

Rejoice!

November 2022



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

Ahhh... November, the end of autumn or beginning of winter

November, the eleventh month of our Gregorian calendar, includes a number of life's annual transitions, not to mention numerous personal anniversaries and birthdays.

We begin with All Saints Day on November 1st remembering collectively all those we've known who have died in the last year; it's followed by Remembrance Day on November 11th with local and national services for those who made the ultimate sacrifice of life in WWI and WWII, plus other conflicts since; it also includes the associated Sunday observances. This year the first Sunday in Advent is November 27th; yet, in the Middle Ages [13th - 15th centuries], Advent began on November 11th, giving us six weeks of Advent that's two additional weeks of preparation before celebrating Christ's birth.

However, as a young child I have found memories of the impending weather change of autumn to winter, occurring somewhere around mid-November, give or take a week, with: the first snowfall of 3 to 5 inches, the first snowball fight, the first snowman in the front yard and the first shovelling of other people's pavement and driveway [it was my source of income for family Christmas presents].

But there's another transition that occurs just before Advent begins, the ending of the Lectionary calendar [Year A, B or C], our daily list of scripture readings from the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. That last Sunday of a Lectionary year is called Christ the King Sunday. You might think that it has always been there or at least for a few hundred years, as I assumed; that's sort of true.

Eusebius of Caesarea, Greek Christianity historian, is credited with the concept of Christ as king in about AD 314 [Wikipedia]. It was Pope Pius XI however, who instituted the Feast of Christ the King in 1925 to remind Christians that their allegiance was to their spiritual ruler in heaven as opposed to earthly supremacy, which was claimed by Benito Mussolini. Therefore, before we begin to prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus, we stop and celebrate Jesus Christ the King.

Blessings, Rev Robert, Superintendent

Praying together in the Circuit

Calvary, three crosses, on one cross Jesus the sinless Son of God, with two criminals beside him one on his right and one on his left.

One of them insulted Jesus, "if you are the Messiah save yourself and save us" the other one said to him "We are being punished justly, we are getting what we deserve, but this man has done nothing wrong"; he then spoke to Jesus,

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom".

Jesus replied "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise" Luke 23:42-43

This is part of the gospel reading for the Sunday before Advent when we consider the reign of Christ the King. Before we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus we are drawn to focus on His purpose, His life, His sacrificial death, His victory over death and His second coming, bringing in His Kingdom in all its fullness.

The Kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.

Rev.11:15

Sovereign God, thank you for your purposes which will succeed through your son, our Saviour, our Lord, the King of Kings.

I cannot tell how He will win the nations,
How He will claim His earthly heritage
How satisfy the needs and aspirations
Of east and west of sinner and of sage
But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory

And He shall reap the harvest He has sown,
And some glad day the sun will shine in splendour
When He the Saviour, Saviour of the world is known
William Young Fullerton 1857-1932

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old; ..
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning.
We will remember them.

We pray for victims of war who have been injured physically,
emotionally, mentally and live with the scars inflicted.

Lord, our healer, may your healing power touch their lives.

We remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice as
they have served faithfully and lost their lives.

For families living with the loss of family members.

Lord, our healer comfort the broken hearted and hold them
secure in your love.

Father hear our prayers for an end to conflict and war, for
deliverance from evil. For justice and integrity to lead to
fairness, respect and harmony for all people.

For leaders of all nations to work for the good of their people
and be held in the prayers of believers.

For the peace which only you can give to permeate our minds, our
hearts our whole being and bear fruit in our lives for your glory.

Lord, we pray that one by one people may experience your love,
your grace and mercy, and enter into your purpose for them and
your eternal Kingdom.

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

2023 A Year of prayer across East Anglia www.PRAY23.ORG
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John Wesley said

God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.
The best thing of all is God is with us.
Prayer is where the action is.

Gillian Ruth Johnson – an Obituary 27th July 2022

Gillian Ruth Johnson, known as Gill, celebrated her 90th birthday, on 10th April 2022, and died suddenly, of a heart attack, one month later, on 12th May.

Gill was a much loved member of Stanhoe Methodist Church, in the West Norfolk Circuit, and will be very much missed.

For many years, Gill served the church well, as church organist, and Secretary to the Church Council, and only in very recent years did she have to take a much less active part in church affairs, as she became more physically frail.

She never lost her sharp mind, nor even her sense of humour, and she made little of the often severe pain she suffered.

Gill was born in Docking, Norfolk. Her Father was a local gamekeeper, and Gill was the fourth child of five, with three older sisters and one younger brother. She was very intelligent, but quite possibly did not have the educational opportunities that she deserved. Nevertheless, she educated

herself – more or less teaching herself how to play the piano after only a few lessons, and eventually gaining qualifications in shorthand and typing, which led to employment with the local Council.

She was married for many years to Les, who pre-deceased her by 13 years. Gill was an immensely caring person. She loved animals, and had dogs and cats, who were lovingly cared for well into their old age. Several stray cats adopted her, and were equally well cared for. She would also make herself responsible for looking after any neighbours' dogs, if the owners were becoming too infirm themselves.

Perhaps more importantly, Gill cared for people. She had great empathy with the underdog, or anyone whom she felt was being badly treated or neglected, and would take them under her wing and not only look after them, but also fight their corner. She had very strong views, and she could be very outspoken. She didn't mind causing offence, if it was in what she saw as a good cause. She didn't give up easily, and was persistent in the pursuit of justice. She happily took on care home owners, or relatives, who were, she thought, being negligent, in defence of her frail and elderly friends and neighbours.

Gill had a strong Christian faith and loved to join in worship, with a good singing and speaking voice. She was a member of the Prayer Chain, and took a keen interest in the welfare and outcomes of those for whom we prayed. She would be quick to offer encouragement and support to fellow members of the congregation. Her favourite hymn was How Great Thou Art, and at Christmas she always wanted Little Donkey included in the annual carol service, while her favourite at Easter time was The Old Rugged Cross.

The rest of the congregation were left in no doubt about her preferences, and not only with regard to favourite hymns!

Gill was a strong character, a great personality, and a loyal friend. She left her small corner of the world a better place, as she demonstrated the true meaning of being a good neighbour and a true servant of Jesus Christ, her master and her friend.

Valerie Shackcloth and Elizabeth MacLeod
Stewards Stanhoe Methodist Church

Around the churches



Terrington St Clement

We had a successful Harvest weekend, with a coffee morning with stalls on the Saturday. On Sunday we were joined by Rev. Andrew Maguire and his wife Helen. Andrew took the service and a Bring and Share lunch was served afterwards, with lots of catching up and fellowship.

Network resumed on the 9th October with a Harvest theme readings and hymns. On 12th we were joined by Joella Nash, who played hymns on her guitar and explained their origins. .

On 8th October Clenchwarton members joined us for a village trail with a question sheet to complete and a welcome cup of coffee afterwards at TSC.

“Aspects of Faith” bible study resumed 7pm on the last Friday of the month.

We have our Christmas Coffee morning on 3rd December, with stalls and a raffle and Jenny’s games , one stall will feature anything red or green. All are welcome.

Linda Howling

Hilgay

The Eco Festival went well on Saturday 1st October. A steady stream of visitors throughout the day was able to visit the beekeepers stand and the woodland trust amongst other exhibits. Refreshments were available all day and I would like to thank all who helped make this day a success.

Harvest Festival was a combined one for Hilgay and Southery together. We were pleased to have Rev. Paul leading this service and again thanks to all who contributed to the Harvest table. Gifts were delivered to the Downham

Food Bank which was very grateful to receive all the tins and packets of foodstuff to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Unfortunately due to lots of ill health we have not been able to start our new Guild session yet.

Members will be informed as soon as we are able to arrange dates.

On November 6th there will be no morning service at Hilgay but at **3pm** an All Souls service will be held to remember family and friends that have passed to the Heavenly Kingdom. This will be an opportunity to come and light a candle for the loved ones no longer with us. This service will be led by Rev. Paul Critchley.

On November 13th the annual united (Methodist/ Anglican) Royal British Legion Remembrance service will be conducted this year by Rev. Chris Bishop from Ely. This will begin at the Chapel at **10:45 am**. Following the service we shall walk to the War Memorial for the laying of wreaths. This is a service for the whole village. Come along to show your respect to those who try to keep peace in the world.

Pauline Driver.

A Photo Record of the Eco Festival at Hilgay on 1st October



Collages depicting some of the wildlife found around the village.



A celebration of the importance of trees and prayer pool.



The windows of the chapel were decorated by the children of Hilgay Riverside Academy and Ten Mile Bank Riverside Academy.



Norfolk Natural Honey based in Hilgay had a stall.



There were activities for young visitors.



The Woodland Trust also had a stall.



An instant raffle and pay as you can stall raised £77 for the circuit's Matjinge Fund.



Refreshments were served from the kitchen where we also set up recycling centre. The refreshments raised £114 for chapel funds.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED PREPARE FOR AND RUN THE DAY. THANKS ALSO TO THOSE WHO CAME TO THE ECO FESTIVAL.

Dersingham

Dersingham is getting back to its pre-Covid state. Folk are coming back to worship and the September coffee morning was buzzing with activity. It raised £366.58 for Macmillan Cancer support which was an excellent result. The Harvest Festival was celebrated at the end of September and the gifts were donated to the Hunstanton Food Bank. The boxes of tins and packets, toiletries and fresh vegetables and fruit weighed a total of 78.9kg (or 174lbs in old money). The staff at the Food Bank was amazed as box after box was carried in. They thought the boxes were from Dersingham Parish Church and when told they were from Dersingham Methodist Church the rejoinder was "Oh, that **little** church in Dersingham!" Little we may be, but we can still do good works for the Kingdom!

Sadly we have lost three loyal members of our church. George Bick, Len Griggs and Alan Hayward had all been with us for many years and we mourn their loss with their families and friends.

The next coffee morning is on Saturday 22nd October from 10am to 11.30am and is in aid of the Toilet Twinning Charity. Our Christmas Fair is on Saturday 26th November at 10am and the funds raised will be for the King's Lynn Night Shelter. Our Candlelight Carol Service is at 4 o'clock on Sunday 18th December and the Christmas morning service is at the usual time of 10.30am.

Rosemary Caink

Clenchwarton

We are anticipating a busy November.

SATURDAY 5TH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 10AM-3PM ART AND CRAFT STALLS, CAKE STALL, BOOKS/GAMES/CDS/DVDS AND JIGSAWS STALL. LUCKY DIP TUB. LIGHT LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE.

SATURDAY 12TH "THREE MILLION WHEELBARROWS" the story of the People of the Eau Brink Cut. TALK BY AUTHOR KATHY SAUNDERS STARTING AT 2.30PM. FREE ENTRY. REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE.

FRIDAY 25TH CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP 9.30AM TO 12 NOON. MAKE YOUR OWN DOOR WREATH. FRAME, FOLIAGE AND RIBBON SUPPLIED. £10 PER PERSON. PLACES LIMITED SO BOOKING ESSENTIAL BY 1ST NOVEMBER. RING 07917652757. PAYMENT NEEDED TO SECURE PLACE. TEA, COFFEE AND MINCE PIES AVAILABLE.

Heacham

"Things have been happening in Heacham (no surprise there, I imagine).

We had our Harvest Festival service in early September and were able to deliver a generous food supply to the Purfleet Trust. The loaf sheaf was made by one of our members - very impressive.

Later in the month there was a joyous celebration/party/dance for Rev Rich's birthday and Sikha's graduation. This took place in the Public Hall and was well supported by Circuit members in our area as well as friends who had travelled long distances to attend. Those unable to attend were able to see and enjoy the videos.

However not all events have been pleasant. Several, if not many, of our members have been affected by COVID in the last outbreak. Most, thankfully, are recovering; some are isolating but we no longer think we are in the safe zone.

But we look forward - I personally have been inspired by one of Rich's sermons in which he said that even the smallest ember of faith can be fanned into something greater (not quoted verbatim). So when we feel low or ineffective in passing on our faith, or not gaining new members - we have to keep going.

Plans for the future include - Carol service on 18th December. Christmas lunch - date and time to be confirmed. Please contact Mike or me for further information.

Joan Careless

Stanhoe

We have been re-decorated! Walls and ceiling repainted, all furniture and fittings and hymn books etc. removed, cleaned and polished as appropriate, and replaced. There were some worrying moments, as when much of the plaster fell off one wall while the painters were working on it. It turned out to be the original Victorian plaster, containing horse-hair; it had been there for 130 years! Fortunately, it has been patched up, and we hope it will stay in place.

Spiritually, we continue to worship on alternate Sundays, welcoming preachers who are kind enough to travel some distance to get to us. We hope shortly to be welcoming the three remaining members from Burnham Market, now closed, into our membership.

Our Prayer Chain continues to support those in need; while on a practical level, we are in the happy position of being able to pay our way, and have money left over, which we donate to local good causes, as well as supporting a Children's Home in Kisumu, Kenya, from time to time.

Elizabeth MacLeod

Further news from Stanhoe (November edition) (Apologies from the Editor!)

We enjoyed our annual Harvest Festival Service in September, which was part of a Communion Service led by Rev. Dr. Richman Ncube.

We departed from our usual practice of all contributing garden produce, to be sold at the end of the service, and this year concentrated on dried goods; tins and packages, which decorated the windowsills instead of flowers.

After the service, these were donated to the Hunstanton food bank.

Sushila Russell had contributed a beautiful flower arrangement, plus honey and jams and some fresh fruit and vegetables from her smallholding, and Willie Shackcloth had also sent produce from his garden; these were sold off to members of the congregation after the service. Funds raised went to the King's Lynn food bank.

Elizabeth MacLeod

Hunstanton Methodist Church

During the last couple of months we have had a variety of services on LA Sundays.

One of our members, Janet, compiled a lovely service, with the help of friends reading poetry and prose, and leading us with her own prayers. We also had a Café Praise morning, in which the congregation were seated around tables and served coffee and biscuits before the service starts. People were requested to let us know their choice of hymns the week before, and invited to tell us why that hymn was important to them. It took place the week before Harvest, so we learnt about Lammas -tide and harvest thanksgivings. Pat, who led the service, told us the history of some of the hymns and read a portion of the Vine service for that week.

The generous contributions to the Harvest Festival filled the front of the church. A Zimbabwean visitor to the service spoke briefly about climate change, her words highlighted the contrast between the effects it was having in her country and the abundance of our display. After the service, we had a soup and roll lunch attended by a dozen people including Gordon and Lynne Tonge, who had led the service. It was a time of fellowship and conversation enjoyed by all. Donations to *All We Can* raised £60. In the afternoon, our church was given the privilege of hosting the service accrediting Marianne Baguley as a Local Preacher. It was a joyful event attended by representatives from churches throughout the circuit. We look forward to welcoming Marianne in her new capacity.

Worship Leader, Val Fisher, brought us a service of Praise and Thanksgiving, which included readings, reflections, poetry and eight great hymns of worship. We didn't quite raise the roof, but we did our best to live up to the Methodist reputation for good singing. As it happened, there was an extended family visiting us. They had come to Hunstanton to meet up with other members of their family to remember their late parents. They told Val, that one of the hymns she had chosen, *Shine Jesus Shine*, was one of their mother's favourites, and asked if we would sing *There is a*

Redeemer. We brought joy to them and know that God had led Val to prepare that service.

We thank God for the talents and willingness to join in that we have within our church fellowship.

Jean Hornbuckle

Gaywood St Faith's

The week beginning September 19th was an important one both for the community of St Faith's Church at Gaywood and in a national context.

For Monday September 19th was the day of the funeral for Queen Elizabeth 11 who had died on September 8 at the age of 96. Ruling from February 1952, until September 8, 2022, Queen Elizabeth 11 was the longest reigning monarch in British history. Millions of TV viewers around the world watched the funeral service live from Westminster Abbey as we said our farewells to Queen Elizabeth who gave her life to the service of this country and parts of the Commonwealth.

At Gaywood, people gathered at homes to watch the funeral on their televisions. The previous evening, Sunday, 18th September, a special service of remembrance was held in St Faith's Church. Prayers were said for the Queen's long reign and for her devoted service to her subjects across the world. The service, led by St Faith's Acting Rector, the Rev Karlene Kerr, ended with the singing of the National Anthem with the words God save Our Gracious King.

The next day, Tuesday, 20th September was also a significant day for St Faith's Church for it was the day when new Rector, the Rev Kyla Sorensen, was collated and inducted into her new post.

The Rev Kyla was the first new incumbent appointed within the Lynn Archdeaconry to swear the Oath of Allegiance to His Majesty King Charles the Third, his heirs and successors.

Chaplains from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital also attended the service.

The new Rector comes to Gaywood, with her landscape gardener husband, Peter, after serving her curacy. People from her previous parish also attended

the service .Rev Kyla said she is very excited to become part of the well-established Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) with Methodists and building on the near-50 years of shared experience between Anglicans and Methodists at Gaywood

The Rev Kyla now leads the congregation in ministry and mission alongside Methodist minister, the Rev Robert Roberts and Team Vicar, the Rev Karlene Kerr,

A graduate in languages and theology, the Rev Kyla's working life before ordination has taken her all over the world in a number of different sectors, including publishing, hospitality and aviation.

Of her new role as Rector of St Faith's , Rev Kyla says : "There is much learning and listening to do together as we seek to live out the Gospel message in our neighbourhood."

She added: "I am very much looking forward to finding out more about the partnership between church and community in Gaywood,"

Later that week saw another significant event in the on-going life at St Faith's when the Rev Karlene was officially licensed as the new Rural Dean of the Lynn Deanery. She was to have been licensed by the Bishop of Lynn. However, the Bishop was unable to attend the service and sent her apologies. The Rev Kerr was instead licensed in her new post by the Acting Archdeacon of Lynn, the Rev Canon Sally Theakston. The Rev Kerr has been sincerely thanked for all her hard work as Acting Rector during the incumbent vacancy.

One of the three important fund-raising events staged during the year is the annual Christmas Fair which will be staged in Gaywood Church Rooms on Saturday, 26th November . St Faith's also stages a Spring Fair in March and a Sumner Fair in June. Together, the three Fairs usually raise a combined total of a few thousand pounds

This year the Christmas Fair event will be officially opened by King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough major, Lesley Bamfield. Ms Bamfield will cut a ribbon across the entrance to Hall 2 and declare it open. There will be very much a festive, family atmosphere to the event with a variety of colourful stalls and games of chance stalls.

Considerable behind-the-scenes planning by a small team of volunteers goes into staging the Fair and their efforts are aimed at giving all those attending an enjoyable couple of hours in the company of family and friends/

Father Christmas will be paying an early visit and children will be able to let him have their Christmas wish-list and take away a small gift.

After browsing the stalls and doing some early pre-Christmas shopping, there is an opportunity to relax with friends and enjoy a cup of tea and a sweet snack.

All proceeds from the event go towards the general running costs of St Faith's Church.

Donations of goods for the various stalls and raffle prizes are always welcome and these can be taken to the church office.

As always, help is also welcome on the day. Help is particularly needed on the morning of the Fair in setting up the stalls and laying out the stalls. Assistance is also needed in clearing up afterwards from 4pm onwards. Anyone who is able to help is asked to contact Ann Ess on 01553 674992.

People coming into St Faith's Church will have noticed a flurry of construction activity around the former Church Bungalow as it is being transformed in readiness for its new role as a community hub, drop-in centre and new church office. Structural work has also taken place inside the bungalow with walls taken out, new internal doors fitted and new windows installed. The main structural work, which has also included laying new pavements around the property, is due to be completed at the end of October but it is not yet known when the office will start to operate from the building.

People have previously offered help in kind by making blinds and curtains or providing kitchen equipment. If you would still like to support the Bungalow project in this way please contact Susie Cranko-Page for more details. Ms Cranko-Page can be contacted on 01553 672975 and there is an answerphone where you can leave a message.

Richard Parr

Methodist Women in Britain, East Anglia District Day.

On Friday 7th October —just two days after returning from our latest caravanning adventure, I went to Thetford Methodist Church and joined 79 other ladies and gentlemen for the MWiB East Anglia District day. The speaker was the Rev. Dr. Leslie Griffiths, a Methodist Minister and a member of the House of Lords. His choice of title was 'Fighting's within and Fears without'.

Let me start by telling you a little about the man. He was born in Burry Port in Carmarthenshire Wales on 15th February 1942; that makes him 80, but he didn't look a day over 70. He attended Llanelli Grammar

School, before Studying at Cardiff University. He became a local preacher in 1963; he completed a Master of Arts in Theology at Fitzwilliam College Cambridge in 1969, whilst training for the ministry at Wesley House. He spent most of the 1970's serving the Methodist Church of Haiti, where he was ordained, before returning to Britain; where he served in ministries at Caversham, Loughton and Golders Green. He completed a PhD in 1987 from the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University.

In 1994, Reverend Leslie became one of the few people to be elected President of the Methodist Conference whilst still a circuit minister. In 1996 he became superintendent minister at Wesley's Chapel, London. In 2004 he was created Baron Griffiths of Burry Port during Tony Blair's premiership. On 1st September 2011 he was appointed as the thirteenth president of the Boys Brigade. He retired in 2017 and preached his last sermon on 6th August.

Reverend Leslie has not really retired because he takes monthly services at Loughton, where he served years ago and he still has positions in the House of Lords that keep him busy, and speaks to the like of us. So he can't do the hovering for Margaret, his wife, as he promised when he retired!!!!

The day started with tea and coffee. At spot on eleven o'clock the Rev. David Mcaloon the minister of Thetford Methodist Church welcomed us all and then handed the day over to Ruth Arnold the past president of the East Anglia District of MWiB. Sue Groome the new president was commissioned for her two year appointment; she received the chain of office and the Bible which has been handed onto each new president since 1956.

Jacky Woor the district MWiB district secretary read the scripture chosen by Rev. Leslie which was 2 Corinthians chapter 5 v11 to chapter 6 v 2.

It was then time for Reverend, Doctor, Lord, Leslie Griffiths to speak: He told us about his early childhood which was in very poor circumstances

and how he passed that exam at eleven. Neither he nor his family seemed to know that he had even done the exam; it was just another day at school. How the family were going to cope with the cost of a grammar school uniform was overcome by each of the congregation at his church putting 1p away each week which enabled his mother to buy his school uniform. Rev. Leslie did well and went onto university. The morning's session was all about the 'fighting within' was he good enough and clever enough coming from such a poor back ground. He was interesting, fluent and funny and had a wonderful way with words. That hour just flew by.

It was then time for the lunch break, our own picnic, with tea and coffee provided. There was the usual Trade Craft stall, a Bric-a-Brac stall, Newsletter to be collected stall and Book stall. The only book that I thought might be useful for local preaching was £16.50 so it stayed on the stall!!! At 1.45 there was community singing and by golly we Methodists know how to sing. It was a great time of worship.

Rev. Leslie then spoke again. He told us how he was asked by Tony Blair's government to sit in the House of Lords, a total surprise and great honour. He told us how he had to choose his crest. He served on all sorts of committees and then become a whip. He explained some of the technicalities of his job. He made us laugh and I believe we also learnt a lot. The reality of being in public, and political life for almost 20 years had been rather daunting, these were his 'fear without'. Rev Leslie is a highly respected member of the House of Lords. Sue Groome, the new president, gave a vote of thanks and closed with prayer.

I was so pleased I made the effort to go, it was a great day of fellowship, worship, and fun, I was truly blessed.

Mary Cumbers

(If I'd known you were going I'd have cadged a lift!!)

Standing on the Promises (1)

‘Whoever comes to me I will never drive away.’ (John 6:37 NIV)

There are some wonderful promises in the Bible. God speaks in this way to all who are open to his words of grace. Some were given to particular people in the past but nevertheless contain a truth that resonates in the minds and hearts of all who are open to his enduring word in all times and in all places. Some of the promises, however, are meant for everyone who is drawn by God’s everlasting love; they are open and all-embracing, and this is one of the most inclusive promises in the Bible. ‘*Whoever*’: everyone is included; all are invited; no qualifications needed; no background checks. Anyone may apply. Jesus is inviting anyone who is listening to come and share all the joys of his Father’s everlasting kingdom. There is just one condition.

It’s the day following the feeding of the crowd with bread and fish by the lakeside (John’s account) and naturally enough the crowds are still there, listening to every word he utters. He urges them to look beyond the feeding with earthly food and seek the bread that gives eternal life, and this, of course, must be food for the spirit, for only the spirit of man can inherit eternal life.

What is this food of the spirit? they ask him. And the answer is simple. They have to **believe in the one that God has sent to them**. So there is one condition. Everyone can *come* to Jesus...

*Whosoever cometh need not delay;
Now the door is open, enter while ye may;
Jesus is the true and only living Way:
Whosoever will may come.*

*Whosoever will! Whosoever will!
Send the proclamation over vale and hill;
‘Tis the loving Father calls the wanderer home;*

Whosoever will may come.

*Whosoever will, the promise is secure;
Whosoever will, for ever shall endure;
Whosoever will, 'tis life for evermore;
Whosoever will may come.*

Philipp Bliss

Everyone can come and listen to his words — **but will they come in spirit: will they believe in him and his message?** And what does believing in Jesus actually mean?

Quite simply, it means accepting that Jesus was sent into the world by God our Heavenly Father, with the authority to invite us all into his heavenly Kingdom, which means living in everlasting peace and joy in the presence of all those others who responded to the invitation. All who *come* to Jesus and open their hearts to receive his message are included. But *coming means more than getting to our feet and moving somewhere*. *Coming* in John's teaching means experiencing an inner longing to enter the world of Jesus: first the realisation that the message is true and the calling is genuine; and then the determination to do anything, to go anywhere in order to find the Treasure of the Kingdom Jesus tells us about. *Believing* in Jesus has to involve putting his teaching into operation; learning how to live by it. It's a heartfelt determination: commitment.

*Just as I am, you will receive,
Will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come!*

*Just as I am — your love unknown
Has broken every barrier down —
Now to be yours, yes, yours alone,
O Lamb of God, I come!*

Charlotte Elliott *

And then we come to the **Great Promise** that God has given us in the Gospel:

‘Whoever comes to me I will never drive away.’

If we can echo those words of *coming to Jesus* in our hearts, we can know the wonderful assurance, peace and joy of his words to us: “No matter how often you falter or fail, the promise stands: I will never send you away.”

We find a similar promise in the writings of Isaiah 55:1 and in Revelation, where God’s offer of new life in the spirit is expressed by the invitation to **come and drink clean, pure water** — at no cost other than the willingness to take God at his word and enjoy total, everlasting refreshment of the soul. Water is a symbol of Spirit: God’s life-giving Spirit.

The message is, “Come; don’t worry, I shan’t send you away. Taste and see.”

‘Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.’ Rev.22:17 (NLT)

*And I come, O Jesus: dare I turn away?
No, your love has conquered and I come today.*

*Bringing all my burdens, sorrow, sin and care;
At your feet I lay them, and I leave them there.*

William How*

* I have taken the liberty of modernising the language of these famous hymns in order to emphasise the determination of the speaker, and so to encourage the reader’s own heartfelt response

David Clark

LOCAL PREACHERS

The Circuit joined together on Sunday 2nd October at Hunstanton Methodist Church for the admission service of Marianne Baguley as a Local Preacher. The service was led by the Superintendent Minister Rev. Robert Roberts. Marianne of Heacham Methodist Church, took part in the service, the address was given by Barbara Foster, the letter from the President of the Conference was read by Sheila Johnson, Senior Circuit Steward, and Elizabeth Batstone, LWP Secretary presented the Bible, Rev. Richman Ncube assisted with the Communion.

The service was well received by those present; all enjoyed worshipping and celebrating Marianne's achievement, and chatting afterwards over tea and refreshments.

Donations, given at the service were for the Leaders' of Worship and Preachers' Trust totalled £130.50.

Elizabeth Batstone
Circuit Leader of Worship and Preachers' Meeting Secretary



Left to right Elizabeth Batstone, Marianne Baguley, Rev. Robert Roberts.



A CLENCHWARTON CHRISTMAS SHOW

WITH REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE

SATURDAY

10th DECEMBER

2pm

**METHODIST CHURCH HALL
MAIN ROAD CLENCHWARTON**



TICKETS £5 (UNDER 16S £2)

AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR

OR FROM DEBRA MCGOWAN

A short history of Clenchwarton Chapel written by Harold Smith for our Chapel Anniversary 2022

The Chapel was built in October 1881. A chapel was previously on the site but a new Primitive Methodist Chapel was put in its place. When I first came to Clenchwarton in 1950 the doorway was at the front and there was a vestibule and the pulpit was at the other end of the building in the middle. At that time Sunday School was in the morning followed by afternoon and evening services in the chapel.

In those days 100 children attended and a schoolroom was needed. During the Second World War the congregation started to raise money in order to build the schoolroom and it was not until 1961 that the foundation stone was laid. Prior to this everything had to be done in the one room in the chapel.

On the second Sunday in May was the Anniversary. The scholars sang, did recitations which they had been practicing during the previous weeks. The place would be full of family members all anxious to their youngster in best new clothes doing their part.

When the schoolroom was built the front door of the chapel was bricked in and the pulpit and seating reversed and another entrance to the chapel was made from the schoolroom. A temporary stage was always erected prior to the Anniversary or a Nativity play and so a stage was also included in the new building which at that time dualled as the primary room. Later it was used for plays and pantomimes etc. In 1984 CMEG (Clenchwarton Methodist Entertainment Group) came into existence and the stage was used a lot.

In addition, we had a Youth Club and Junior Christian Endeavour as well as other activities. The field at the back of the chapel (by kind permission of the farmer) was used for games including cricket. Morning service was later introduced and later still we no longer had evening services

Harold Smith

WALKING BACKWARDS TO CHRISTMAS

The Circuit Advent Study this year is based on Stephen Cottrell's book 'Walking Backwards to Christmas' and will take place at 6:30pm on Sunday evenings on Zoom throughout the 4 Sundays of Advent (27th November, 4th, 11th and 18th December). We will not be providing a booklet this year as the material is copyrighted and reproduction is not allowed, however we can provide PDFs each week of the material we will be using. You can purchase your own copy of the book if you wish to do so either brand new or via an internet based second hand book seller such as abebooks.co.uk

Walking Backwards to Christmas follows the stories of those involved in the Christmas Narrative and we will spend time pondering on a few of those characters in our time together. If you would like any further information please contact Rev Paul Critchley on 01366 388766 or via email at paul.critchley@methodist.org.uk

What's on from November 2022

Sunday November 6th All Souls Day service at Hilgay at 3 pm

Saturday November 24th Christmas Fair at St Faith's

Sunday November 27th On Zoom Start of Circuit Advent Study

Saturday 17th December Coffee morning with bric-a-brac and Christmas fare at Wimbotsham Methodist Church 10 am - 12 noon

Saturday 21st January Coffee morning with bric-a-brac and home-made cakes at Wimbotsham Methodist Church 10 am - 12 noon

22nd March - 30th April 2023 Threads through Creation at Peterborough Cathedral