

Rejoice!

September/October/November 2025



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

Superintendent's Letter

Dear friends

Happy New Methodist Year!! Hasn't this come round quickly – it only seems like a couple of months ago that September was last here and here it is again!!! I hope that you have had a lovely summer – we've certainly had the sunshine this year, haven't we? And I think we could really do with some rain now...

September brings about new starts and we are delighted that Reverend Judith Bell has joined us here in the West Norfolk Circuit. We enjoyed a wonderful time a praise and prayer at her welcome service at St Faith's, Gaywood – 100 people were there to welcome both Judith and Alex to King's Lynn and the communities at St Faith's, The Beacon, London Road and Highgate.



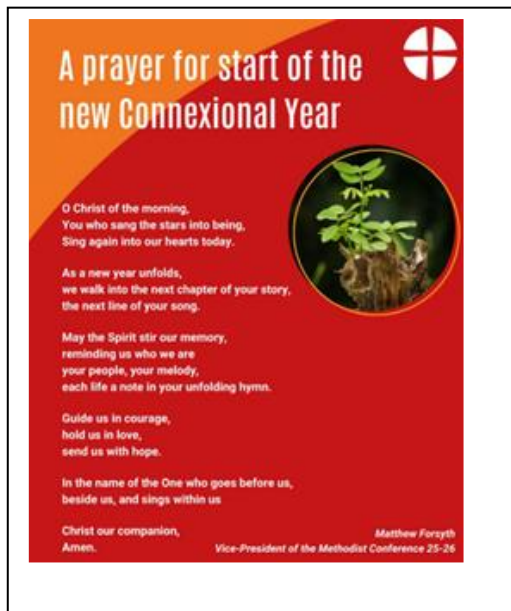
The service was led by members of the Circuit Staff and Reverend Helen Hollands, our District Chair here in the East Anglia Methodist Church preached and led the liturgy welcoming Judith amongst us. Part of the liturgy, whh Judith spoke in response to questions asked of her, invited us all to be involved, to work alongside and to join her in the Ministry and Mission of the Kingdom of God within Circuit. May we all –

each one of us – join in with the task of sharing the news of God's Kingdom of love, joy, peace and hope with the communities in which we serve.

As we look to the year ahead, I am delighted that Reverend Jackie Goddard has agreed to continue to lead us as we seek to instil the Methodist Way of Life Discipleship Pathways within the life of our circuit and churches as work hand in hand with God and each other. I think this work, combined with using the Circuit Meeting to do the necessary business we have to do as trustees and using that time to also explore as Circuit and build each other up in our mission is vitally important for us all and I hope that as many folk within our churches will engage with is as we join God in his mission amongst us.

I finish with a prayer for the start of the new Methodist year, written by the Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Matthew Forsyth.

May God bless you all over the coming year,



Rev Paul

Jacob, Sam and Benji.

Frontline Walk – 2026 and 2027!!

As many of you know, I like to fundraise in my spare time for the Army Benevolent Fund. I have undertaken fundraising events for the charity over the last 9 years, beginning in 2016 with my very first 100km trek along the WW1 Western Front and have managed to raise nearly £20,000 for the charity doing a number of these incredible treks.

I will be celebrating my 50th birthday next September and have decided that I need to challenge myself to something spectacular to celebrate this milestone and to raise much needed funds for such a fantastic charity.

I am aiming to walk 100km once again along the WW1 Western Front from Lochnagar Crater to the Menin Gate in October 2026 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of my first trek with the charity. I am also aiming to walk a 100km trek in March 2027 in Borneo, following the route of the Sandakan Death March of WW2 which saw Allied Prisoners of War made to march between two different PoW Camps. I will also be summiting Mount Trusmadi, the second highest peak in Malaysian Borneo.

In order to undertake these tasks, to challenge myself and my abilities and to raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund, I am setting myself a fundraising target of £6,000 with the aim of raising this money by December 2026.

I have some ideas for fundraising events, but if anyone or any churches would be willing to help with an event, such as coffee mornings, concerts or any other such event, or to collect donations

if I were to come and talk about my previous treks with the charity, I would be immensely grateful!

Please do let me know!!

Rev Paul



Hello from Rev Judith



It is a joy to be joining the ministerial team in the West Norfolk Circuit. Alex and I have been so grateful for the welcome we have received, including the efforts made from across the circuit to attend my Welcome Service.

Our move this summer has been a relatively short hop in Methodist terms - crossing the county from Great Yarmouth in the Norfolk Broads Circuit

where I served my probation as a Methodist Presbyterian before being Received Into Full Connexion and Ordained in June this year.

My previous professional life was in lay ministry for Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission in central London. This experience affirmed my sense of call and opened my eyes to an appreciation of Methodism's heritage. I believe that the love of God is for all, and that our love for God and neighbour should shape every aspect of our lives. I look forward to exploring with you how we might live this out in practice at this time and in this place as society and the world around us continues to evolve.

In my free time I enjoy dressmaking, knitting and crochet. It's not uncommon for me to be wearing a garment I've made, but the long-term goal of making my whole wardrobe is a long way off - I've got lots of further skills to learn!



Alex and I are joined in the manse by our 17-year-old Cockapoo, Molly. Energetic walks for her are now a thing of the past, but she's already enjoying exploring the woods near the manse.

Rev. Judith Bell

Praying together in the Circuit

Streams of Life-Giving water

On the last and most important day of the festival Jesus stood up and said in a loud voice "Whoever is thirsty should come to me, and whoever believes in me should drink. As the scripture says, 'Streams of life- giving water will pour out from his side'". Jesus said this about the Spirit which all who believed in him were going to receive. At that time the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not been raised to glory John 7:37-39

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,
save me from its guilt and power.
[Augustus Toplady 1776]

Revive us, Lord is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us Lord,
the world is waiting equip your Church to spread the light.
[Elizabeth Ann Head 1850-1936]

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad His wonderful Name
the Name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
His Kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
And still he is nigh, his presence we have;
The great congregation his triumphs shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

[Charles Wesley]

God is working his purpose out, as year succeeds to year;
God is working his purpose out and the time is drawing near;
Nearer and nearer comes the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

[Arthur Campbell Ainger 1894]

Not by might or by power,
but by my Spirit; says the Lord Almighty
Zechariah . 4: 6

Lord, as part of your worldwide church we pray for your Holy Spirit to revive us and enable us to be totally dedicated to your purpose for such a time as this. In your mercy hear our prayers for all people everywhere, in every nation, every place, to come to know your love for them demonstrated in the giving of your Son, our Saviour and Redeemer Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

We pray for your world, for an end to conflicts, for truth, justice and peace to abound, for the healing of the nations. For healing of physical wounds, for those who have been traumatised by things they have seen, for the bereaved, for lives so suddenly taken.

Lord hear our prayers for the West Norfolk Circuit, part of your worldwide church. May we love you with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and our worship honour you, 'Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name, bring an offering and come before him. Worship the Lord in the splendour of His Holiness.' Psalm 29:

As we come together to worship may our churches be touching places where heaven touches earth, and the Holy Spirit moves amongst us and within us.

We pray for prayer meeting throughout the circuit, for Bible studies and fellowship meetings. Lord in our outreach may we love our neighbours and welcome strangers.

May we be ready at all times to explain the hope we have in you.

As we meet people just where they are may we engage with them and be channels of your love and peace.

Help us to listen and pray for them with or without words and bring them before your throne of grace.

We pray for our Ministers, our Leadership team, the ministry of all believers. Our churches in every location, all who serve in each place.

For your calling upon lives and those who have responded.

We pray for Prayer Shawl ministries, the Circuit prayer diary, for Prayer Chain ministries and individual prayer warriors.

Lord for your presence with every person in our churches and areas of outreach. For those with health problems, those with important decisions to make. For children starting school or moving on to other schools, for young people starting university. Father, we place each one and those who care for them into your hands.



CLENCHWARTON

Clenchwarton Methodist Church is still host to a number of events throughout the year involving not just chapel members but the whole community.

The talks take place on the third Saturday of the month starting at 2.30pm. They have covered a variety of topics, and I have found them all interesting and in some cases thought provoking. In September the talk is on “Teaching in Afghanistan”, in October “The Public Artworks of North-East England” and in November “The Environment and how we can save it”.

There will be a Craft Fair on the 8th November which will include baby clothes – good as new stall so if you know someone who is expecting or just had a baby you know where to come.

The Christmas Concert is on the 6th December. Wreath Making takes place on the 28th November for which there is a £15 fee and limited numbers. The Christingle Making Workshop is on the 20th December and a day later we hold our annual Christingle Service.

We have regular quizzes on a Friday evening starting at 7.00pm on the first Friday of the month.

On a Tuesday Morning between 9.00 and 10.00am we are joined by Rev Jackie Goddard for our Prayer Meeting and once a month this is followed between 10.00am and 11.00am by our coffee morning. A number of groups use our chapel during the week including a Dog Training Group, the Art Group, and a Craft Group. Monthly on a Sunday evening Rev Jackie Godard runs a Story Cafe in which we are invited to hone our story making skills in imagining scenes from the Bible. It can be great fun. We are looking forward to our Christmas Party which this year is being hosted and arranged by Terrington Chapel on the 10th December.

We also provide a Sunday Service which varies in style but is constant in its friendliness.

All of the events in the Chapel have free entry with tea or coffee available. Please come along to any of the events at our chapel and you can find out more details by ringing Grahame on 01553 769 819.

DERSINGHAM

Our Flower Festival in May was, as usual, a resounding success. Year 1 and 2 pupils from Dersingham Primary School opened the Festival on Thursday morning with some spirited singing and recitations. Reception children opened the proceedings on Friday morning, singing to us about building and growing. The chapel was very well attended by families and friends for both occasions.

The many colourful and various window displays effectively illustrated different biblical occupations from Gardener, Tax Collector, Fishermen, Disciples, to Builder, Creator and many others. The displays showed the imagination and ingenuity of the creators with some magnificent creations containing a wide variety

of flowers. One display of the history of the Dersingham Methodist Church, created considerable interest and comment. The Dersingham Primary School children had produced their own displays, on the theme 'Noah the Builder' and these were much admired.



We completed our celebrations with a Songs of Praise on Sunday afternoon led by Revd. Jackie Goddard. The service was well attended by friends from the Circuit as well as from the village and a number of visitors. Revd. Rich gave an update on the plans to provide internet access to the Matjinge school (the circuit project at the time) and an amount of £158.50 was raised for the project.



The Flower Festival as a whole was very successful, and many lovely comments were made on the theme and on the displays. The stalls and refreshments were, as always, very popular. We were very pleased with the monies raised, which has enabled us to replenish church funds and also to make a donation of £500 to The Leprosy Mission which it is hoped will provide three community farms.

On behalf of the membership of Dersingham Chapel I would like to record sincere and heartfelt thanks to Elizabeth Batstone and Marion Kemp and their team of helpers and display creators for their

hard work in producing yet again such a memorable occasion. Some photographs are included.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan was the theme of our MHA (Methodist Homes for the Aged) service on 8th June.

The Circuit is looking forward to the arrival of Reverend Judith Bell and her welcome service will have taken place by the time this issue is published. We hope to be able to welcome Judith to our pulpit sometime in the future.

As I write this our local farmer is getting ready to harvest the ripened barley that we have watched growing, from small green shoots to a glorious golden brown, in the field behind our house. We at Dersingham are also looking ahead to our own Harvest Festival service on 21 September which will be taken by Rev. Paul Critchley. Our harvest gifts will, as is now customary, heavily feature tinned goods, packaged food items and toiletries suitable for their ultimate destination, the Hunstanton Food Bank.

Funds from our September coffee morning on 27 September will be sent to Tools with a Mission, a Christian charity which sends useable, unwanted tools, to various countries in the developing world, principally in Africa.

Downham Market

We started June with performances from two wonderful groups. Our children's drama group FenSong performed The Iron Man on our renovated stage. Their final performance on Pentecostal Sunday was closely followed by a Pentecost celebration with the Ecumenical Choir led by Cate Waters. They rehearse in our building, but this is the first time we have hosted them for a performance.

On 18th July we said a sad farewell to John Roust. John served our church for many years, taking on numerous roles over the years.



On 13th July we celebrated our 59th church anniversary. FenSong joined us with a Happy Birthday banner and shared research they had done into the history of the church. On the 30th July the Ladies Friendship group celebrated their 75th Anniversary. Downham Market at

one time had a number of Methodist congregations, which merged to form one church in 1966.

Messy Church continues to provide a church outreach where parents and children can get messy with art, games, drama and food. It meets once a month on the second Friday of the month.

Boys' Brigade has a national sleep over weekend in October so this year instead of a sleepover at Church the 1st Downham Market Company are attending 3Generate at the NEC in Birmingham. This is a huge event for young people, aged 4 - 18, organised by the Methodist Church over the weekend 3 - 5 October with loads of activities for everyone to get involved in. It should be a great experience for the boys. They get to sleep in tents but inside the NEC so it should be warm and cosy!

Ralph Perkins – Patriarch of Downham

What connects the voice of God, a knight, John Wesley, the voice of the Devil, a hornet and Ebenezer Scrooge? They have all been parts played by Downham Market's very own Ralph Perkins, a man of many talents along with a certain amount of hidden rebellion – this is a man who had to be talked out of dressing up like the Beatles for a family wedding after all.

Although not quite dating back to the Stone Age, Ralph has been part of Downham Market since his arrival in 1973. Before then he was teaching in Dudley. It was in that town where Ralph's faith really developed, to which he accredits a minister who ran a young adults group and encouraged them to not only attend but also take part in church services. It was also here where he met his future wife Sylvia, when he was invited to a service at the local Baptist church and Sylvia asked him back for coffee afterwards. Ralph said “being an innocent little feller, along

I went and have never managed to escape the web that was spun for me.” The rest, as they say, is history.

Ralph has taught science for about 55 years, originally as a classroom teacher and then moving on to tutoring individual pupils, a job he continues to the present day. Over this time, Ralph has seen many changes in the education system but none of which have been an improvement he reckons, with too much focus on exams taking the joy out of learning the subject. His teaching has been fulfilling especially in those “light bulb moments” when students finally understand, and it has also led to some uncommon scenarios such as being offered “wacky baccy” whilst doing research for the school in the 80s. For Ralph, his faith and the science are not incompatible, as science is investigating the world which God has created.

In the present day, Ralph views himself as chief dogsbody within the church, his only worry being that all the jobs take away from time spent doing what he terms “real” church work such as visiting people. However, as part of his real church work, Ralph is also a Worship Leader and has been for many years. Highlights of this include his training under Rev. Douglas Morris who was an inspiration to Ralph and trying to enable other people's lives to become alive under the joy and warmth of God's love, a task in which Ralph says he would be lost without Sylvia, he would never be able to do what he does without her.

Ralph's favourite quote in life is “you are only mature once you can give out more love than you need receive.” What a message for us all that is.

Jenny Sargent

Martin Chilvers – Reflections as he leaves Downham Market

In October 2003, England was about to win the Rugby World Cup and we were about to start a new life in Downham Market. Our daughters were 10 & 15 and Bridget was about to join me on the Staff at the (then) High School in town.

It is rather more than a cliché to say how those years have passed amazingly quickly. But cliches are also often true. When we joined the Methodist Church, Andrew Sankey & Matt Finch were the 2 ministers and since then we have enjoyed the successive (and successful) ministries of Douglas Morris, Maurice Stafford and now Paul Critchley: each has brought distinctive skills, commitment and enthusiasms to the Church and Circuit.

For us, the years have brought their fair share of sorrow and joy: we have lost my mum aunt, father-in-law, brother-in-law and two of our daughters' godparents. We have gained 5 grandchildren, ranging from 3 months to 17 years in age. We will always be grateful for the fantastic friends who ran Sunday School from which the boys, Thomas, Anthony and John benefited so much.

From the outset, there was a strong sense of fellowship within the church community which we appreciated, and we recall Harvest Suppers, Craft and Christmas Fairs as well as at least one stage appearance. I was soon persuaded to become a Sidesman (in a team with Keith Miller, Peggy Pritchard and Norman Jelliman) which covered morning and evening services- we were expected to arrive by 9 am for the Morning Service! I was later Secretary to the Church Council, server at Communion and one of the "Greeters."

With playing and now umpiring for Pelicans, many years as Vice Chair of the Heritage Society, joining Rotary (a strong Methodist connection with John Bennett, Bill Nunn, Peter Macey, Tony Firrell & Bryan Bradley all sometime members) and West Norfolk Cricket Lovers' Society, there was never any chance of being bored!

I intended to stay clear of mentioning names but have already failed so will not attempt to do so any longer. I must mention Ralph and Sylvia Perkins who have been stalwarts of the church as well as so supportive of us over the years, Heinz and Vera Heisler, near neighbours as well as involved in the Heritage Society and Norman Jelliman, always a source of wisdom and advice. And who can forget the wonderful Sharmie? So wise, caring and thoughtful- and I still recall her 100th Birthday Celebrations in the Town Hall when there was such a long queue to see her. Joyce Dent, too, is wonderful- kind, concerned and caring among so many virtues and Brian Bannister who preached at the Baptist Chapel where my parents were married. Without doubt, I have missed many other wonderful folk – I can only apologise.

So, here endeth an imperfect and no doubt incomplete reflection as we move onto the next stage of our lives. We wish you every blessing and hope to stay in touch. We're not far away- do pop to see us!

Martin & Bridget Chilvers

chilvers50@aol.com

FELTWELL METHODIST CHURCH COMMUNITY HALL & GARDEN

Firstly, we must celebrate the welcome of two new members to Feltwell. Alison has transferred from Cambridge, and her husband has expressed a desire to become a member, and we will officially welcome them both on Sunday 19 October.

We continue to review ourselves to see how we can engage with the community.

Some of us ran a skittle alley at the village fete. We had a poor response from the community with only half a dozen players all afternoon. Brigitte's connection with the village bowls team helped us to secure the necessary hay bales to frame the target end.

Monday Club & Tuesday Club held a Free Activity Day for the village on Sunday afternoon 10 August. We provided free tea & coffee, cans of pop and alcohol-free lager, as well as some lovely home-made cakes. Some visitors came for the refreshments, others, including children, had a go at skittles(bowling), table football, table tennis, snooker, pool, darts, air-hockey & bagatelle. We didn't get out the indoor hockey as that would have cleared the hall.

We recently had a visit and a talk by Nichola Child from Tapping House Hospice. We are hoping to be able to support their work in Feltwell by accepting referrals for support through the "Compassionate Community Scheme". We will also try to engage people through the Social Prescribers to work with us to envisage and create a new garden which may include.....??

We have planned and booked our Christmas Craft Fair for Saturday 18 October at 10am. I posted this on several craft fair sites across the UK and within three days had over 20 requests for a pitch. I include a poster for this event and respectfully ask that each of you who read this can share it with somebody who hasn't seen it, and then, of course, come to the fair! Crafts will include crochet & fabric, artwork, hair accessories, kids jewellery, wax melts, lace wax & lasso, re-imagined old clocks, beadwork, decoupage, cards & engraved items, woodcraft, sweets, cups, glasses, cakes. This is just a sample of the crafts on offer, ideal for Christmas presents with a difference.

SUNDAYS – our day to relax and reflect on our lives, where they've been and where they should be going with guidance from The Holy Bible. Songs, Prayers & Refreshments available.

11.00am – Noon – Community Fellowship group

Celebrate Harvest in Song with us 21 September

If you would like to join us for lunch,

Please let us know by Sunday 14 September.



We have just enjoyed a family lunch in the hall after our morning fellowship. 11 of us shared a roast ham, home-grown spinach, and carrots, new potatoes, followed with blackberry & apple pie and custard with blackberries from the chapel meadow garden and apples from the chapel neighbour who put their apples out to share. So, we shared a pie with them too as it was their apples!

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

**SATURDAY
18 OCTOBER**

**FROM
10.00 *AM***

COMMUNITY HALL

Bell Street, FELTWELL IP26 4AL

OVER

20

STALLS

St. Faith's, Gaywood

Although it was sad to see the closure of South Wootton Chapel, at St. Faith's we were very grateful to receive South Wootton's copies of *Singing the Faith* but, more particularly, to have returned to us the Communion Table which once adorned the old Gaywood Methodist Chapel and was gifted to South Wootton when the Anglican/Methodist Sharing commenced here in 1973. We feel it has come home! There is a commemorative plate on the table which states that it was given in memory of G. M. Hares. Interestingly, the vestibule at the entrance to St. Faith's Church was also given in memory of Gertrude Maria Hares when she died in 1955. We believe Gertrude was the mother of Marjorie Barrett. Gertrude attended St. Faith's while Marjorie attended Gaywood Methodist Church with her husband Leonard. We think that this is why both churches received a gift in her memory. Long-standing Methodists will remember Marjorie and Leonard Barrett as stalwarts of Gaywood Methodist Church and known throughout the Methodist Circuit, District and Connexion.



Here at St Faith's, we have had the joy of seeing four of our youngsters whom we see regularly at our Sunday services, baptised. Tash and her sister Abby and Pip and his younger brother, Robin.

Revd Kyla and her husband Pete share the rectory garden for BBQs with our youth group, Gateway Club and our Scout group. The 5th King's Lynn Scout Group has always had a close connection with St. Faith's, the Group being formed in the late 1960s and later recognised by an ecumenical symbol on their scarves. As part of belated 50th anniversary celebrations, members of St. Faith's congregation were invited to a BBQ with the Group and their families in the garden. It was lovely to see the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts mixing together and demonstrating some of their activities.

Other summer events have been a concert with The Centre Stage Swing Band in July and an Arts and Craft Exhibition in the Church Rooms at the beginning of August.

We welcome Rev Judith Bell to our Circuit at a service at St Faith's on Thursday 28th August with the District Chair, Rev Helen Hollands and Revd Paul Critchley officiating. We are greatly looking forward to Rev Judith's ministry among us.

As autumn approaches, there will be Harvest preparations which we celebrate on Sunday 28th September when we shall be collecting for the King's Lynn Food Bank and donating vegetable produce to the Night Shelter. St. Faith's Day will be held on Sunday 5th October and our Resurrection and Hope Service at 4pm on Sunday 2nd November when we remember those who have died during the year.

No doubt we shall see the church filled to capacity again for the service on Remembrance Sunday 9th November when we expect over 100 young people from our own and other local uniformed groups parading for this very special service, along with local dignitaries. It is always a moving event.

Our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 22nd November and then we celebrate Advent Sunday on 30th November. Our Gift Service will follow on Sunday 14th December when suitable gifts for young children are donated to our local Action for Children representative.

A lot is happening. Don't forget our coffee mornings held on the first Saturday of each month from 10 am until noon in the Church Rooms.

Joan Greening

Heacham

We have been very pleased to welcome some new regular attendees to our Sunday morning services, it is nice to see the congregation grow, and to welcome new friends. Plus as usual during the summer months we are blessed with the company of many holidaymakers – some are regular caravanners.

On the 30th August we are holding our Songs of Praise event, to be followed by refreshments and we hope our local residents will join us. Hymns have been chosen by members of the congregation.

Our service on 7 th September is focussed on one of our chosen Charities this year, Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). MAF is the world's largest humanitarian air operator. For over 75 years they

have been flying light aircraft over jungles, mountains, swamps and deserts to enable more than 1,500 aid, development and mission organisations to bring medical care, emergency relief and long-term development. Their pilots and personnel deliver relief workers, doctors, pastors, school books, food, and medicines - everything that can only be safely and speedily delivered by air.

Our regular events, Toddler Group, Crafty Crowd and Fellowship meetings continue to be well attended. Although sadly, owing to very low attendance, we took the decision stop holding open Church on a Tuesday. However, Rev Ncube is always available to speak to people and his contact details are provided.

We are busy planning for our Harvest events and, dare I mention it, Christmas. This year we are planning to hold a Nativity Display over the weekend of the 12th - 14th December, to be rounded off with our annual Carol Service.

Highgate

Heritage Open Day in King's Lynn takes place on Sunday 14th September,

We will be open from 12.00 and hope to welcome people. Light refreshments are offered and some pictures from the past on display.

At 3.00 pm we have our Worship service which will be a Songs of Praise, and we hope some will come and join in choosing and singing hymns and worship songs.

One Thursday, some time ago, when we had our weekly outreach, something special happened. A couple who were on holiday had just arrived at the train station and came by the Chapel. The lady grew up in the Highgate area, she then moved to America and was retracing steps of her childhood years. She

told us this was where she came to Sunday School, and she was so pleased to come in and overjoyed we were open and 'alive'. It's always a joy to welcome people in and trust that it will be special for them. It's not just coming into a building; it's been and is a place of worship and witness and long may it continue.

Hunstanton Methodist Church

We are into the holiday season, and it is lovely to welcome returning and new holiday makers who come to join us for worship and stay for coffee afterwards. There is always something of interest to learn from people belonging to other fellowships, although occasionally the conversations go on for so long that we need someone to call 'time'!

Our Afternoon Tea event catered for and organised by Val Fisher to raise money for Marie Curie, was highly successful and £416 was raised. Visitors enjoyed a delicious tea and gave generously.

This year's theme for the Flower Festival was Musicals, there were some beautiful, imaginative arrangements created by the very talented contributors. The chosen charities this year were the Stroke Association and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. The donations came to, £420, thanks again to the generosity of the donors.

In the hope of becoming more ecologically friendly, we have created an insect hotel- not quite The Ritz, but there are some residents, also a hedgehog house, by a hole in the fence for access. These, along with plants that attract butterflies and bees are a small contribution to helping the natural world survive.

The Toddlers Group has continued with a steady core of regular attenders; it will restart after the school holiday. Three youngsters come to our Sunday school and have made joyful contributions

toward the end of the service, when they come into the church and show the congregation what they have learnt, sometimes by singing. We pray that we can attract more children to both these groups.

We are looking forward to the second Songs of Praise on the green at Hunstanton. The Churches Together Group has arranged it with representatives from each one contributing. As last year, the Salvation Army Band will be accompanying. All we need is good weather to bring people out.

London Road

Inspired by several other chapels in the Circuit we have embarked upon becoming an Eco church. As others have observed we have been doing following many of the recommendations for a number of years under the guise of saving money. We are well on our way to applying for our bronze award. In the process we have begun to use a small paved and sheltered area at the side of the hall to encourage wildlife. We have installed a water butt and begun some planting. Bird boxes and insect hotels are on the 'to do' list and a log pile and bird feeders are already attracting visitors. We hope that the Squirrels will plant some pots up with bulbs when they return in the autumn.

We have been considering our Discipleship Pathway over the spring and summer and will be working on our prayer life through re-creating a London Road prayer diary, a venture that was started some years ago but had lapsed and not been updated. As we are to be blessed with a new minister and our partnership with Highgate is now established it seemed to be a good thing to

provide the opportunity for us to pray daily for our, now wider, church family.

We would like to thank Jackie for her support and pastoral care over the past year. It has been a joy to work with her

Pott Row

At the end of May we participated in our village's Fen Fest, setting up a stall on Hudson's Fen next to our friends from St Botolph's church. Both stalls raised money for Action for Children as well as for the two churches... and we sold a lot of our cakes! Putting the money from Fen Fest together with the money that comes from our Action for Children boxes, we were able to send a cheque from over £1000 for that very worthwhile charity. Last weekend we went back to Hudson's Fen with a carload to sell at the regular Saturday car boot sale - we made £100 for Chapel Funds and had a lovely time meeting up with friends (human and canine) from the village and further afield.

As Autumn approaches we are looking and planning ahead. Harvest Festival and Chapel Anniversary will be celebrated on 27th and 28th September. On Saturday 27th we are going to have a coffee morning and try to 'Share the Love'... we are getting crafty and creating ornaments, lavender bags, gifts etc in the shape of hearts... we hope people will buy these for £2, to be split between the chapel and King's Lynn Night Shelter. We will also have cakes, biscuits and be open from 10am - 12.30 for teas and coffees, so do come along if you are able to. Sunday 28th will be our Harvest Festival Service, we hope to decorate the chapel with food that can then be donated to the Night Shelter. Another date for your diaries is our annual Christmas Tree Festival - the church will be open from 10am - 5pm on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th December, so come along to see the trees. Of course, there will be coffee and cakes for sale as well! On the Sunday 7th the church will be open from 10am, and we will have our Carol service at 3pm. We always enjoy and appreciate seeing people from the wider circuit at these events, so do come along if you are able to.

Stephen Watts has been a LP for 70 years, a certificate will be presented at a Circuit service at Pott Row on Sunday 5th October at 3.00 pm, followed by tea and refreshments. Please come and celebrate this special achievement.

And finally - as requested - interviews with some Pott Row Chapel regulars.

Firstly, **Stephen and Beryl Watts**. Both are long time members of Pott Row, and they have done a huge amount for the chapel over the years. Stephen has been a local preacher for 70 years, and while officially he no longer preaches his thoughtful contributions to our Local Arrangement Services are much appreciated. He was born in Terrington St Clement but moved to Church Farm at Bawsey when he was 7. Last year at our Harvest Local Arrangement he told us about his memories of harvests at Bawsey as a child. Beryl has masterminded various chapel events for years - the regular luncheon club, she used to organise the Christmas Tree Festival and still provides us with cleverly decorated trees. Plus, it is Beryl who has to empty and count all the money from the Action for Children boxes!

Secondly, **Fred and Beryl Woodhouse**. Fred and Beryl have been worshipping with us for about 15 years - they came to us from Luton via Ten Mile Bank. Fred has worked hard keeping the chapel in a good state of repair - last summer he helped clean out the shed, he has mended most of our chairs over the years and he still has the very important job of changing the batteries in the clocks! His wife Beryl was a mainstay of our catering for many years and has also been very involved in the Christmas Tree Festival - one year she knitted a scene of Carol singing mice! She has already changed the number on the bunting that we put up in September for Harvest and Chapel Anniversary - this year we celebrate 149 years!

Stanhoe

A new venture for us was opening the church on the day of Stanhoe Open Gardens, purely to demonstrate who we are and what we believe and how we live out our faith. We provided a welcome shelter from pouring rain, if nothing else!

Many people commented that this was the first time they had been inside the church and had often wondered about it. Others had memories of attending Sunday School many years ago.

We had an opportunity to greet and chat to everyone who came in. Some came in because they had heard the music - we were very grateful to Sheila Johnson, Heather Titcomb, (of our own circuit) and Anthony Tilke (a friend), who, for an hour each, played a selection of hymns and other music.

As usual we have enjoyed uplifting and thoughtful worship services from our own Minister, Rev. Rich, and various Local Preachers. A particularly lively service was led by Val Fisher and her young friends from Hunstanton, much appreciated.

Our Harvest Festival Service is planned for 28th September and will be led by Elizabeth Batstone.

TERRINGTON ST CLEMENT

Since the beginning of this year, it has been good to see a slight increase in the number of folks attending the weekly Saturday coffee mornings. Unfortunately, this has not increased our Sunday attendance, but it is encouraging to see that folk within the village have made the Saturday mornings a focal point for them. Our

“themed” coffee mornings continues to be well supported and one lady, who has recently moved to the village, even made a special anniversary cake.

We have some exciting plans for the “other” room in the church, making it more of a place of reflection. We are using this room much more for small meetings and Bible study, and also as a place to go and sit to have coffee after services. Reverend Jackie Goddard is being creative with the various notice boards, and our bookcase has been moved there ready for people to bring and swap books. Also, our jigsaw trolley is now in position and there is a jigsaw puzzle “on the go”, (people can assist in completing whenever they come to the church) and we’re hoping to create a small model railway reflecting the Methodist Way of Life and the 12 stations on the Discipleship Pathway. Terrington has decided to focus on OPEN and FLOURISH. Currently, engineering work (or rather our lovely weather} has halted these plans with Autumn being a more suitable time to develop it. So - watch this space!

The visit from the representatives of the charity “Care of God’s Acre” was very positive and we received some invaluable feedback from them. It is good to know how much wildlife – animals such as hedgehogs and deer, as well as numerous birds, insects and flowers are inhabiting the graveyard. We have been given lots of suggestions as to how we move forward to enable the church and the community to enjoy this green space.

We are looking forward to our Harvest celebrations when Jenny Sargent will lead worship on 5th October. As usual, items for the Food Bank will be collected and donated and the following Saturday we will have our Harvest Coffee Morning.

Thoughts are now turning to Advent, and this year Jackie is planning an evening service on the first Sunday in Advent. It is always good to try something different and although our congregation is not huge, we are always ready to try new things and different ways of worshipping.

Judith Semmons and Ruth Hannay

WIMBOTSHAM

The anniversary Coffee morning went well. It was good to see visitors from Downham and also from North Norfolk who brought greetings from the Rev. Ralph Webb and his wife Gill. They were in this Circuit middle to late 1980's. They are in their ninety's now. Mary Davies brought the Archives and displayed them in the church ie. photographs, old plans and events past. It was good to be reminded of all the Ministers who have passed through this Circuit, also Local Preachers, and the chapels that were still open. Thank you, Mary. The September Coffee morning will be for Charity. It's a mental Health Charity called 'The 856 Foundation', please come and support, there are so many people suffering from Mental Health especially the young people. Other activities are going well. Church of England hire our schoolroom for a supper every month, book Club and a Fitness class.

Greetings to everyone from Wimbotsham

Mary Rose

Update on Circuit Twinning with Matjinge Circuit, Zimbabwe

The Circuit Climate and Justice Group is very pleased to say that thanks to your donations, satellite internet has now been installed at Matjinge High School and at the manse. This was followed a few weeks later by the purchase of 6 Hewlett Packard computers, 5 for the school and 1 for the manse. The school previously had only 3 computers!

We have received thanks from Rev Julius Muteve and all the children, with some videos of the computers in use and the celebrations, which are available to watch on our Crowdfunder! In return, we have sent some videos of the recent Flower Festival celebration service at Hunstanton.

We have been able to claim Gift Aid on some donations, so there is still money in the fund to help with the ongoing costs of having satellite internet.

We are sure that the purchase of these computers will help the 15–18-year-old children at the school to become more familiar with using a computer, and therefore enhance their chances of finding employment or going to university, when they leave the school.

In March, the Circuit is having a visit from Rev Andrew Ashdown, who is the lead for Africa at Methodist World Missions. There will be a lunch and a music service at London Rd Methodist Church, on the afternoon of Sunday March 8th. Please put this in your diaries. We hope to hear more from Matjinge Circuit and from Matjinge High School during this service.

Rosemary Rayner

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/west-norfolk-methodist-circuit-1136177>

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.



East Anglia Methodist Heritage Centre – David Elvidge

In 2023 the former Primitive Methodist Chapel in Wighton near Wells was reopened as a Methodist Heritage centre. It had been my intention to visit, but for various reasons I could not do this until July 2025. My day commenced by catching the Coasthopper bus in Hunstanton on a glorious summer day. The scenery during the journey was breathtaking, as was the Norfolk vernacular architecture. Joy of joys, there was a bus stop at Buddell's Lane, and it only took 5 minutes to walk to the chapel.

I was warmly greeted by Norma and Sarah, duty custodians on the day (there are other volunteers too). My first impression on entering the chapel was wow! It is light and airy and very tastefully decorated. The pews have been pushed together in pairs and boards placed on top to form display areas. It was easy to get around the displays and view items readily. There were also displays on the walls and some glass cabinets containing china items.

The front of the chapel had a number of flags, lectern and a rocking chair that had belonged to that great modern hymn writer. Fred Pratt Green. Also, at the front was a harmonium and a goodly number of various Methodist hymnals. At the time of my visit there was a comprehensive display commemorating the work of that great East Anglian architect, Clifford Dann, the subject of a talk when the East Anglia Methodist Historical Society met at Downham Market.

The Heritage Centre is of course largely about East Anglia, but there are also displays relating to Methodism nationally. At the time of my visit work was nearing completion of a small extension

and when completed this will have shelving to hold files etc. And most importantly, there is a toilet!

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and could spend time looking at the exhibits and reading accompanying background information. Some of the items are amazing, and here I am thinking particularly of a Methodist teapot! Several silver trowels commemorating chapel openings caught my eye.

I shall be making a further visit as there is so much to see. I commend the work of all involved.

David Elvidge

The Heritage Centre (NR23 1PG, free admission) is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 11 am to 3 pm until the end of September. There is a special event on Saturday 13 September to mark Heritage Open Days. As well as the chance to see the exhibits from 11 am to 3 pm, there will be refreshments and a hymn singalong at 2 pm accompanied by the American reed organ, which has recently been restored.



**SITUATIONS
VACANT**

FACING THE FUTURE????
(sung to the tune of HYMN 572)

Think of our Church without any Stewards,
No one to greet you as you come in the door!
Think of our church without any Treasurer,
No one will know just what the money's for...
We thank you Lord for those who do these duties,
We thank you Lord and humbly ask for more.

Think of our Church without any children,
No one to teach or tell them of your care.
Think of our church without Communion Stewards,
Those who prepare the bread and wine we share...
We thank you Lord for those who do these duties,
We thank you Lord and humbly ask for more.

Think of our Church where everyone is willing,
Busy in the work you have given us to do.
Greeting the preacher, the congregation filling
This lovely church with love and prayer to you.
We thank you Lord for giving us the vision
To serve your Church and Praise your Holy Name.

**WE NEED URGENTLY - 2 CHURCH STEWARDS, TREASURER,
DOOR AND COMMUNION STEWARDS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
HELPERS. CAN YOU DO ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?
YOU CAN PRAY THAT WE WILL HAVE A RESPONSE TO
THIS REQUEST.**

The poster above was seen on display at Wighton by Greg and Elaine Sargent and is from the London Road archives. They believe the tune it went to would have been 'Think of a world without any flowers', and it was possibly written by Brian Hart although they're not totally sure on this point.

The Lord's Prayer Norfolk Style – anyone brave enough to use it in a service?

Our Father wass in heaven,
May yer nearme be kep hooly,
May yer Kingdom come an yer will
be done
Down here on earth,
Loike what they're a dewin on it in
heaven.
Give us terdaay the bread what we need,
Forgive us our sins against yew,
Loike what we should fergove them
What done the darty on us
An when that owd devil come to tempt us,
Searve us from going under. Amen.

.....this is displayed in Bessingham Church St.Marys. (a Round Tower)
Near Cromer.

Sometimes small steps
Seem like giant leaps
into the unknown
on this journey of Faith.
But with You as guide
we need not fear,
for You know the path,
it's beautiful views
and hidden dangers,
and You will keep us
out of harm's way
until at last, we see
our glorious destination.
(Unknown).

Who'll take the Son?

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art.

When the Vietnam conflict broke out the son went to war. He was courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son. About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart, and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love of art."

The young man held out the package. "I know this isn't much, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this." The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of the son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes swelled up with tears.

He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no Sir, I could never repay all that your son did for me. It's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home, he took them to see the portrait of his before he showed them any of the great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited

over seeing the great paintings and having the opportunity to purchase one for their collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "Who will start the bidding for this picture of the son? Who will bid for this picture?" There was silence.

Then a voice in the back of the room shouted "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one?"

But the auctioneer persisted. "Will someone bid for his painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100; \$200"

Another voice shouted angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goughs and the Rembrandts. Get on with the bids!" But the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who will take the son!"

Finally, a voice came from the back of the room. It was the long-time gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. "We have \$10, who will bid \$20?" Other voices shouted, "Let's see the masters." The auctioneer said, "\$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20?"

The crowd became angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections.

The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10". The man sitting in the second row shouted, "Now let's get on with the collection."

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. "I'm sorry, the auction is over." Again, there was shouting, "What about the paintings?"

“I’m sorry. When I was called to conduct the auction, I was told a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate and all the paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!”

God gave His Son 2,000 years ago to die on a cruel cross. Much like the auctioneer, his message today is, “The Son, the Son, who’ll take the Son?”

Because you see **whoever takes the Son gets everything.**

West Norfolk Methodist Circuit Diary

Sat 6th September St Faith's Coffee morning @10am
Fri 12th September Downham Messy Church @ 4:30pm
Sun 14th September Highgate Heritage Open Day @ 12 noon
Sun 14th September London Road Heritage Day Concerts
Sun 14th September Highgate Songs of Praise @ 3pm
Sat 20th September Clenchwarton Talk "Teaching in Afghanistan" @ 2:30pm
Sat 20th September Wimbotsham Coffee Morning @ 10.15am
Sun 21 September Dersingham Harvest Festival
Sun 21 September Feltwell Harvest Festival
Thurs 25th September Hilgay with Southery Coffee morning @ 10am-11:30am
Sat 27th September Dersingham coffee morning for 'Tools with a Mission'
Sat 27th September Pott Row coffee morning in aid of chapel and King's Lynn Night Shelter
Sun 28th September St Faith's Harvest Festival
Sun 28th September Pott Row Harvest Festival
Sun 28th September Stanhoe Harvest Festival
Sat 4th October St Faith's Coffee morning @10am
Sun 5th October Pott Row Stephen Watts 70 year certificate service and refreshments @ 3pm
Sun 5th October London Road Ukulele concert
Sun 5th October St Faith's St Faith's Day
Sun 5th October Terrington Harvest Festival
Fri 10th October Downham Messy Church @ 4:30pm
Sat 18th October Clenchwarton Talk "Public artworks in North East England" @ 2:30pm
Sat 18th October Wimbotsham Coffee Morning @ 10.15am
Sat 18th October Feltwell Christmas Craft Fair @ 10am
Sat 1st November St Faith's Coffee morning @10am
Sun 2nd November St Faith's Resurrection and Hope Service @ 4pm
Sat 8th November Clenchwarton Craft Fair
Sun 9th November St Faith's Remembrance Service
Fri 14th November Downham Messy Church @ 4:30pm
Sat 15th November Clenchwarton Talk "The Environment and how we can save it" @ 2:30pm
Sat 15th November Wimbotsham Coffee Morning @ 10.15am
Sat 22nd November St Faith's Christmas Fair
Thurs 27th November Hilgay with Southery Coffee morning @ 10am-11:30am
Fri 28th November Clenchwarton Wreath Making – booking essential
Sun 30th November St Faith's Advent Sunday
Fri 5th & Sat 6th December Pott Row Christmas Tree Festival @ 10am-5pm
Sat 6th December Christmas Concert

Deadline for articles for the December edition of Rejoice is 9th November.