

They can be invigorating.

They can be life-giving and lifesaving.

If we accept that wind and fire in the form of The Holy Spirit, nothing can stop us as we will then have all of those properties and pass them on to others.



Death What a Wonderful Way to Explain It

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said,
"Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."
Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know ..."
"You don't know? You're a Christian Man and you don't know what's on the other side?" said the man.
The doctor was holding the handle of the door, on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining.
As he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.
Turning to the patient, the doctor said,
"Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside.
He knew nothing except that his master was here and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.
I know little of what is on the other side of death but I do know one thing

I know my Master is there and that is enough"



**We cannot force someone
to hear a message, they are not ready to receive,
but we must never underestimate the power of
planting a seed (Thank you Joan Macey)**

MACULAR SOCIETY LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP

From 19th to 25th June is Macular Week, an annual event in the Macular Society calendar. This is to raise awareness of a condition affecting 600,000 people in the UK, to highlight the impact of this, the importance of funding vital research to find a cure and the available help for all those affected, family members and friends.

Our Local Support Group which meets every third Tuesday of each month is marking this special week with:

An Open Invitation to Drop-In between 1 pm – 3.30 pm on Tuesday 20th June at the Methodist Church Social Centre, Downham Market.

There will be a wide range of information on help and services, vision aids and equipment with representatives from the Macular Society, Vision Norfolk, Norfolk Libraries, Norfolk Lavender and others.

All warmly welcome.

Local Contact: Mary Davies 01366 388660.

From a Musician

It's not enough to just play the notes or sing the words or hear the song for it to mean something. -You have to feel the music. Because If you don't feel it HOW CAN ANYONE ELSE?

Life is like a piano. What you get out of it depends on how you play it!

Where words fail music sparks.

Life without music would B flat!

Music has the ability to repair the brain damage and return the memories.

Thanks Meg Cooper

A MILESTONE

On the afternoon of the 30th April, a Circuit service was held in Hunstanton Methodist Church. Rev. Dr Richman Ncube, the Church minister, welcomed everyone to this special occasion to present a long service certificate to one of the Circuit local preachers.

The certificate for twenty-five years' service was presented, by the Superintendent Minister Rev. Robert Roberts, to Elizabeth MacLeod. Elizabeth gave a short testimony, Bible reading and the congregation sang two of her favourite hymns.

Donations, given at the service for the Leaders' of Worship and Preachers' Trust, totalled £147.50.

The service was attended by Elizabeth's family and friends and many from the West Norfolk Circuit. The feeling of love and celebration continued after the service over refreshments.

Elizabeth Batstone

Circuit Leader of Worship and Preachers' Meeting Secretary



REFLECT QUIET MORNING (via Zoom)

Saturday 3rd June or Monday 12th June 2023



JOURNEYING WITH GOD: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Using scripture, music, reflection and prayer:
we'll trace God's presence with us in the past,
enable ourselves to meet God more fully in the 'now'
and seek God's wisdom and guidance for all that's to come.

A rough guide to our time together:

9.30am - Welcome, Opening Prayer & Introduction

10.00am – Session 1: Journeying with God in the Past

11.00am – Session 2: From Here to Eternity?

12 noon – Conclusion & Closing Prayer

To end by 12.15pm

This online Quiet morning will be led by Rev Sam Funnell – a Methodist minister in Woking

If you would like to attend please email Deacon Lynne Tonge
2tonges317@gmail.com
stating which date you would like to book

There is no charge for this event but donations (suggestion £5) may be made by bank transfer to support the work of REFLECT
(**Reflect** Bank Details: Lloyds Bank, Sort Code **30 96 18**, Account no. **02833113** please quote '**Quiet Day**' as a reference for your payment – Thank you!)

John Walker Motson OBE

10 July 1945 – 23 February 2023

A Personal Reflection

I have been a football fan since the 1960's (I remain a passionate follower of my home town team, Grimsby Town FC). Earliest commentary memories are firstly Raymond Glendenning, then the great Peter Jones, but the last 50 years it has been 'Motty'.

John was very much a child of the manse, as his father was the Rev William Motson. John was born in Salford, one of the places his father was stationed in the itinerant Methodist ministry. That must have been towards William's final weeks, as he was then appointed to Centenary Methodist Church, Boston and it was there that John was baptised.

For a year or so we lived in Boston and worshipped at Centenary, long after the Motsons had moved on. I used to sit next to John's aunty and she was so proud of him. Most Sundays after worship we would talk about John and football. (I was at Centenary when a Methodist Pope preached – the Rev J Russell Pope, during his Presidential year!).

John was educated at the Methodist Culford School (a place the Society visited, when the late Rev David Caink, an art expert, took members around the travelling Methodist Art Collection). John was disappointed that soccer was not included in the sporting curriculum, something his father took up with the school. John often accompanied his father on preaching appointments, including Outwell and Upwell.

John's career began in 1967 as a newspaper reporter in Barnet. His big break came in 1968 when he joined the BBC as sports presenter on Radio 2. His breakthrough as a soccer commentator was in December 1969. In 1971 he became a BBC television commentator. John was commentating at Hillsborough in 1989 when crowds of supporters became hemmed in, with tragic loss of life. The memory remained with John and he may well have suffered what we now term 'Post Traumatic Stress Disorder'.

John commentated for 50 years covering over 2,500 matches. He was noted for his meticulous preparation; possibly a skill he learned from his father when he was writing sermons. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge. In all this time it was inevitable that there would be some gaffs. One I remember was "For those of you watching on black and white televisions, the visiting team are in the yellow strip"!

John's 'trademark' was his sheepskin coats. I understand some were made in Bungay and also by Saville Row tailors.

John was a man of faith throughout his life and in recent years worshipped at his local parish church. He was active in encouraging the emergence of the movement, Christians in Sport.

It was a couple of weeks or so before his sudden death that John featured in a 2-page centre-spread article in the *Methodist Recorder*. This prompted me to write to John, care of the *Recorder*, in which I reminisced about my time in Boston and thanked him for his outstanding commentaries. I also sounded the praises of my beloved Grimsby Town FC! Sadly, John probably never got to read my letter.

David Elvidge
March 2023



The next meeting of our Circuit Pastoral Committee

will be on

Monday 12th June :10.30 a.m.

(coffee from 10.00 a.m.)

at London Road Methodist Church, KL

If you have any thoughts, comments or suggestions

which you would like us to include on the agenda,

please do let us know (c/o Deacon Lynne 2tonges317@gmail.com)

– we shall be glad to hear from you.

Circuit Twinning with Matjinge Circuit in Zimbabwe

The Climate Justice Group, on behalf of the circuit, has been in touch with Rev. Mufaro Chuma, who is the superintendent for Matjinge Circuit in Zimbabwe, where our own Rev. Richman Ncube grew up and attended the Methodist school.

He responded: *“Having friends in the outside world, with whom we can share our stories, was our dream and today the dream is fulfilled.”*

Deacon Lynne Tonge has said: *“We hope that the twinning with our brothers and sisters in Matjinge will be two-fold – that it will be the formation of a prayerful relationship which will offer mutual support and learning between our two circuits, and also an opportunity to offer financial support to specific small projects at Matjinge”.*

The Matjinge Circuit has only 2 completed church buildings and one manse, with 2 ministers and 37 local preachers. There are 360 church members, mostly women, spread across a large rural area with 19 societies, most of which therefore meet outdoors on Sundays. The men and many young people from the area usually work away from home, for example, in South Africa. The ministers have to walk to carry out their duties and to visit elderly church members in the rural communities. The circuit is struggling financially and is 2 months behind with payments to the central Methodist Church in Zimbabwe. The secondary school has 120 boarders: 75 girls and 45 boys. Currently, the bore hole which supplied water for the school has dried up and

children have to collect water from 2 Km away. This is probably the most pressing need facing the community right now.

They have no vehicle for the ministers to use and are hoping to raise money to buy one in the future. The fence around the school is also not secure.

If you and your local church would like to send greetings to the Matjinge circuit, please send your messages via Deacon Lynne Tonge. We would also like to pray regularly for the people of Matjinge circuit and hold them in our thoughts, in these times of climate change. There is an election in Zimbabwe this year: please pray that there is no violence at the time of the election and that the whole process is free and fair.

It would be wonderful if some of our churches decided to raise money for the Matjinge circuit with special events in the next few months, while we try to get some idea of how the water supply for the school might be improved. One suggestion is a rainwater collection system and storage tank, another would be to try to find a new borehole. Practical Action have an office in Gwanda, and they have offered to assist us with this. All We Can does have a project elsewhere in the country. However, they do not accept nominations for specific projects, as they are fully committed to their programme of work elsewhere. Unfortunately, neither Water Aid nor Toilet Twinning operates in Zimbabwe. Meanwhile, we will send a copy of Rejoice!, to Rev Chuma and assure him that we are thinking about them and trying to work out a way in which we might be able to assist them, but that this will take some time. In the meantime, please send any money raised for Matjinge to our circuit treasurer.

If you would like us to send you the pictures of the Methodist school in Matjinge, perhaps for a display in your church, please contact me drjrayner@gmail.com, or contact Deacon Lynne Tonge 2tonges317@gmail.com. The next meeting of the Climate Justice Group will be on July 18th at 6pm at St Faiths. Please try to send a representative from each church in our circuit.

Rosemary Rayner

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary

June 2023 onwards

Monday 12th June Circuit Pastoral Committee 10.30 at London Road

Saturday 17th June Coffee morning with home-made cakes, bric-a-brac and books at Wimbotsham Methodist 10 am - 12 noon

Saturday June 17th Summer Fair at St Faith's at 2pm.

Saturday 15th July Coffee morning with home-made cakes, bric-a-brac and books at Wimbotsham Methodist 10 am - 12 noon

Tuesday 19th July Climate Justice Group 6pm at St Faith's

Saturday 19th August Coffee morning with home-made cakes, bric-a-brac and books at Wimbotsham Methodist 10 am - 12 noon