

Rejoice!

September/October 2022



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

The 2022-2023 Methodist Year has begun...

Happy New Year to one and all! Yet, for many, the year began a bit before 1st September 2022. For example, the circuit's Local Preachers and Worship Leaders had already looked into their diaries and turned in their available dates for services in the forthcoming quarter, i.e. Sept – Nov. Also, churches reviewed their diaries for service needs during that time period; plus, ministers and visiting preachers were contacted for preaching appointments. The result of all this work was the compilation of data that we affectionately call The Plan, which was also produced in advance of the first of September.

Ponder for one moment, when does your year begin? Do you leave that up to your personal diary or calendar? Or is it the split second after we reach midnight on New Year's Eve? For the first 20 odd years of many folk's lives, years were based on the passage of their birthdays. Currently, I tend to think of years based on my granddaughter's birthday; she's 5, just 5 years old; her brothers' are old men of 18 and 21. Ha, ha.

As Circuit, this year Methodist is very special; we will take time in the first quarter to recognize two very special events in the lives of individuals: 1) A Membership Service for people becoming members of the Methodist Church and 2) The Admission of a Person to the Office of Local Preacher. In fact, these events are actually pre-planned due to the quarterly nature of the Plan. The individuals still need to be complete items in the run up to the October celebrations. All those involved need your prayers for the successful completion of all the last bits, for peace, strength and God's helping presence through the Holy Spirit. May they indeed feel the strength of our Lord, Jesus Christ, surrounding them in their final push to completion. The dates, times and locations of the two events are published in the Preaching Plan.

*Blessings and peace to all of God's children this new year,
Rev Robert, Superintendent*

Praying together in the Circuit

You have a saying, 'four more months and then the harvest.'

But I tell you, take a good look at the fields,

the crops are now ripe and ready to be harvested. John 4: 35
Jesus met a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. The conversation included -

Jesus bringing to light details of her life! She spoke about worship, Jesus offered living water, and actually told her that he was the one she mentioned as the promised Messiah. She ran into the town to tell people about her experience, they came to meet Jesus for themselves, they heard him, and believed he really was the Messiah. A brief encounter with Jesus, which became life changing for many. It may not have been time for the natural harvest but a spiritual harvest was imminent, the Kingdom of God was now at hand. God was doing a new thing.

Lord God, as we enter a new Methodist year, may worship rise within us and be as a fragrant offering to you. Holy Spirit come and enable us to sow seeds into lives and trust You for the spiritual harvest which takes place in your timing by your power and for your glory. We pray for seeds sown which have not yet come to life, for the soil to be soaked in the living water as you give life to the seed.

'As you go into the whole world, proclaim the gospel to everyone'

[Mark 16:15] As we go about our daily lives, may we be your witnesses to those we meet through the things we say and the lives we live.

'The Connexion' magazine of the Methodist Church has the theme for Summer 2022 'Open to God's Spirit'. Following Pentecost the disciples were definitely open to God's spirit, the church was born; the Kingdom of God grew as lives surrendered to the rule and reign of the King of Kings.

Lord, you know us, you know our hearts. We draw close to you, to seek first your kingdom and co-operate with you in your mission to the world, as your disciples today.

The cost of discipleship - 'Take up your cross and follow me'.

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord to Thee, take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise. [Frances Havergal]

God's provision and promise for disciples - . 'If you love me you will obey my commandments, I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper, who will stay with you forever. He is the Spirit who reveals the truth about God. [John 14:15-17]

Spirit of purity and grace, our weakness pitying see; O make our hearts Thy dwelling place, and worthier Thee [Harriet Auber]

Lord, as disciples we go where you send us, 'open to your Spirit'.

Lord hear our prayers for ourselves, our circuit, the places you have positioned us. For our ministers, our circuit leadership team, the ministry of all believers and all who are part of our fellowships. For churches having to make decisions for their future to be guided and 'open to Your Holy Spirit' now and always.

For all in our towns and communities, for your Holy Spirit moving, bringing revelation of the truth and personal enlightenment.

Lord hear our prayers for the whole world facing climate change. For wisdom and dedication to make necessary changes for the good of all creation now and for the future. For all areas in desperate need of peace, provision and restoration. For the leaders of all nations to be upheld in prayer and serve in integrity for the good of their people.

For our nation, for the appointment of the Prime Minister.

For the public sector, for adequate staffing and resources to fulfill their responsibilities and meet the needs of the people. For those

concerned with increasing financial costs, for advice, guidance and support.

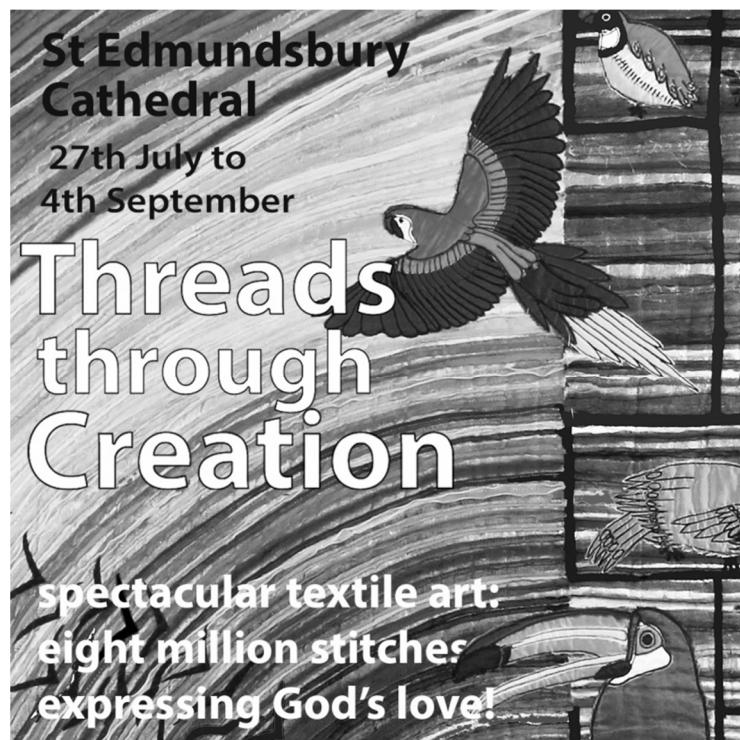
For farmers and all who long for rain to fall on parched land.

For people of all ages entering a new chapter of their lives, Lord for your love and care for every person, in every place and every need, each one precious to you. 'I am with you always'

Prayers have been requested for: Derek, Stephanie, Margie,

Janice, Trisha, Linda, Andrew, Mavis and Julia, Judy, Kath,

Stephen + Victoria, William, Tom, Sarah.



Around the churches



Hilgay

On Sunday June 5th we held an afternoon service for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This was followed by afternoon tea and it was good to see so many people, still following the Covid 19 rules but we didn't have to turn anyone away.

Our joint services with Southery are still working well and they are generally well attended. It's lovely to worship together. It's also good to share fellowship after each service with tea and coffee. Our preachers are serving us well and when we have had local arrangement services we have been blessed with the talents of our members.

On July 28th we had our bi-monthly coffee morning. It's wonderful that we can welcome the Downham Market walking group. It would be good if we had more Hilgay residents. You don't have to walk. Just turn up between 10 and 11.30 for coffee or tea and cake plus a good natter with friends and a chance to win a raffle prize! Your support would be most welcome. So many of us who work to keep the chapel going travel from surrounding villages because we enjoy the worship and fellowship of a village chapel, but in years to come, have to stop driving, who knows what will happen. Having our services combines is helping both Southery and us to keep going.

Coming up.

10.30 am unless stated differently:

4th September at Southery

11th September at Hilgay

18th September at Southery

25th September at Hilgay

Saturday 1st October is an Eco Day, with a full day exhibition and refreshments.

October 2nd Hilgay joint Harvest Festival with Rev. Paul Critchley. We would like non-perishable goods for the Food Bank.

Services continue in this pattern till November 6th when there will be no morning service but a short service for All Souls' Day led by Rev. Paul Critchley. Please join us and light a candle in memory of a loved one, friend or family who has passed away.

On November 13th at 10.45 there will be a United Village Remembrance service to be led by Rev. Chris Bishop. Everyone is welcome and hopefully we will be joined by friends from All Saints Church and accompanied by Hilgay Silver Band. Southery will join the Anglican Church at Southery for this important occasion.

Pauline Driver

Hunstanton

We had a successful event at Hunstanton Methodist Church attended by 69 adults and 10 children and we raised £584!

Rosemary Rayner

Downham Market

Boys' Brigade

As with most organisations Boys' Brigade has been badly hit by Covid and nationally numbers are down by about 30%. At Downham our numbers currently stand at 9 boys, at Costessey there are 2 and Lowestoft 12 so the Norfolk Battalion is suffering!

On the bright side the Beat the Clock competition was resurrected, this May, after a gap of 2 years and for the first time a team from Downham Market won!! The boys were in teams of 2 and faced a series of timed challenges such as building a tower out of wooden bricks. The bricks had to be transported by a trolley so one person loaded the bricks onto the trolley. The trolley had ropes attached to the front and back so was then pulled by a rope to the building platform where the 2nd boy offloaded the bricks and started to build. Meantime the trolley was pulled back to the start point and reloaded. The final brick had a hole in it into which was inserted a Union Flag.

At the end of the event medals were presented to all the boys who participated by Rev. Simpson.

In June 3 of our Company Section boys (11 years and older) attended the Battalion Camp at Eaton Vale Scout and Guide Adventure Centre near Norwich. Here they enjoyed raft building, canoeing, high ropes climbing and rifle shooting. Amazingly the rafts held together and our boys got to the top of the high ropes challenge which was high! A great weekend enjoyed by all but shattering for those of us who are a bit long in the tooth!

Ralph Perkins (1st Downham Market Company The Boys' Brigade)

On Sunday 7 August, the Downham Market congregation had an outing to Boughton for their morning worship. Dave and Sarah Friswell live in the former Wesleyan Chapel there and this year marks its 150th anniversary. The service, which took place in the garden in the warm summer sunshine, focussed on heritage, the impact that the church has had on the community it serves over the years, and the contribution it still makes today. The congregation learnt of the role of Richard Harwin, an early Methodist pioneer, who financed the building of the chapel and its adjoining Sunday school, sowing seeds of the on-going work of the Methodist church with children and young people; historic collection plates, a travelling Communion set and an MAYC car badge were used to talk about the work of the church today in furthering the Gospel and 'Angel Voices' joined in hymns (an old photo of the chapel shows Hymn 668 on the hymn board – 'Angel Voices ever singing' in the *Methodist Hymn Book*) - though we are not sure what the neighbours thought!



After the service, refreshments were served including an anniversary cake and everyone had a chance to look around the chapel. Sarah



In spite of still being careful with the virus still around and now this dreadful heat we carry on with our activities. Our staff and stalwart volunteers open the social centre every weekday to provide refreshment and fellowship to those who can get there and more volunteers deliver lunches to those who can't. Our messy church is still looking after the spiritual welfare of our youngsters

and a picnic was enjoyed in August as part of a session on God's Family . The bowls club continues to meet on Mondays and Fridays 2.00 to 4.00. I found some of the Commonwealth Games matches so skilfully played. Why not come and try your hand at this convivial sport; ring Ray Webb on 01366 384955 for information.

As you have read we had a good service at the home of Sarah and David. As church rules did not allow a service to take place in the house we were in the garden and for once we were grateful for the hot dry weather which was much more bearable outside under the shade of trees. Thank you Sarah and David for sharing your lovely house and message.

I was reminded of one trip I made with the family in the New Forest when my daughter and I visited Tolpuddle home of the six martyrs one of whom was Thomas Loveless who could be described as father of the trade's union movement. We were able to walk through the village to see the cottages where these labourers lived; the original chapel where they worshipped, now undergoing a lengthy refurbishment as well as the later chapel. It seems incredible that these men who lived and worked on such a poor diet, one stage above starvation, could survive deportation to Australia and the journey back when they were eventually pardoned, all the while being persecuted for their radical Methodist beliefs. Incredible too that such uneducated self-taught men could talk and argue so lucidly but then Thomas Loveless was a Methodist Lay Preacher; we saw the sycamore tree under which he preached before the chapel was opened. So the trade's union movement sprang from unlikely roots, rather like the disciples and the first churches; God enabling the most unlikely people to do his work. So for some of us well into old age and not able to do what we once found easy there is a lesson that God can still use our limited services even just to comfort folk because we have experienced so much in our long lives. I finish by sharing with you the song of freedom which was written by George Loveless one of Thomas' sons after he had received a sentence of 7 years transportation.

God is our Guide,

From field, from wave

From plough, from anvil, and from loom

We come, our country's rights to save,

And speak the tyrant's faction doom,

We raise the watchword 'Liberty'

We will, we will, we will be free.

God is our Guide, No swords we draw,

We kindle not war's battle fires,

By reason, union, justice, law,

We claim the birth right of our sires,

We raise the watchword 'Liberty,

We will, we will, we will be free.

We are really blessed in that we can worship freely due to the struggles of those who have gone before.

Joan Macey

Terrington St Clement

We have had a busy July. We held our Jubilee coffee morning on 18/6/22 and our Chapel Anniversary on 19/6/22. The Service was led by the young people on 26/6/22. But now we are having a break. We had Network, tea, cake and chat on 13/7/22. And hope to resume MWiB on 14/9/22. We welcomed Gordon and Lynne Tonge to lead our service on 14th July. Trying to survive the heat wave, when it was 40 C I stayed in my cotton nighty until tea time!!!

Linda Howling

Heacham

Following a meeting with the Parish Council and other community groups earlier in the year, it was agreed that Heacham Methodist Church would hold a flower festival as part of the Jubilee celebrations. Other groups agreed to do a scarecrow trail depicting members of the royal family. (We did not really feel happy to join that.)

Therefore, over the "royal weekend", we prepared a flower festival. Five arrangers made floral displays portraying the throne and crown; Sandringham, Braemar and Balmoral Castles – even a 1952 TV display (Many people invested in a TV for the first time then to watch the Royal Coronation.) A Buckingham Palace sentry box was portrayed too- not forgetting a table set for all the garden parties. Really splendid afternoon teas were provided by Val and Mark. A lot of effort by a few – funds raised were to support the RNLI and EAAA (East Anglian Air Ambulance). On reflection, it was perhaps the wrong weekend for such an event – possibly most people were watching events on the TV. However, we enjoyed the time together.

Fellowship meetings have also resumed – on the fourth Tuesday of each month (not August). We have had some interesting speakers: David on working in South America, John on becoming and existing as a linguist and Andrew (a relatively new Church member) giving some detail of his life too. Always good to learn about the people with whom we share Sunday mornings and other times.

Regular coffee mornings are held on the 3rd Saturday of the month – with cake too!

We celebrated Pauline's 80th birthday early in August too. (Our treasure of an organist)

During the summer months, we are blessed with the company of many holidaymakers – some are regular caravanners.

Now, we look forward to Harvest gatherings on 11th September.

Joan Careless



FELTWELL METHODIST CHURCH, COMMUNITY HALL & GARDEN

WEDNESDAYS in the **Community Garden** - tend the plants we have already planted. We are growing cucumber, courgette, runner beans, sprouts, strawberries, raspberries, chives and parsley, oh, and now we have rhubarb, thanks to one of our weekly visitors.

In our meadow the various grasses are tall and waving beautifully in the breeze providing seeds for various birds. Already this year we have seen more birds of species than ever before. This month we have discovered a resident young frog. He'll be eating our slugs and snails, we hope.



We welcome anyone who wants to share or pick up some tips or just have a chat, or even make us a drink. We're usually there from about 9.30 til 12.

There are many styles of gardening and some people like to buy new spring and summer bulbs and plants each year. This results in the previous year's stock being thrown away. A PLEA..... if this is your style we would be delighted, even ecstatic to have your old stock. It can be sorted and passed on to the Feltwell in Bloom team for planting around the village to add more colour to our verges. We may even be able to pot them up and share them with people who are unable to grow their own.

We have developed Mission objectives in an attempt to focus our minds. Focussing often gives the impression of narrowing our vision to an objective but we are broadening our vision to encompass the community we are in.

CHURCH MISSION, VISION and BACKGROUND

Our mission is to develop a fellowship of friendship filled with the love of Christ and respect in the community. We aim to meet the spiritual needs of our community and offer support for their physical needs. We will engage with our community where they are and offer our facilities and our premises to enhance that relationship with the community. We will listen to our communities and create activities which develop and support the physical and spiritual wellbeing of our community. We will enable our premises to be accessible for all members of the community whatever their ability or age. We will pull out all the stops to play our part in caring for God's earth by making our facilities eco-friendly and efficient. This is all developed on the premise of the ethos of The Methodist Church:-

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love. We cannot do that by just sitting in our 'pews' and praying for new members. *More on this next edition.*

Our church community has grown significantly over the last two years as a direct result of our development of community activities. But that is only possible with the commitment and practical help of active members, volunteers. The premises have grown from being used on Sundays for an hour and the Brownies meeting on Thursdays for an hour, to being used five days a week by community groups. We recognised that dwindling membership would only end one way with a Methodist presence disappearing from the area. The only way to turn the tide is to create interest in what we do by identifying what the community will respond to and to look closely at what they could expect if they visit the premises. It was beginning to look tired until shockwaves from an earthquake in Lincolnshire caused damage to the hall. The resultant repairs and redecoration inspired us to take it another step forward and make the alterations we now propose.

So to SUNDAYS – our day to relax and reflect.

10.45am to 11.45 – Fellowship and refreshments

Come and listen to a topical message and then take part in a discussion about it and consider how it may relate to you and your life, or just come and listen. Every Bible passage and message has relevance to your life. Come and share how it does or ask how you fit in and..... why is it relevant to you?



“MEET ‘N MUNCH”

Wednesdays we weed and feed. Simple food at easy prices is happening on Wednesdays in the Methodist Community Hall in Bell Street, 12 til 2, followed by casual indoor sports til 4. Go on, you know you want to!!

Find us by scanning this QR code on your Android or iPhone.

We can be contacted on Facebook, Messenger or mobile 07712578721 or by email mikegw15@gmail.com Mike and Brigette Wilkinson

If you are reading this and you are coming to Feltwell, PLEASE could you bring our copies down to us. We haven't seen the previous edition yet!

Mike Wilkinson

Dersingham

Dersingham had a successful Flower Festival at the end of May and it was good to welcome friends from around the Circuit as well as our usual support from the village. A total of £1,860.28 was raised and this year it was for church funds. The Songs of Praise service on the Sunday evening was led by our minister the Rev. Richman Ncube and the collection of £150 was in aid of a project in the Zimbabwean Circuit that the Ncube family come from. We hope they have enjoyed their recent visit home to Zimbabwe. The coffee morning at the end of July raised £228.80 for Methodist Mission in Britain and World Mission.

Now we are beginning to plan for a new Connexional year with our previous Chairman of the District, the Rev. Graham Thompson, as the new President of the Methodist Church for the year. A well-deserved honour and we wish him every blessing in his new role. A coffee morning will be held on Saturday 24th September in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Our Harvest Festival service is at 10.30am on the 25th September. It will be led by Richman.

Our church hall has become the scene of much physical activity recently! The Scottish Dancing group has been meeting for some time on a Wednesday evening, but now a Tuesday evening Pilates group has become so popular that there are also two Tuesday morning groups which meet for varying abilities! The carpet bowls club (weekly) and the jigsaw club (monthly) both continue to

meet and all provide a social opportunity for getting together to help combat loneliness and feelings of isolation.

Rosemary Caink

Highgate

We became aware that two slates had fallen from the Chapel roof and landed on the pavement, a busy thoroughfare for children and adults. It was a bigger job than first expected and the whole roof needed replacing. We are grateful for the advice, support and necessary finance given to get the work carried out. The first Sunday with the new roof we noticed an unexpected visitor, a nest had formed on the scaffolding, with a bird peeping out. Our experienced bird watchers informed us it was a dove! The nest was high up so it was difficult to get a full view, but it was not just the dove in the nest. Quite soon we saw a cute little dove, we think there were two. The scaffolding couldn't be removed until we were absolutely sure the doves had flown the nest.

We were really overjoyed to have the dove visit us. The dove – a symbol of the Holy Spirit, a symbol of peace.

One Sunday afternoon with worship led by Elizabeth, windows and doors open and people passing by. A group of boys walked by, one of them said “what's going on it there?” And the reply from another boy “It's all about Jesus ”

For us it's time to find our way forward to meet the new membership requirements. Like other churches in the circuit

We pray for God's guidance.

Janet Mason

Wimbotsham

I am sitting in my little office early in the morning looking out at a large patch of brown, which we normally call the lawn, and at pots of flowers struggling and in need, all patiently waiting for that one essential thing, rain the life giver. On a happier note our Chapel is blossoming, we are not a large crowd, room for lots more, we have 'showers' every Sunday morning, meeting as a family to worship and pray.

Our Bible Study has been very lively recently, we have been studying the Holy Spirit this has, I believe, given us a better understanding, showing us how much we are blessed. In a few weeks' time we are holding a Songs of Praise evening which we are praying will be attended by folk from the village.

Our Coffee Mornings are up and running again, Covid having taken its toll but is now building up once more. Come and try our tea, coffee, sausage rolls and cake. Come and have a blast with us.

Mick Blanks

St Faith's

The community of St Faith's Church, Gaywood, is looking forward to welcoming its new Team Rector, the Rev Kyla Sorensen, in September.

Rev Kyla, who moves to Gaywood after serving her curacy at Watton, said she is very excited to become part of the well-established Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) and building on the almost 50 years of shared experiences between Anglicans and Methodists at St Faith's Church..

Rev Kyle is due to be officially installed into her new role on 20th September by the Bishop of Lynn, the Rev Jane Steen. All are welcome to attend the 7pm service in St Faith's Church.

Rev Kyla will lead the congregation in ministry and mission alongside the Methodist minister, the Rev Robert Roberts and Team Vicar, the Rev Karlene Kerr. The Rev Karlene has been Acting Rector since the previous Rector, the Rev Julie Boyd left the parish in January 2021 to take up a new post as Rector of Aylsham Benefice.

A graduate in languages and theology, 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.

She completed her Bachelor's degree in Theology and her ordination training in the Diocese of Newcastle, NSW and Australia

She then attended the Eastern Region Ministry Course in Cambridge where she graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Mission and Ministry.

Rev Kyla comes to St Faith's with many years parish experience as well as in hospitals and prisons chaplains.

She was able to put her extensive inter-faith experience to good use as the Bishop's appointment to the Tri-Diocesan Council in Newcastle NSW. It was here she worked alongside lay and ordained colleagues facilitating ecumenical understanding and interreligious dialogue.

In her new role at 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. I am very much looking forward to finding out more about the partnerships between church and community in Gaywood

Rev Kyla and her landscape gardener husband, Peter, moved into Gaywood Rectory at the end of August.

The couple have strong connections to Norfolk as Kyla's grandparents come from Docking and Peter attended school near Aylsham. They both have very fond memories of their time in Norfolk. "It has felt a bit like a homecoming!" she said.

Everyone at St Faith's offers warmest congratulations to the Acting Rector and Team Vicar, the Rev Karlene Kerr, on her appointment as the new Rural Dean of the Lynn Deanery. The post will be in addition to her existing roles as Acting Rector, Team Vicar, Diocesan ecumenical officer/Bishop's Advisor for UK minority ethnic affairs. She is also Moderator of Churches Together in King's Lynn. The Rev takes up her new post from September 1 and succeeds the Rev Becca Rogers who is leaving her roles at the Lynn Minster and St John's Church and moving to a new role in London.

After delays caused mainly by Covid, work has finally started to convert the redundant Church bungalow for its new multi-purpose use as a Community. The builders moved onto the site on July 18th and since then there has been some internal demolition of walls and some new construction inside the. The main structural work is due for completion by the end of October this year and then all the finishing work will start.

Fund-raising continues and the church would welcome offers of help in kind such as decorating, making curtains and providing kitchen equipment. Anyone who would like to offer help is asked to contact the Church office on 01553 774916 for more details.

We may have all been sweltering in the recent heat-wave but one group of folk have been looking ahead to Christmas. The Group is the fund-raising team and they are busy planning the Christmas Fair which will be staged on November 24th. Anyone with any ideas for stalls or sideshows is asked to contact fund-raising chair Andy Hiles via the church office.

St Faith's Church again had a stand at the Celebrate event organised by Churches Together in King's Lynn. Led by Rev Karlene a small group of volunteers was based at the stand in lovely warm sunshine. In addition to games for the children there was an information board put together by churchwarden Susie Cranko-Page giving visitors details of all that goes on in terms of worship and mission at St Faith's.

St Faith's intrepid cycling husband and wife team, David and Joan Greening, will again be taking part in the Round Norfolk Churches Cycle and Walk event on September 10th. Last year the event, which made its comeback after the Covid restrictions were lifted, sponsored event raised an amazing £130,000 for the upkeep of some of Norfolk's beautiful medieval churches.

Since the first cycle ride more than 30 years ago, more than £4 million pounds has been raised.

Last year the Greenings raised around £580 and half of this figure comes back to St Faith's Church. David has also taken part in the prestigious King's Lynn Festival of Music and the Arts. David, St Faith's Church Council secretary and one of a team of organists, gave an illustrated talk on the late renowned conductor Sir John Barbirolli and his connections to the Festival. Liz James took part in a tribute to Ralph Vaughan Williams and his connections to King's Lynn.

Richard Parr

Bruce Almighty and different theological approaches to the nature of prayer.

There is so much to read in the Local Preacher's Training, that it is welcome respite to reach a section saying "watch", especially when the film is Bruce Almighty – a film which doesn't stuff religion down your throat yet manages to contain a surprising amount of theology all the same.

Take, for example, the idea that when we encounter God, we are somehow transformed by it. Bruce encounters God in a variety of ways, and his consequent transformation is a key theme within the film. For Bruce starts out incredibly self-centred. His job and his relationship revolves around him, and if something isn't to his liking then it is God's fault for being too busy picking on Bruce and giving someone else everything they want instead. You could say that Bruce is basically acting like a toddler throwing a tantrum every time Mum looks away to talk to somebody else for a moment. Even when Bruce first meets God and goes away with His powers, Bruce uses them selfishly at first – in his words, he "righted a few wrongs in my [Bruce's] life first."

By the end of the film however, Bruce has not only realised he wasn't the right man for the anchor job he didn't get, but congratulated the person who did get it instead. Bruce can also have a quiet conversation with God mutually talking and listening rather than shouting at and blaming God, he makes it clear he wants God to decide what's right for him, and he even prays that his partner, Grace, will find happiness even if that happiness isn't with him.

Further to the theme of encounter, we see within the film the idea that we encounter God in different ways, just as we experience worship in different ways. Bruce meets God for the first time in person having already met Him unknowingly in an unlikely place – for Bruce has helped a scruffy street-dweller who appears a few times throughout the film, but at the end the cameras close up on the man and reveal it to be God. This is presumably a reference to Matthew 25:35-40. There's also a sort-of mini-Damascus

encounter where the light is so bright that Bruce can't really see, and out of the light comes God to reveal Himself and talk to Bruce.

We also see the persistence of God to draw us to Him. God bleeps Bruce's pager to get his attention (even after it gets thrown out the window) and when Bruce finally responds and a recorded message gives him instructions, the message ends with the phrase "so come on down, or we'll just keep beeping you" - clearly, God isn't giving up.

And then there's prayer. Prayer plays a big part in this film. The bit that caught my attention is God's ability to hear and respond to everybody's prayers. For Bruce, when he is given God's powers, starts to hear people when they pray and it's a jumble of noise to him. When he moans to God about it, God reveals that all those prayers aren't even from the whole world, they're only from a section of Bruce's own town of Buffalo, yet there's so many that Bruce can't truly listen to them individually. Bruce ends up converting the prayers to prayer emails and when he first downloads them there are 1,527,503. When Bruce has worked hard answering a load of them, the number has gone up to 3,152,933. To me, that suggests the amazing nature of God that no one's prayers ever get lost in the post so to speak.

There's also the question of unanswered prayer, or prayer where we don't get what we prayed for – always a big subject for debate. This aspect of prayer is covered in a single sentence God utters - "since when does anyone have a clue about what they want." This indicates the argument that God knows better than we do what's best for us, the same as how a parent knows better than their child when to give in to their demands and when not to.

In one section of the Local Preacher Training, it refers to C. S. Lewis's book, Mere Christianity, where it says that while we pray to God, it is also God who prompts us to pray. This again is reflected near the end of the film as God tells Bruce to pray. Bruce says the type of prayer that's what he thinks God wants to hear, so God prompts him further – what does Bruce really care about. And this is where we see the full nature of Bruce's transformation for his prayer is truly unselfish and self-sacrificing.

In short, there is a lot to learn from Bruce Almighty theologically, and specifically on the nature of prayer and other encounters with God which ultimately lead to transformation.

Jenny Sargent

From Meg Cooper: If you believe it will work out you'll see the opportunities. If you believe it won't you will see the obstacles.



From the Little Yellow Smart Car: first fruits of my sabbatical – looking at labyrinths and storytelling

Heysham is a village just south of Morecambe. It has a history going back to Viking times. There are two nuclear power stations, a port and railway station, a heritage centre and The Mad Hatter’s tearoom. Ferries have been running from the port to the Isle of Man and to Ireland since 1904, when the Midland Railway Company connected the harbour to the mainline running from Morecambe to Lancaster. On a prominent rocky outcrop, looking out over Morecambe Bay, are the ruins of an 8th century chapel which myth tells was built by St Patrick (although he died about 490AD!).

On July 25th, with the tide well out in the Bay and more temperate conditions than those which were being experienced in Norfolk that week, I was to be found clambering round the bottom of St Patrick’s rocky outcrop - on the big boulders and through the shallow gullies, between the rock pools and the spaces where the sand and shingle had been left to dry out. I was on a quest to find the Heysham Labyrinth.

I had come across a photo of the labyrinth which had been cut into one of the rocks. It had been discovered by a journalist in 1996 and had caused great excitement. There was speculation that it might date back to Roman times, or it might have been an act of Victorian graffiti, or that it was carved in the ‘New Age’ of the 1970s as an act of creation spirituality. I was equipped for my search with two photos: one taken by the journalist which showed it clearly; the other taken in 2019, showing a less clear carving. Nonetheless, I was sure that I could find it easily – especially since I was not looking on my own. This photo shows the lie of the land – about 350m from St Peter’s Church on the right to the mound with St Patrick’s ruins on the left; and the rocks which go all around the headland. This is the point where I reveal that the Heysham labyrinth is about the size of a dinner plate - 16cm in diameter!! Needless to say, we didn’t find it – at least not on our first attempt. We needed more guidance, more information. We needed to follow the instructions of someone who had made the journey before us and whose wisdom and experience we could learn from.



Attempt number two was also unsuccessful. Although we now had a map with a dot marking the spot and realised that we’d been looking in the wrong place on our first attempt, sand shifts; water doesn’t always return in the same place, rocks change as the elements erode them and cause rock falls. But we were enjoying the quest - the seeking and looking more closely, noticing things we hadn’t noticed the first time, taking time to talk and pick our own paths through the rocks.

“Seek and you shall find,” becomes a deeper truth and more powerful promise. We often try to rush to the finding part, but there is joy and worship to be experienced in the seeking. What are you showing us, Lord? What are we learning? How are we growing, changing and becoming more loving?

We discussed how long it would take for anticipation to turn to frustration, and how patience is a fruit of the Holy Spirit which we often try to cultivate quickly! We talked about those who inspire by seeking something for a lifetime (in research, to develop their skills, as they work for justice and change); and how faith is a commitment to seek God and follow wherever that journey takes us.

Last day in Heysham and with a small window of time remaining, we found another article which pinpointed the labyrinth even more accurately. The rocks were slippery and the path we chose steeper, but we had found the Heysham labyrinth – or what was left of it.

Can you see any of it?

It is a classical labyrinth – one path to trace in to the centre and the same path out. The path twists and turns back on itself, but always leads to the middle.

I am reminded of the words of encouragement which Moses speaks to the Israelites who get themselves in all kinds of muddles as they try to be the people of God: “...you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find him if you search after him with all your heart and soul.” (Deuteronomy 4:29). Wherever we are going as the church of Christ, I hope that we can enjoy the journey, keep seeking a deeper relationship with God, and keep learning with and from others.



Rev. Jackie Goddard

West Norfolk Pastoral Committee

“Who are we – and what do we do?”

Dear Friends

When our Circuit Pastoral Committee met in June, we decided to spend some time reviewing our ongoing purpose and calling. We had a very positive and enjoyable conversation around these things and we thought it might be helpful to share our findings with you now.

Our Circuit Pastoral Committee meets three times a year, with the opportunity for each of our churches to be represented and to share thoughts and ideas about how we can best care for each other pastorally across the circuit; it is also, importantly, an opportunity for us to find ways to support one another, particularly where churches are smaller and where pastoral responsibilities fall on the shoulders of a few.

What then are we hoping to offer to our churches – and what might our churches be hoping for from us? Good questions and something we have been trying to explore again recently! So – here are some of the thoughts which came out of our most recent conversations.....

- The Circuit’s Pastoral Committee is a place where we meet as representatives of our churches and where we can share our stories and experiences (within the boundaries of confidentiality) from our different churches and communities, in a prayerful and supportive setting. Each of our churches has the opportunity to be represented.
- We aim to ensure that every church is kept ‘up-to-date’ with news and plans, and that the lines of communication are kept open around the Circuit. This is done through the reps from each of our respective churches.
- The Committee seeks to be a place where people will feel encouraged and where they can be enabled to encourage others who they meet in their visiting.
- We look for opportunities for training and resourcing – for example in our twice-yearly ‘Carers’ Days’ – topics which are currently being explored are support for those visiting people living with dementia, and their families, and developing our ‘listening skills’. We are always grateful to receive suggestions for other topics where advice and support would be appreciated.

- It is a place where we might be inspired by the wisdom and knowledge of others who share our calling to pastoral care.
- The Committee is a place where we can come together recognising that, as a Circuit, we are part of something bigger than our own worshipping communities (places which can, for some, feel a little isolated sometimes). At a recent Carers’ Day, the suggestion was made that some of our smaller churches might want to consider a “buddy” system, where people could find mutual support locally, either by meeting together or sharing a ‘phone conversation – some of our churches have already started to do this, with positive results!
- We would be glad to receive feedback and ideas from around the Circuit, especially to know what our churches might like us to add to our responsibilities, as part of our duty of care for one another.

Any thoughts for inclusion would be welcomed by Deacon Lynne 2tonges317@gmail.com.

And

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Prayer Diary

September 2022



Just in case you were wondering what happened to the new prayer diary..... the suggestion was made that we timed the publication to fit in with the start of the new Methodist year – so this is what we have done! It’s now available and (hopefully) copies should be winging their way to you via your stewards or local minister. Please note that this is also available as a “screen view” version for you to use on your laptop or iPad etc. If you have any queries (or would like me to forward this to you) please do get in touch.

The Rock of our Salvation

Large rocks are enduring, far outlasting the span of human life; they offer 'shelter from the noontide heat', and they provide refuge and protection to the fugitive. David was glad to seek shelter in caves as he fled from the wrath of King Saul, and the image of a welcoming cave or rocky fortress occurs in several psalms.

The psalms reflect the growing understanding that God is eternal, offering security to those who trust in him, comparing his steadfast and enduring support and protection with the mighty rocks that stood around them in the rugged scenery of their country:

*My soul finds rest in God alone;
my salvation comes from him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress, I shall never be shaken.* (Ps. 62:1-2, NIV)

'A mighty rock' could become a refuge and a fortress, a position of safety from which men of integrity could smile at all their foes. The prophet Isaiah, in the course of several lines pointing out the ways in which God had helped his needy and faithful people in times past, wrote:

Trust in the Lord for ever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock Eternal (Is 26:4)

Perhaps it's this verse as much as any other that gave birth to the phrase that occurs in some well-known hymns: *Rock of Ages*, the sure foundation on which Zion, the city of God, is safely set.

*On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.* (John Newton)

Most readers will be familiar with Augustus Toplady's famous lines, but may be less familiar with another hymn, "O safe to the Rock that is higher than I" (William Cushing), and its evocative imagery, placing it firmly in our sea-surrounded landscape, is well worth a glance before we proceed:

O safe to the rock that is higher than I,

*My soul in its conflicts and sorrows would fly,
So sinful, so weary, Thine, Thine would I be,
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee!*

Hiding in Thee! Hiding in Thee!

Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee!

*In the calm of the noontide, in sorrow's lone hour,
In times when temptation casts o'er me its power;*

In the tempests of life, on its wide heaving sea,

Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee!

How oft in the conflict, when pressed by the foe.

I have fled to my refuge, and breathed out my woe:

How often when trials, like sea billows roll,

Have I hidden in Thee, O Thou Rock of my soul?

We don't know whether the story of Augustus Toplady sheltering from a storm is actually true, but the theme of a guilty sinner seeking to be hidden and saved from the judgement of an all-powerful God is clear. (Incidentally, I much prefer the more cheerful tune named after Toplady). He finds a vivid sense of spiritual shelter and protection in the Cross of Jesus, the 'cleft' of the first line carrying a double meaning. It is a large fissure in the rock surface, in which he can hide, as Moses was mercifully given a place of hiding when the glory of the Lord passed by (Ex.33:22); and it is the rock that was cleft (split) by Moses in the wilderness to provide water to drink (Numbers 20:10-11).

The image of water flowing from the rock leads Toplady's thoughts to **'the water and the blood' that flowed from the side of the crucified Christ as he hung on the cross**, the focus of John's marvelling in John 19:34 and 1 John 5:6, 8.

Water and blood are the emblems of baptism and the cross: death leading to life. In the original form of Christian baptism the person coming to Christ was totally immersed, signifying death of the old life and rebirth to the new. When we

put our faith in Jesus 'lifted up' on the cross, we appeal to him, reaching out to the Father to receive forgiveness and reconciliation. Through the work of God's spirit within us, we enter a new life, a treasure that cannot be paid for except through the saving work of Jesus.

'Nothing in my hand I bring' — we can only accept God's amazing grace, allow him to refresh and wash us, prepare ourselves to enjoy an eternity of being 'loved with everlasting love.'^{*}

As Colin Urquhart has expressed it, ^{**} (quoting John 3:14-15)

*'The Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him... Jesus had to die so that sinners could be reconciled with God. Because you have put your faith in him and in what he did for you on the cross, you 'have eternal life in him'. You did not deserve that; **you could do nothing to achieve it.** God has given you eternal life as a gift — not because of what you are, but because of what Jesus is; not because of what you have done but because of what He has done for you. **Your eternal life is in Him.**'*

Stand on the mighty Rock of God's eternal love:

*On Christ the solid rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.* Edward Mote:
"My hope is built on nothing less"
*Beneath the cross of Jesus / I fain would take my stand —
The shadow of a mighty rock / Within a weary land.*
Elizabeth Clephane)

And Lewis Jones

*I've anchored in Jesus, the storms of life I'll brave,
I've anchored in Jesus, I fear no wind or wave;
I've anchored in Jesus, for He hath pow'r to save,
I've anchored to the Rock of Ages.*

^{*} This phrase comes originally from Jeremiah 31:3 and was used in the title of a hymn by George Wade Robinson about the assurance and joy of salvation.

^{**} Unfortunately, *In Christ*, the book from which these lines are quoted, is now out of print, like many of Urquhart's inspiring works; Kindle editions can be found by searching on Amazon.

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.*

*Not the labours of my hands
Can fulfil thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone:
Thou must save, and thou alone*

A message from UCB Getting older, and better

19 July 2022

'For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.'

Isaiah 65:22 NIV

In 1968 a scientist discovered a six-hundred-year-old necklace in a Native American grave. It was made up of seeds which had been strung together. He planted one of those seeds, and guess what happened: it sprouted and grew. Although the seed had been dormant for six hundred years, it still had the potential for life.

Maybe you have been a Christian for years and have been spiritually dormant for most of that time, but now you would like to be productive. You desire to be fruitful. The good news is, it's not too late! You can begin right now. 'The righteous will flourish like a palm tree...planted in the house of the LORD; they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, **"The LORD is upright; he is my Rock"**' (Psalm 92:12-15 NIV).

Did you know that a palm tree produces its greatest harvest of fruit in its final years? That can be your destiny too. 'For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.' That Scripture means bunions, bifocals, and baldness notwithstanding, your last season of life can be your greatest season of life. **It may take you longer to do what you do, but fuelled with the wisdom of God's Word and the years you have walked with Him, you can still make a mark for God in this world.**

From *UCB Word For Today*, a free booklet published quarterly by United Christian Broadcasters, Westport Road, Stoke on Trent, ST6 4JF.

Thanks to David Clarke

I resolved to change my life today with one simple action.

By defeating the frown on my face and transforming it with a smile.

Paul Bane

If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours!

LEARNING HOW TO LOVE

I'm sure you've read and listened to this little passage many times before:

A man with leprosy came to [Jesus] and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man.

"I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.

This is one of the great examples of how the Lord Jesus showed love to those who needed it most. Leprosy was one of the great scourges in biblical times: touching a leper was as good as letting a Covid sufferer breathe over you. But don't imagine that leprosy is a relic of the distant past. It isn't. The question is, what are we doing about it?

We're unlikely to come across anyone with a deformed hand or an amputated leg in this country, but in places like Nepal, India or Ethiopia, leprosy is still a major health problem.

A Bible scholar wrote, 'Life is a chance of learning how to love.' And of course that's what life is really all about from a Christian viewpoint. The "sheep" in the parable had taken their chance to learn; the "goats" hadn't (Matthew 25:31-46). End of story.

Not quite the end. **There's an organisation based in Peterborough known as The Leprosy Mission**, an unashamedly and refreshingly Christian one that devotes itself to helping medical and nursing staff in the battle that's being fought in exactly those countries where leprosy is rife. Scientists are carrying out research, doctors and nurses are caring for the sufferers, prosthetic limbs are being made and fitted, and a new laboratory is being built near a leprosy hospital in Nepal.

Would you like to show your love by contacting them, by post at Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5GZ or online at leprosymission.org.uk ?

David again!

“So, tell me again – what exactly is a Deacon?”

Yes.....a question which I've been asked many times over the years!! Earlier this year, I had been asked to write an article for the Methodist Recorder about life as a Deacon (or Diaconal minister) and, as you might remember, a couple of folk suggested that I should send it in to Rejoice – hence its appearance in the July/August edition. This has subsequently led to some interesting conversations – and some equally interesting questions; it seems that the Methodist Diaconal Order is still one of the Church's best kept secrets! So – I hope this helps to fill in some of the gaps.....

In July, I was one of the chaplains to the small conference/retreat which we offer annually to our diaconal student ministers and this is always a joy (and privilege) for me to do. One of the sessions which I led with a colleague this summer was about the history and development of the Order, and I'm always fascinated by what I read again when swotting up in the facts and figures – but also humbled by the work and example of the wonderful Sisters (as they all were then) in paving the way for what the Order is today (some of you will have known such Sisters in previous circuits, and you will know just what I mean by that).

I said that I would try to answer some of the questions which I've been asked – both recently but also in the past – so, to give a very general “snapshot”, I share a little bit here about our roots (...but to those of you who know our story well already – please feel free to snooze through the next bit!).

Our Order started out life in the late 19th century as the Wesley Deaconess Order and was founded by Rev. Thomas Bowman Stephenson, a Methodist minister, perhaps best known for his pioneering work with the National Children's Home. Stephenson created roles in NCH for women, e.g. as house mothers and in social work, and in time a religious order was formed. As the years went by, the women of the WDO – and later the women and men of what had gradually evolved into the Methodist Diaconal Order – became ordained; but it was not until the 1990s that our members were received into Full Connexion – i.e. as fully ordained ministers and being given the title 'minister' alongside our presbyteral colleagues.

One of the most frequent questions asked of us as Deacons is *“What is the difference between a “presbyter” and a “deacon”?”* and that's not an unreasonable question! (One of my oldest friends – and a “cradle Methodist” to boot – said that it was only a few years ago that she became familiar with the term “presbyter” at all). My response is perhaps a little simplistic, but hopefully a relatively easy way to describe the distinction: a presbyter is

called, primarily, to *“a ministry of word and sacrament”* (preaching and presiding at Holy Communion) whereas a deacon has traditionally served on the fringes of the Church, with a focus on pastoral care and creating links between Church and community – as reflected by the work done by our older sisters, such as in City Missions and travelling the length and breadth of the country with their caravan ministry. No doubt some of you will have met them (and perhaps been influenced by them in your journey of faith) through your 'home' churches elsewhere and it would be interesting to hear your stories. Of course these roles have overlapped over the years, and each complements the other as we seek to work together as a team (alongside the invaluable work done by our lay colleagues). The dividing lines are less clear these days than they once were, but it is good that each offering of service is honoured in its own way, side by side with others, including the invaluable service offered by our lay folk.

Well – that's a bit of a “Cook's Tour” about MDO and scarcely scratches the surface of what MDO is, but I hope it helps a little! And next time you hear (or ask) the question *“So, tell me again, what exactly does a Deacon do?”* please do talk to one of us and we'll be very happy to fill in some of the gaps!

Every blessing. *Deacon Lynne*

Theology?

On many shelves of clergy, preachers etc. I have noticed very many theological books. (I have a few!) Do we need so much theology? – a lot of it is, possibly, theory and speculation. To me, the average Christian just needs the basic creed: *We believe in God the Father who made the world.*

We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son who redeemed humankind.
We believe in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God. (Methodist Service Book P 31) and the main themes of Jesus' teaching and example (found in the Gospels and the letters of Paul).

I would say that is enough for us to live by and to nourish our worship.

Dudley Pickston

There was an article attributed to Dudley in June's Rejoice that he says is not his. Humble apologies to the actual writer!

Planting

Plant three rows of Peas.

Peas of mind, peas of heart, peas and quiet.

Plant five rows of Lettuce.

Lettuce be kind, lettuce be patient, lettuce be faithful,

Lettuce love one another, Lettuce pray.

Plant four rows of Squash.

Squash gossip, Squash indifference, Squash selfishness,

Squash prejudice.

Plant four rows of Thyme.

Thyme for family, Thyme for friends, Thyme for each other,

Thyme for ourselves.

Plant three rows of Turnips.

Turnip for meetings, Turnip for appointments,

Turnip to help a friend in need.

Sow with care, water with patience and cultivate with love.

Must You?

Dust if you must but wouldn't it be better

To paint a picture or write a letter

Bake a cake or plant a seed

Ponder the difference twixt want and need.

Dust if you must but there's not much time

With rivers to swim and mountains to climb!

Music to hear and books to read

Friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must but the world's out there

With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair,

A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,

This day will not come round again.

Dust if you must but bear in mind,

Old age will come and it's not kind.

And when you go and go you must,

You, yourself, will make more dust.

Dust if you must but listen to this

It's caring not cleaning that brings upon bliss.

Remember a house becomes a home when you

Can write "I love you" on the furniture!

Thanks to Pauline Bradley



An Exciting Time

Hunstanton Many church members and visitors from far afield enjoyed a wonderful weekend in June, when they met friends from Zimbabwe. The event was organised by Rosemary and Hugh Rayner, who were entertaining two young Zimbabweans, Charlegne and Taku, students at the University of Edinburgh. The Saturday started with a lunch, made possible by generous contributions of food from many of the partakers. There was a mix of dishes from different countries and some of us experienced interesting tastes that were new to our palates. We moved into the church to watch a Christian Aid video of the life of Janet Zirugo, showing how she farms and cares for her land in the dry climate. It gave us an insight into the hard life she copes with under such harsh circumstances. The film was followed by an afternoon of music presented by local singers and instrumentalists, interspersed with hymns sung by a Gospel Choir from Norwich, whose voices filled the building with their uninhibited singing and rhythmic vitality. The following day, our minister Rev Dr Richman Ncube took the service, which included Charlegne speaking about her studies of the effects of climate change, and Zimbabwean hymns sung by the Ncube family. Donations made to Christian Aid during the two days amounted to over £600! We aim to continue opening the church up for more events as people feel more confident in returning after the pandemic



33



Report from the Circuit Social Justice Group

Our garden doesn't look so green now as it did when I took this picture. Recently Deacon Lynne forwarded me an article from the RSPB written in response to the very high temperatures, which we experienced on 18th and 19th July. The article was about ways, in which we can all rise to the challenge of Climate Change as well as outlining ways, in which the government could take action. With the aim of helping people rise to that challenge, the members of the circuit social justice group are working towards holding an Eco Festival at Hilgay Methodist Church on Saturday, October 1st. It will be a drop-in event open between 10.30 a.m. and 3.30p.m. The local school, the Riverside Academy, the Woodland Trust and some honey producers from the village will be taking part in the day. In addition, there will be stalls, displays, activities and refreshments organised by the social justice group and church members. We hope that there will be something to interest people of all ages. Your support will be much appreciated. Hope to see you there!



I took this picture at Jersey Zoo but shallow dishes of water in our gardens can provide a much needed drink for wildlife and the neighbourhood cats love to drink from my mini pond!

Lesley Dent

34



ECO FESTIVAL

@Hilgay Methodist Chapel

SATURDAY, 1ST OCTOBER

10.30 a.m. - 3.30p.m.

**DISPLAYS – ACTIVITIES – STALLS -
REFRESHMENTS**

**Have fun and learn about nature locally
and ways in which we can be kinder to our
planet, its wildlife and its people.**

All ages welcome.

Entry free but donations of unwanted jewellery or watches, no matter if they're old or broken and foreign or UK banknotes of any age will be gratefully received in aid of Traidcraft Exchange helping vulnerable people worldwide adapt to climate change.

What's on from September 2022

September Circuit Prayer Diary available

Sunday 11th September Heacham Harvest Gatherings

Sunday 11th September at Feltwell A Harvest Celebration

Sunday 11th September Downham Market harvest Festival

Saturday, 1st October at Hilgay Methodist Church.
ECO FESTIVAL 10.30 – 3.30

Thursday 20th – Sunday 23rd October (7.30pm Thurs – Sat and 2.30pm matinees Sat and Sun) at Downham Market Town Hall. Come and support Rev. Paul as Gomez Addams and Benji Critchley as Pugsley Addams in this fun, musical comedy. Tickets £10 (concessions £8) available from Rev Paul or online at <https://bit.ly/3PqjIXY>.

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

Saturday November 24th Christmas Fair at St Faith's
22nd March – 30th April 2023 Threads through Creation at Peterborough Cathedral