

Rejoice!

June /July/August 2025



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

Dear Friends,

Welcome to another edition of our Circuit Magazine – ‘Rejoice’! And, indeed, welcome to summer, although I sit at my desk typing this letter it is cloudy outside and there is a very cool North-Easterly breeze blowing in from the coast making it feel decidedly cooler than the last few days of warmth! I hope the warmth returns sooner rather than later... and I am aware too of the need for rain as there has been so little over the last few weeks...

This morning, I can hear the mowers outside on the green – it’s a sound I enjoy hearing, but not necessarily making myself!! But the front lawns and hedges of The Manse here in Downham Market do need attention at the moment – perhaps that is a job for this afternoon as it is a little cooler!!

I enjoy a nice garden, but I don’t particularly like the work that needs to be undertaken in order for the garden to be nice..! I do wish I had the gardening knowledge and the gift of time to really make a difference... However, as I watch the bees dancing around the dandelions, I feel less guilty about not having the mown the grass for some time...!

I don’t know about you, but I do find a sense of the presence of God in nature. I think that’s why I like being out and walking so much. The rhythm of steps, the beauty of the world, the opportunity to watch nature in all its glory. Just the other day, I was walking the dogs up on the old airfield and whilst they were busy with all the smells they could find, they completely missed a hare as it ran by us twice!

So, I wonder where you find God’s presence? Where do you feel most connected to God? For I think, those places are the thin places – the liminal spaces – between Heaven and Earth, where God’s presence breaks through, where the normal and everyday becomes sacred and where there is the peace and contentment that only God can bring.

With much love for the coming months,
Rev Paul, Jacob, Sam and Benji

Praying together in the Circuit

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ the new creation has come: The old has gone the new is here. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf; Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God 2 Corinthians 5: 18-21

From the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, to the crucifixion, on the third day the resurrection, forty days later the ascension and ten days later Pentecost the empowering of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. So much happening, so much which is important for us now.

I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal.2:20

On the evening of the resurrection Jesus breathed on the disciples and said, 'receive the Holy Spirit', then before he ascended into heaven "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth".

Father God, thank you for our salvation, for the new life we have in you. In the power of your Holy Spirit, as disciples, witnesses and ambassadors may we honour you in all we say and do, and our lives show your love, joy and peace. Our desire is for people to be reconciled to you experiencing your love, grace and mercy. May the truth of the gospel message touch lives today.

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it. Ps.24:1 We pray for your world as you want it to be, where love is

shared, every life is valued and respected, where compassion shown brings help and hope into hopeless situations.

Lord, make me a channel of your peace ...

We pray for your world in all its brokenness and need, Lord for deliverance from evil, for people to be brought out of darkness into your marvellous light.

Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy on us.

Sovereign Lord, guide us in the ways of peace. We pray for those who live in areas of conflict and war and long for peace to come.

For those who seek to be peace makers finding ways where integrity and justice will lead to fair resolutions.

We pray for your church throughout the world. Christ is the head of His body the Church. For the Holy Spirit prompting, guiding, empowering all believers. For the word of God alive and active,

For worship to be an offering of love from our hearts in thankfulness and praise as we worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth, 'Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee, take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise'.

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:11-12.



CLENCHWARTON

Clenchwarton Methodist Church is, as many of you know, is on the Main Road in the village and although it is on the Terrington side of the village it is our aim to be regarded as the centre of activity.

We host a number of events and we will be pleased to see anybody from the Circuit at any of them.

Talks take place on the third Saturday of the month and cover a variety of topics. The June talk will be about life in the Police from a retired policeman. In October we have our chapel anniversary and to link with this we will have a number of guests (many of whom will be shown on zoom). Like all of our events you can simply turn up to the talks.

On a Tuesday morning between 9.00 and 10.00 am we have a Prayer Meeting which is attended and led by Rev Jackie Goddard. On the first Tuesday of the month, we have a coffee morning between 10.00am and 12.00am.

Coffee and Craft Afternoons take place every fourth Saturday between 3.00pm and 5.00pm but it is suggested you ring first as sometimes dates are changed to fit in with other regular Saturday events.

On the first Friday of every month, we hold a quiz at 7.00pm where people are in teams but individuals can just turn up and it

is certain there will be every effort to sign the newcomer by every team so you will be in big demand.

There is free entry to all our events with tea and coffee supplied. So, visit Clenchwarton, just three miles from King's Lynn and see for yourselves what we have to offer. You can find out more details by ringing Joan Edwards on 01553 769819.

DERSINGHAM

Our morning service on 2 March was taken by Reverend Matt Henderson from the Leprosy Mission. The service was both charismatic and informative. Matt talked about Leprosy and the Leprosy Missions work overseas and spoke passionately about the leprosy colonies and poor communities in Odisha State in India. He explained that Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by a type of bacteria. The disease predominantly affects the skin and peripheral nerves. Left untreated, the disease may cause progressive and permanent disabilities particularly affecting hands, feet and eyes.. It can be caught by a healthy person from a sneeze or cough by an infected person. However, leprosy can be cured by early diagnosis and treatment by anti-microbial drugs. Odisha, in Eastern India, had been abandoned by aid and charitable organisations some 20 years ago following numerous attacks on aid workers, but Matt said that God had now led the Leprosy Mission to that area and the Mission had formulated a 'Revive Odisha' programme. He had recently returned from a visit to Odisha and showed a harrowing video about Anjali, a young girl who had contracted leprosy at a young age but who had not been offered a cure. Her grandfather had taken her to a leprosy colony a long way from her home. She was a resilient girl and had rebuilt her life as best she could; she was now married and had two sons. She begs for food from the roadside to feed her sons. Dersingham church is helping to support The Leprosy Mission programme 'Revive Odisha' through our Church collection from that morning's service as well as a donation from

our forthcoming Flower Festival. It is anticipated that these funds will provide sufficient monies to pay for three community farms.

Our monthly coffee mornings continue to be well supported and we have been able to send donations from the funds raised to Action for Children and Methodist Homes for the Aged. In early April we held a quiz afternoon, organised by our splendid quiz master, Roger Jackson – funds raised were sent to Tapping House Hospice. Methodist World Mission and Mission in Britain will be the beneficiaries of monies from our July coffee morning on Saturday 26th July.

As I write this, the weather is sunny and warm – wouldn't it be lovely if we had similar weather for our forthcoming Flower Festival, arrangements for which are now well under way. We are looking forward with keen anticipation to this event which is always a highlight of our church year here in Dersingham.

Downham Market

May 8th was a celebration of VE Day – did you celebrate? The street where I live had a street party and most of the street gathered for the celebration. Unlike 1945 there was no shortage of food. There were games to be played – egg and spoon races and horse racing included! A quiz kept brains alert, followed by singing some old songs with the finale being “We'll meet again”. There was a sense of a real community spirit within the street.

Hopefully our churches have a real sense of community spirit – a place where people feel loved and cared for. Many in our congregation at Downham are of a mature age and living alone so pastoral care is important. There are opportunities during the week for fellowship: groups like “Singing for Pleasure” and “Ladies Friendship” or carpet bowls and there is always the Social Centre to meet friends for coffee or lunch.

Not everyone is mobile so visits and telephone calls keep people in touch, and it is something we can all do. Unfortunately, some of our members have been hospitalized recently and the QE staff are great but overstretched so a stretch in hospital may not be the greatest of experiences. A visit to the patient is often greatly appreciated but not everyone is mobile and able to get to the QE hospital. A solution could be to have a list of drivers who would be prepared to drive folk to the QE on the understanding that parking and a contribution to fuel would be paid for.

A reminder that Zoom services still continue on the 3rd Sunday of the month which is a lifeline for those unable to attend church. These services are a way for the Circuit to come together – another way of building a sense of community.

Church is a loving community, and we all have a role in building and strengthening the community spirit within it.

Ralph Perkins

Joyce Dent – Matriarch of Downham

At 98 – I got permission from her to write her age – Joyce Dent is the matriarch of Downham Methodist Church and as we meet on the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, Joyce has a Union Flag in the window to celebrate. She was, however, very keen to point out that she is a little more interested in celebrating VJ Day as her boyfriend – Jack – was serving in Burma for two and a half years during the war and she had to wait a few extra months before the war in the Far East was over and he was home again. That doesn't mean that Joyce didn't celebrate that very first VE Day because she did – in rather spectacular style..! She went to the pub for the first time and celebrated with a shandy!

Throughout her childhood Joyce lived in Barroway Drove, brought up a Methodist at Trinity Methodist Church – one of two Methodist Churches in the village and she remembers attending youth club alongside going to church for morning and evening services. She was also on the organ rota!!

When Jack returned from Burma in 1947, they got married as soon as possible. Their first married home was a Nissen Hut on the former RAF Downham Market airbase. They lived in the village hall – which was a much bigger Nissen Hut – and remembers all of the youngsters (including herself!) enjoying all the different events that were put on there.

Regarding Methodist church in Downham Market, Joyce was not a member of the church here until the new building was opened in 1966 following the merger of Wesley, Mount Tabor and London Road – she remembers that each of those churches once had their own Minister! Can you imagine that now?!

During her time in the church Joyce has been a Sunday School Teacher, a steward, a member of the Leadership Team and an editor of Rejoice Magazine!!

When asked for a message for the Rejoice readers Joyce replied with the following and this seems a good place to end – giving Joyce the final word!!! “I ask the Lord every day to bind us together in love because love is more important than anything else. We must work together in love.”

FENSONG

Presents the Adaptation of Ted Hughes' Novel

The Iron Man

at

Downham Market Methodist Church

- June 7th, 6:30pm
- June 8th, 2:30pm

TICKETS

£6.00 Adults

£4.00 Concession

To order and purchase tickets please email

fensongtheatre@gmail.com

OR

Message us on Facebook where we can send

you our QR code

We have recently added our event to EventBrite

where you can also order your tickets

Thank you



FELTWELL METHODIST CHURCH

COMMUNITY HALL & GARDEN

We are chuffed to share the news that we have earned a Bronze Award for our efforts. What efforts? You might ask.



At Feltwell we have grass around 3 sides of our church, and we used to mow it “short back and sides”!! In recent years there has been much publicity about not mowing grass in order to allow insects, and particularly butterflies and moths, to benefit from the long grass, in which they lay their eggs. As many of our readers will know, more insects, means more bird food. And the number of wildflowers popping up is awesome!! My motto is *“Neat and tidy won’t save the planet.”*

- In the “A Rocha” survey we had to declare many forms of environmental actions.

Some of the factors which influenced the award included

- changing Halogen and incandescent lighting for LED lighting,
- heating which could be programmed to suit the weather and the use of the premises,
- secondary glazing in the hall,
- a compost heap in the grounds for



waste food, tea bags, mowings, clippings etc.,

- use of dishwasher to reduce usage of water,
- reducing the water pressure at the many taps and toilets,
- growing flowers for the wildlife pollinators (& honey makers!) and
- recycling bins for users of the premises,
- repairing and re-using or repurposing old equipment.
- As I'm sure many of you recognise, some of our folks are less mobile than they used to be and require lifts to chapel. So, another plus for us is collecting half our fellowship in one car to save fuel and pollution. I remember my dad saying that if he didn't pick up the congregation on his way to preach at chapels like Gooderstone or Beechamwell, he wouldn't have had a congregation! And.....do any of you remember the solid fuel burners in the middle of the chapel! We'd all sit around it to keep warm, and, if we were lucky, we could still see the preacher through the smoke by the end of the service.

Where we did not do so well in the survey, is not using "Fairtrade" and influencing our community. We will be tackling these in our attempts to achieve the Silver Award. If anyone wants any tips, call me.

Information that not many people know, is that it is now illegal to run your engine while your vehicle is 'parked'. It also

1. contributes to pollution,
2. unnecessarily uses fossil fuels and
3. costs you more to run your car!

Four reasons why you should switch off when you park, and don't start your engine until you are ready to drive off.

We held our Spring Table Sale at the beginning of May. Attendance was low and the stallholders were disappointed at the turnout and sales. However, we raised a few quid for the church. By the time this is printed we will have held our "Sip for Stroke" coffee morning as part of Stroke Month (May).

St. Faith's Gaywood

Our Holy Week devotions opened with a service on Palm Sunday afternoon titled Last Words of Love, led by Rev Kyla and St Faith's Choir. The service on Maundy Thursday included washing of feet which was a very moving. On Good Friday members of our congregation joined with Churches Together in King's Lynn for the Procession of Witness around the town. Our Easter Services, in our specially decorated Church for the festival, were well attended and we welcomed a number of visitors to the church.

Over the May Day Holiday weekend, we hosted in the church a photography competition by KS2-KS5 students at Fairstead and Springwood Schools on the theme of New Life. What talent these students have.

On Sunday 18th May we had the pleasure of District Chair, Rev Helen Hollands, leading our morning service. Rev Helen then joined us for a Church family lunch.

We shall be holding Messy Church on Thursday 29th May between 10.30am-and 12.30pm and our usual Saturday coffee mornings between 10 am and 12 noon on the first Saturday of every month.

With summer fast approaching, and good weather (hopefully) many of us are preparing for outside events. At St. Faith's our Summer Fete is to be held on Saturday 21st June on the Church Green 12 noon to 4pm. With family fun activities including bouncy castle, bike smoothy maker, coconut shy, splat the rat, tin can alley, candy floss and a burger van and others. Other stalls and refreshments in the Church Rooms from 2 pm.

A Teddy Bears' Picnic will be held in the Rectory Garden on Saturday 5th July 2pm - 4pm for young families. FREE afternoon picnic, games and sing-along with little ones and their teddies.

A concert with the Centre Stage Swing Band will take place on Sunday 20th July at 3pm in the church. Tickets £10 including light refreshments.

A Big Afternoon Tea Party on 9th August 2pm - 4.30pm on Church Green.

Above all we are looking forward to two new members joining our Clergy team soon. Ros Wright is to be our Assistant Curate after her ordination at Norwich Cathedral on Sunday 29th July, and Rev Judith Bell will be joining the Circuit in September as Methodist Minister in King's Lynn. Her Welcome Service will be at 7 pm on Thursday 28th August at St Faith's. We are all looking forward to working and sharing ministry with both Judith and Ros here at St. Faith's.

We thank Rev Paul for all the assistance he has given to Kyla and the St. Faith's congregation over the last twelve months. It has been good for us all to get to know him better. Thank you, Paul.

Heacham

This year's Lent services and lunches on the theme of HOPE, were shared with members of St Mary's Church, Hunstanton Catholic Church with Hunstanton Churches Together. Everyone enjoyed the delicious soups and company. Thanks to all who contributed. We continue to develop our community engagement. Our new monthly group, Crafty Crowd, is going well. It provides an opportunity for members of the community to bring along their crafts, meet new people and enjoy a chat and a coffee. In May we started a new community lunch group 'Let's do Lunch'. We will be serving sandwiches made to order and jacket potatoes. If this goes well, we hope to hold them monthly. However, sadly we have had to review our Open Church sessions on a Tuesday, owing to extremely low attendance and we stopped this in April. We have reassured people, however, that the Minister is still available if people want to speak to him.

In April we celebrated a centenary birthday with a longstanding member of the congregation, Ena Layton. Ena has enjoyed a full and exciting life. During the war she was in the WAAF stationed at RAF Marham, where she had many adventures and made lifelong friends. Her faith has been important to her all through her life and she believes it's her faith that has kept her going to such a great age. Even today her faith remains as strong as ever, in fact she says she doesn't know what she would do without her faith, and how every day, and as she walks along, she reminds herself that the Lord is with her.

Highgate

We were blessed recently when Noel who had been very much part of our fellowship but then moved away to Gloucestershire, joined us for worship on a Sunday afternoon. It was so good to see him and hear of his involvement in his church. Most of all to worship together.

Another blessing when Shirley arranged for a few from

St Katherine's Court to join us for a 'Songs of Praise' afternoon. They made their choice of hymns... 'And can it be', 'The old rugged cross', 'All people that on earth do dwell' and 'Count your blessings'. A special time together.

Recently we've been pleased to welcome someone who lives nearby in Highgate, we are counting our blessings and looking forward to more.

Hilgay with Southery

Our Guild AGM was held on April 15th. This was our last meeting for this session. We met again for the Good Friday Service which was led by Rev. Paul Critchley. It was lovely to see a good crowd on this occasion. This took the form of a reflective service with several people taking part and it just flowed through without lots of introductions or intrusions. Just the right service for this solemn day.

On Easter Sunday we were blessed with a lovely congregation of 25 including some visitors whom we hope were made to feel welcome. This was a wonderful Easter Communion again led by Rev. Paul.

We are very pleased to see more village people attending our worship services as well as people from other villages. Everyone seems to mix in very well and the majority stay for fellowship with tea and coffee after the services.

We pray this will continue throughout the year and that we all feel blessed with each other's friendship.

We are still thinking of and praying for our dear friend Elinor who is still in hospital as the result of a fall on January 7th. She has had many set-backs over the past four months and we pray that the surgeons and all hospital staff can find solutions to all her problems and help her to be free of pain and become more mobile. God bless you, Elinor.

On Sunday May 11th we hope to see a chapel full for our celebration service for the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

We shall hold our usual Coffee mornings on Thursday May 29th and July 31st at 10am till 11:30. Everyone welcome.

Pauline Driver.

Hunstanton Methodist Church

The last few months have been very busy with the Lent and Easter celebrations in which all the churches in Hunstanton and the Anglican friends in Ringstead have been involved. Our *Churches Together* group now comprises six churches and throughout Lent each one hosted a Service, followed by a soup lunch. Each church welcomed us to their own style of service and invited a speaker to lead us from within their fellowship. On Good Friday, we joined in a Walk of Faith through the town, before holding an open-air service with contributions from all the churches. The early risers on Easter Sunday met together for a Sunrise Service before going to their separate services.

On Good Friday afternoon we had a Tenebrae service, led by Sue Moore. Small candles were arranged in a circle around a larger

candle representing Jesus. Everyone present read a passage leading up to the Crucifixion from John's Gospel after which they blew out a small candle. After the final passage, culminating in His death, the large candle was extinguished. A very moving service.

Since Easter, we have held a Café Service including hymns, poems and readings chosen by members of the congregation, some of whom spoke about the reason why they had made their choice. It was a joyful service with a wide selection of hymns and very tasty things to eat as well!

We have recently started a Toddlers Group on Wednesdays 9.30-11am and are hoping the numbers will grow through advertising and by word of mouth. There are lots of lovely toys needing to be played with; some of the elderly visitors to the Warm Space saw the toys when they were brought in and wanted to test them!

Future events include an Afternoon Tea Party in aid of Marie Curie Nurses, to be held on May 31st, and our Flower Festival at the end of July.

Sadly, we said farewell to Joyce Butcher, a loved member of our congregation. She was 94 and one of the 'characters' in our fellowship. She served with the WRAF during the war and had some interesting stories about those days, often told with a humorous twinkle in her eye. It is sad that she isn't here to share in the 80-year commemorations.

We send greetings to our friends in the Catholic Church as they start on a new path with their new Pope Leo XIV.

London Road

We are really pleased to say that our vestry work is now completed, and we are dry, carpeted and furnished! None of which would have been possible without the help of a grant from the Circuit. At present we are negotiating scaffolding as outside window painting and repairs are undertaken.

After a thought-provoking Good Friday service with Jackie, we were thrilled to welcome Kyla to take our Easter morning communion. After the service we all enjoyed a traditional Simnel cake.

We have a busy summer of concerts planned raising money for good causes. Some of the performers use our hall as their meeting or rehearsal space and it is lovely that they welcome the opportunity to perform and share their talents with others.

We are now looking ahead to September when we welcome our new minister Judith to the Circuit.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT LONDON ROAD

Concerts

Some details have yet to be finalized, but the events planned for the next few months are:-

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 17th May | Evening concert with KL Town band. Free entry – retirement collection - proceeds to the KL Food Bank. Drinks and light refreshments available in the interval - £1 per head to cover expenses. |
| 22nd June | U3A Shanty Singers + Singers Inspired Community Choir from Downham Market. Retiring collection - proceeds to church. Light refreshments in the interval – £1 per head to cover expenses. |
| 23rd July | Festival events. 1 hour Sitar performance from 6 p.m. and Folk singers from 8 p.m. Ticket sales – price determined by the Festival organizers. Entry on night. Drinks and light refreshments in the interval - £1 per head to cover expenses |
| 14th Sept. | Heritage Day. Concerts in the afternoon. Details to follow |
| 5 th October | Ukuleles. Retiring collection- proceeds to church. Light refreshments in the interval - £1 per head to cover expenses |

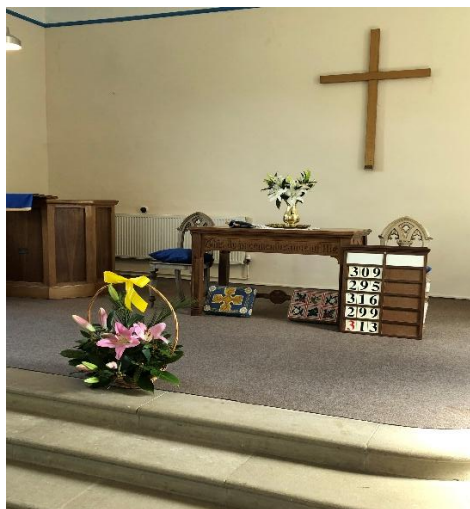
Coffee mornings

2nd Saturday from 10 a.m. in April, May and June

Pott Row

While we may not have had anything special going on this Easter, we have very much enjoyed and appreciated all our services and frequently say how fortunate we are with both Ministers and Local Preachers in this Circuit. Looking back to March, we had a very busy and successful coffee morning and bake sale for Tapping House, we raised £393.55 which is £60 more than last year. There was a lovely atmosphere on the morning with many villagers popping in and sitting to chat. We've raised almost £3000 for Tapping House since our first coffee morning 9 years ago, and there were a couple of years when we COVID meant we couldn't run such events - maybe next year we'll go over £400?!

Our next 'event' will be Fen Fest, a free event organised on Hudson's Fen by our Parish Council. Local organisations are invited to run stalls; we will sell cakes and crafts and work with St Botolph's Parish Church ARC group who will have craft activities for children. Mostly we just sit in deck chairs and chat and enjoy the fun while hoping the rain holds off! We will be raising money for Action for Children.



Stanhoe

Stanhoe members came through the cold winter months and have all been relieved to have reached the Springtime warmth and the joys of Easter celebrations.

As mentioned in our last article, we welcomed the Pilgrims from the midland section of the Student Cross organisation on Good Friday morning, on their way to Walsingham. They arrived still singing and cheerful as always, despite walking from Leicester over the previous five days. We provided Hot Cross buns, and numerous cheese scones - we had noted in the past that any not eaten then and there were wrapped in serviettes and stuck into jacket pockets, so we catered accordingly, and were rewarded when they said, "Oooh, cheese scones, we always look forward to your cheese scones, we don't get them anywhere else!" We enjoyed a short time of worship and sang a hymn together, and they left us exhausted, but inspired as usual by their commitment and faith.

On Easter Sunday, we enjoyed a further inspiring and uplifting service, led by Irene Garrard.

We look forward to 7th June, when Stanhoe village holds its annual Open Gardens festival, and, for the first time, we shall open the church, and invite people to come inside, just to see who we Methodists are and what we do. We are planning to show publicity material from some of the charities we support and possibly be prepared to explain more about our beliefs and about the origins of the Methodist church.

We continue to show our commitment to pastoral care through our Prayer Chain, and in other ways. We appreciate our varied styles of morning worship services, thanks to the wonderful preachers who somehow find their way to us on the furthest reaches of the Circuit.

Elizabeth MacLeod

TERRINGTON ST CLEMENT

Quite a lot has been happening in Terrington over the last few weeks. Our Mothering Sunday service turned out to be a family affair! We were very fortunate to have, not one, but two preachers leading the service as both Philip and Elizabeth Batstone came to do the honours! During the service both of their grandchildren, Eva and Peter, plus their daughter, Caroline took part. It was lovely to have them all there and at the end flowers were given out to the congregation.

Our monthly Film Nights have become very popular, and the decision was made to watch "The Greatest Showman" in March and then Jackie Goddard used the film as the basis for our Lent discussions – each week was based on one of the songs from the film. The story was very relevant to current situations in the world - acceptance and diversity and we had some very interesting discussions. We were joined each week by some of the folk from Clenchwarton. Our latest viewing has been "Risen", and we are looking forward to discussing the film on May 8th.

Our special Easter Coffee Morning was very successful and our regular Saturday morning coffee sessions are proving to be popular and are attracting a lot of folks from the wider community. It is lovely to be able to use one of the "stations" from the Discipleship Pathways – in other words - being Open.

Our other station for this year is Flourish and on Thursday 8th May we will have a visit from a representative of the Caring for God's Acre Charity. We are hoping for guidance from them for ways of using and utilising our outside space, which includes the graveyard.

Once again our chapel was a stopping-off point, on the Wednesday of Holy Week, for the Northern Pilgrims making their way to Walsingham for Good Friday. This is the 3rd year we have hosted them by providing drinks, biscuits and toilets as they journey through our area. They are a very happy bunch of people

from all walks of life and denominations. It is very uplifting to chat to them and then watch as they leave carrying their cross and singing as they walk off down the road on their way to Clenchwarton.

We have had some good times of fellowship at our monthly MWiB (Methodist Women in Britain) meetings when Jackie Goddard and Joella Nash have been our speakers, and we are looking forward to an afternoon of reminiscences about VE Day and wartime in the village on May 14th and a visit from Sheila Johnson in June.

In July we will have an afternoon of tea and chatter and then a break in August. We are looking forward to the Easter Offering Service at London Road on May 21st.

Ruth Hannay

On Sunday the 6th of April 2025, Peter Meaden aged 14, was received into full membership of the Methodist Church of Terrington St Clement, King's Lynn, Norfolk. The Church is part of the West Norfolk Methodist Circuit. The service was led by the Revd Jackie Goddard (as photo.)

Peter was presented with a Bible by the Head Church Steward, Ruth Hannay.

Friends, relatives and members of the congregation were also treated to a special afternoon tea, kindly provided by the family. An enjoyable and meaningful afternoon was had by all.



(Submitted by - Wendy Murray – TSC Church Steward)

Mrs Jenny Howling

I was able to enjoy an afternoon of chat, tea and cake(!) when I visited Mrs Jenny Howling to interview her for Rejoice. We discussed how she was introduced to Christianity from being christened and going to Sunday School at the Congregational Church at Long Sutton, to where she is today! Jenny was the 2nd eldest child of the family, and her dad worked as a Stonemason. He did the engraving on the gravestones. Jenny thinks she got her artistic flair from her father. She went on to use this in teaching in schools and Sunday School as well as in her career as a School Teacher.

When Jenny was at Primary, around 8 years of age, she began also going to Evening Service with her mum. She also was able to join Girls Brigade and had been desperately waiting for this event!

Jenny and her peers saved up for various Girl's Brigade Holidays by doing several odd jobs.

Influenced by schoolteachers and by the Girl's Brigade Leaders, she left school and went to college. There was an art course and a R.E course. The art course was over-subscribed, so they had to create an artistic entry. In those circumstances, Jenny's art wasn't enough to get her through and so she went on the RE course instead! There was some homesickness, not helped by the fact that her mum became ill with rheumatoid arthritis.

Jenny had had some doubts after attending a Billy Graham Event at Wisbech. However, the Deputy College Principal took them, along with a music team, to a Congregational Church which they could cycle to, from college. There was a special Harvest Festival Display with lots and lots to see and this among other things, had quite an effect on Jenny. She was later told that the R.E. Course was harder than an A-Level!

They were given a map from the Education Office, of schools with vacancies and Jenny secured a post, teaching at Gedney School. She cycled from Long Sutton to Gedney and back, every school day for 6 to 7 years.

Jenny roped her boyfriend (Ted Howling) into helping with Services at Residential Homes where children were invited to come too and play their musical instruments. This was bringing youngsters and older people together, which is often discussed in

today's world! Jenny helped at The Congregational Church Sunday School.

Jenny and Ted got married in 1964 at Terrington St Clement Methodist Church, but Jenny still helped at Long Sutton Sunday School and was still a member of the Congregational Church. Jenny and Ted's first child, Martin, was Christened there. Later when their second child Sara came along, Jenny decided she should transfer her Membership to Terrington St Clement Methodist. The current Minister at Terrington, the Revd Adrian Smith came to visit her and was in agreement.

Jenny began to help at Terrington St Clement Sunday School. Helping the older pupils prepare for the Annual Bible Contests, was one of many tasks! She admired Mrs Menzies (who also was a Sunday School Teacher) and was very talented on the piano, being able to play just about anything she was asked to do!

Jenny helped to run the Monday Club set up by her and my mum (Betty Durrant.) Rota helpers included Pauline Garrett and Jean Bartrum. Activities included games, cooking and putting on concerts. There was also a Tuck Shop! Jenny was also a member of the (Young)/ Wives Group at Terrington. Later she also helped in the Primary Department for a while at Terrington Methodist, again alongside my mum and other helpers which included Mary (Houghton). Jenny continued teaching mainstream Primary School pupils, particularly at Clenchwarton, where she taught for many years! – Wendy Murray

WIMBOTSHAM

Greetings from Wimbotsham. We are grateful for our local Preachers who go out Sunday by Sunday and take Services for us. Thank you so much.

Our Coffee morning on the 21st June we will have a display of archives and memorabilia in the Chapel(photos ;old plans etc)dating back to the early 1900s.on this weekend we are celebrating 151 years since this chapel opened .Come along, have coffee and cake, you may even see photographs of someone you know, maybe you!!

Update on Circuit Twinning with Matjinge Circuit, Zimbabwe

We are very pleased to say that there has been quite a lot of rain in Matjinge this year and the borehole that we paid for is continuing to work. Both the Methodist High School and the Manse are benefitting from this water supply. The fence around the Manse, which we also funded, will enable the Superintendent and his family to grow vegetables by keeping out the feral goats in the neighbourhood!

Sadly, in March, the Principal of the High School, Rev. Shuvirai, died suddenly. The new Superintendent, Rev. Julius Muteve, asked for our help. Funds were needed for transporting people, and for food and flowers for the burial in his hometown, which was several hours journey by car from Matjinge. We were able to send \$450 to assist with these unexpected costs and Rev. Muteve has sent his heartfelt thanks for this money.

The Matjinge Crowdfunder is still open, and we have recently received another generous donation into the Circuit Matjinge fund. The Matjinge Circuit's priority is getting a satellite internet link for the Manse and the school. We will be distributing bookmarks to encourage everyone to support our twinning by making small regular donations.



Meanwhile, the two Circuits pray for each other regularly and exchange photographs and videos. The Zimbabwean church members were particularly touched to see Rev. Mufaro Chuma's prayer in our 2024/5 Circuit Prayer Diary.

The picture shows Rev Muteve with some members of one of the churches in the Matjinge Circuit, including some ladies in their distinctive red uniforms.



West Norfolk Circuit Climate Justice Group Survey

Thank you for the brilliant response we had to our survey. It has proved a very helpful exercise. It has showed that in general churches don't realise that some of the things, which they are already doing, are steps towards becoming more environmentally friendly and could help towards them gaining an eco-church award. Climate Justice is a much broader topic than many people think and involves most of the aspects of the Methodist Way of Life, which we as a Circuit are endeavouring to explore further. Here are a few of the areas that are involved in becoming an eco-church:

- Recycling, repurposing, composting etc to reduce waste.
- Energy saving measures and water saving measures.
- Our choice of energy providers.
- Making more use of Fairtrade products and more environmentally cleaning and hygiene products. (Now more widely available in supermarket as well as specialist firms such as True Origin)
- Supporting charities, which focus care for the environment, sustainable development and social justice. (The survey revealed that churches are very generous in this area already.)
- Committing to pray for specific charities and organisations involved in these areas.
- In our worship, including services, which focus on caring for creation and all God's gifts.
- Using the links, which our church has with our community to share our concern for God's world with them in ways, such as having clearly labelled bins for different kinds of recycling.

As a result of a conversation arising from the survey, Feltwell Methodist Church has registered with the A Rocha organisation and found that they qualify for a bronze award and are well on their way to silver, so now the Circuit has three churches with an eco-church award. Furthermore, the survey has highlighted three more churches, which meet the criteria or are close to meeting the criteria for an eco-church award. I have spoken to someone from each of these churches to encourage them to register for the scheme and would like to encourage other churches to register too. The process involves registering with <https://www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk> . There is a comprehensive online survey to complete, but it gives you feedback as to whether you are bronze, silver or gold in a given area straightaway. Once begun you can update your survey with new things as you achieve them. Once you have done enough to achieve one of the eco-church award levels overall, it will tell you. **Even if you don't think, you can do what is required to qualify for an eco-church award, every step you take towards becoming more friendly to our planet and the people, who live on it, counts.** Finally doing the survey has been helpful in a way that I couldn't have anticipated. Since then, I have been asked to take on the role of Eco- Church Champion for the East Anglian District and have accepted the challenge thanks to the responses from the churches in the Circuit!

THANK YOU AGAIN

Lesley Dent (Member of West Norfolk Climate Justice Group)

Worth Thinking About

A 92-year-old, petite, well poised and proud man, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with his hair fashionably combed and shaved perfectly, even though he is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today. His wife of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, he smiled sweetly when told his room was ready. As he maneuvered his walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of his tiny room, including the eyelet curtains that had been hung on his window. 'I love it', he stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy. Mr Jones, 'you haven't seen the room; just wait'. 'That doesn't have anything to do with it', he replied. 'Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged, it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided that I love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with parts of my body that no longer work or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do.

Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes are open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away. Just for this time in my life. Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you have put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories! Thank you for your part in filling my Memory Bank. I am still depositing. Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

- 1) Free your heart from hatred.
- 2) Free your mind from worries.
- 3) Live simply.
- 4) Give more.
- 5) Expect less.

Why the flood came

And the Lord said unto Noah, "Where is the Ark which I commanded thee to build?" And Noah said unto the Lord, 'Verily, I have three carpenters off ill, the Gopher wood supplier hath let me down, yea, even though the Gopher wood has been on order for nigh upon twelve months. The damp course specialist has not turned up. What can I do, O Lord?' And the Lord said to Noah, 'I want that Ark finished even after seven days and seven nights.' And Noah said, 'It will be so'. And it was not so. And the Lord said unto Noah, 'What seemeth to be the trouble this time?' And Noah said unto the Lord, 'Mine subcontractor hath gone bankrupt. The pitch which Thou commandest me to put on the outside of the Ark hath not arrived. The plumber has gone on strike'. Noah rent his garments and said, 'The glazier departeth on holiday to Majorca – yea even though I offerest him double time. Shem, my son, who helpeth me on the Ark side of the business, hath formed a pop group with his brothers Ham and Japheth. Lord, I am undone.' And lo, it was not fulfilled. And Noah said unto the Lord, 'The gopher wood is definitely in the warehouse. Verily, and the gopher wood supplier waiteth only upon his servant to fing the invoices before he delivereth the Gopher wood unto me'. And the Lord grew angry and said, 'What about the animals? Of fowls after their kind, two of every sort I have ordered to come unto thee to keep them alive. Where, for example, are the giraffes?' And Noah said unto the Lord. 'They are expected today'. And the Lord said to Noah, 'And where are the clean beasts, the male and female, to keep their seed alive upon the face of the earth?' And Noah said, 'The van cometh on Tuesday, yea it will be so'. And the Lord said to Noah, 'How about the unicorns?' And Noah rung his hands and wept, saying, 'Lord, Lord, they are a discontinued line. Thou canst not get unicorns for love or money. The rest of the animals have been delivered to the wrong address but should arrive on Friday; save the fowls of the air, for it has been told to me that fowls of the air are sold only in half dozens'. And Noah kissed the earth and said, 'Lord, Lord, Thou knowest in Thy wisdom what it is like with delivery dates'. And the Lord, in his wisdom, said, 'Noah, my son, I knowest. Why dost thou think I have caused a flood to descend upon the earth'.

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary

June 2025 onwards

Thurs 22, 23 & 24 May Dersingham Flower Festival 10am-4pm
Fri 31st May Feltwell Stroke coffee morning @ 10am
Sun 25th May Dersingham Songs of Praise @ 3pm
Thursday 29th May Hilgay with Southery Coffee morning @ 10am-11:30am
Thurs 29th May St Faith's Messy Church @ 10:30-12:30
Sat 31st May Hunstanton Afternoon Tea Party in aid of Marie Curie Nurses
Tues 3rd June Clenchwarton Prayer meeting 9am-10am
Tues 3rd June Clenchwarton Coffee morning @ 10am-12
Fri 6th June Clenchwarton Quiz evening @ 7pm
Sat 7th June Stanhoe Open church and gardens
Sat 7th June St Faith's Coffee morning @ 10:30am-12:30am
Sat 7th June Downham FenSong The Iron Man @ 6:30pm
Sun 8th June Downham FenSong The Iron Man @ 2:30pm
Fri 13th June Downham Messy Church @ 4:30pm
Sat 21st June Wimbotsham coffee morning with display of chapel archives and memorabilia
Sat 21st June Clenchwarton talk about life in the Police
Sat 21st June St Faith's Summer Fayre @12-4pm
Sun 22nd June London Road U3A Shanty Singers + Singers Inspired Choir @ 2:30pm
Tues 1st July Clenchwarton Prayer meeting 9am-10am
Tues 1st July Clenchwarton Coffee morning @ 10am-12
Fri 4th July Clenchwarton Quiz evening @ 7pm
Sat 5th July St Faith's Coffee morning @ 10:30am-12:30am
Sat 5th July Sy Faith's Teddy Bear's Picnic @ 2pm-4pm
Fri 11th July Downham Messy Church @ 4:30pm
Sat 19th July Clenchwarton talk
Sun 20th July St Faith's Centre Stage Swing Band @ 3pm
Wed 23rd July London Road Sitar and Folk Singers performances @ 8pm
Sat 26th July Dersingham Coffee Morning in aid of Methodist World Mission
Thurs 31st July Hilgay with Southery Coffee morning @ 10am-11:30am
Fri 1st August Clenchwarton Quiz evening @ 7pm
Sat 2nd August St Faith's Coffee morning @ 10:30am-12:30am
Tues 5th August Clenchwarton Prayer meeting 9am-10am
Tues 5th August Clenchwarton Coffee morning @ 10am-12
Fri 8th August Downham Messy Church @ 4:30pm
Sat 9th August St Faith's Big Afternoon Tea Party @ 2pm-4:30pm
Sat 16th August Clenchwarton talk

Deadline for articles for the September edition of Rejoice is August 9th.