

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	Services	10.30am and some evenings
MONDAY	Craft Club (alternate weeks, see Diary for dates)	2.00pm to 4.00pm
WEDNESDAY	Community coffee shop	9.00am to 5.00pm
THURSDAY	Thursday Group (1st Thursday in month)	2.45pm to 4.00pm
SATURDAY	Community coffee shop	10.30am to 11.30am

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

The earliest Christians were known as 'Followers of the Way'. They were pilgrims journeying towards a goal. Like us all, they knew how easy it is to be distracted from their main purpose, and perhaps fail to meet their objectives. They stressed therefore the importance of keeping their eyes on the goal. Christian discipleship has long been seen as a journey. The goal is Christ. He is our strength and guide, our example and encourager.

On any journey it's good to take time to check that we are moving in the right direction, and have all the equipment and supplies that we need. It's sometimes good therefore to take time to reflect, and examine ourselves. Then we can see areas of our lives where we need forgiveness, and ways in which we need to grow. As we look at where we are now, we need to ask ourselves if we really are moving nearer to where we need to be, or if we have been side-tracked?

Every service of Holy Communion should be a time of self-examination and renewal, but special acts of worship such as the Annual Covenant service help us explore what's really important to us, and if we are moving in the right direction. Similarly the season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday (18th February) gives us a few weeks

to get our priorities sorted out, and to ask ourselves if we are living up to our highest ideals.

Some people find it helpful to give up something for Lent. There is value in that. It can help stop us taking things for granted, and remind us to seek a deeper and stronger faith. The trouble is that for some of us this can give us a negative approach to our spiritual journey. We don't define ourselves by what we give up or don't do. Rather, we dwell on the positives. Perhaps therefore a more helpful way to observe this season is to take time to do something that will help us deepen our commitment, grow in our understanding, and help us find enrichment in our relationship with Jesus. To read a good Christian spiritual book, to learn new ways of prayer, to read through a book in the Bible and study the reflections of spiritual writers on it. All these things can be a real means of grace that will help foster growth. Similarly to take time to help someone in need, or to support a worthy cause or charity can have the same effect. After all Love is at the heart of the gospel, and love needs to be seen in its practical application.

In my preaching during Lent, I will be exploring the teaching of Jesus with the hope that this will help us all come to a deeper relationship with our living Lord. To this end, I hope that in this holy season, we can all make the following prayer of St Richard of Chichester our own:

“Thanks be to thee, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which thou hast given us, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for us.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may we know thee more clearly, love thee more

dearly, and follow thee more nearly, now and for ever. Amen.”

Your friend and minister,

*Peter C. Graves.*

### DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	Preacher: Revd Peter Graves	10.30am
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Craft group	2.00pm
Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Church Council	7.30pm
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Service at Bramley Court	2.45pm
Thu 5 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday Group. Speaker: Revd Simon Oliver	2.45pm
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion. Preacher: Revd Peter Graves	10.30am
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	Science meets faith at Wesley. John Buxton, <i>Your God is too small – issues in science and religion</i>	7.45pm
Thu 12 <sup>th</sup>	House Group Big Issues. Roger Wright <i>Policing in the good old days 1960s to 1980s</i>	2.30pm 7.30pm
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Country Dance club	8.00pm
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	Preacher: Revd Peter Graves Faith to live by at Haslingfield. Caroline Peet. <i>Learning to lead</i>	10.30am 6.30pm
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	Craft group	2.00pm
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Service at Etheldred House	
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>	Lent house group at 35 Millington Rd. Coffee at 10.30am, finish 12 noon Mike Wilson: <i>Lent as a time of denial</i>	10.45am
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Singing the Faith</i> day at Wesley, led by Robin Walker (see notice)	10.30am – 4pm
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Preacher: Revd Peter Graves	10.30am
Thu 26 <sup>th</sup>	House Group Lent house group at 35 Millington Rd speaker: Revd Peter Graves: <i>Sacrifice as giving up, and sacrifice as offering to God</i> Big Issues: Prof Sir Brian Heap <i>Stem cells and the right to life</i>	2.30pm 10.45am 7.30pm
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Society open meeting (see notice)	7.00pm
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Quiz evening (details later)	

### CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We are sorry to report the death, at 95, of Fred Thompson, one of our oldest members. Fred moved to Histon after the death of his wife eight years ago. He lived with his son in a specially built annex for four years and then moved to

*Woodlands* care home. A thanksgiving service for his long life was held in our church on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, followed by tea. We send our condolences to Martin, Moya, and the family.

We also send our sympathy to Naomi and Chris Whitworth on the death of Naomi's grandmother.

Ann Brown and Janet Houghton have both been in hospital since our last newsletter but are home now and getting on well. Ann now has carers in regularly. Pam Mansfield and Alf Holeman have also had spells in hospital. We send our good wishes.

We also remember those who have not been well, and those awaiting further tests and investigations, Roberta Harrison, Joan Knott, Marc Searjeant and Michael Simmonds.

It is good to see both David Warford and Tony Mansfield out and about again.

Julia and Dick Daft became grandparents again on 28<sup>th</sup> November when their daughter Rachel, and Jon Darby, had a son, Jonah.

Also Janet and Mo Parr when their daughter Louise, and Richard Birt, had another son, Jacob. Best wishes to all.

NB We all share the responsibility for caring for one another. Do let Jenny know for the *Newsletter* if you hear of anyone needing a mention. It is better to be told twice than not at all.

### Thank you

I wish to thank members of Histon Methodist Church for their kind wishes, get well cards and gifts of flowers, following my recent fall and fracture of both wrists. I am progressing satisfactorily, and slowly regaining the use of my hands.

*Pamela Wright*

### MARGARET DOGGETT

**20th January 1920 – 9th December 2014**

Margaret was cremated in the Cotswolds following her death, having moved to Winchcombe some years ago with husband Edwin, to be near their son Pete and family. Her ashes were buried in Oakington cemetery, the village where Edwin and Margaret contributed so much to the life and worship at Oakington Methodist Church.

A lively, well-attended Thanksgiving service for Margaret's life was held here on Monday 29th December 2014, a service which included well known Sankey hymns, tributes from her sons Pete and Dave and her daughter-in-law and grandson,

with Pete accompanying *The Old Rugged Cross* on guitar.

A picture was painted of a loving mother and grandmother, a modest, gentle lady, who was always a pleasure to be with and never complained during her recent illness and old-age.

Edwin is remembered as an outgoing, larger than life Local Preacher and Margaret was a great support to him. During retirement they hosted Guild Holidays and encouraged us to begin our Church away weekends at Eastbourne.

*Judy Wynn*

### DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The circuit has now given its formal consent to our scheme and by the time you read this the district committee will have met too.

We held three successful concerts in the run-up to Christmas, Andante, and then two Wednesday afternoon concerts. Total raised from the three was £530.

There will be another of our well-loved quiz evenings on Friday 6th March. More details later. We are also planning another series of Wednesday afternoon concerts.

*Christine Pooley*

### BIG ISSUES

Our spring series of *Big Issues* continues on 12th February when our own Roger Wright recalls his days as a village policeman in various Huntingdonshire villages and then as a traffic policeman.

On 26th February we are pleased to welcome back Prof Sir Brian Heap, this time his subject is 'Stem cells and the right to life', something which affects us and future generations.

We thank all our speakers who enlighten us and sometimes challenge our thinking.

We always offer a warm welcome to any of our sessions, none of which would be complete without the tea, coffee and delicious deserts which are served during our mid meeting time of informal discussion and chat.

*Helen Allen*

## **CIRCUIT DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY COURSE 2015**

The Disciple Bible Study course has been an enormous success in this Circuit, throughout British and world Methodism, and indeed ecumenically. A new course will be starting on March 5th. It lasts for 34 weeks, but takes breaks during school holidays etc. Members and friends from all the churches in the Circuit, and our ecumenical partners, are welcome to join us.

Our course will take place on Thursday mornings from 10.30am-1.00pm, at Histon Methodist Church.

Further information is available from  
Rev Dr Peter Graves (01638 724928),  
Rev Jean Simmonds (01223 237981)

## **CAMBRIDGE BIBLE SOCIETY: SPRING OPEN MEETING**

At 7pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February, at Queen Edith Chapel, Wulfstan Way, Cambridge, Professor Rowan Williams, Master of Magdalene College, will be the speaker at the Society's Spring Supper. The supper consists of soup and a sweet, and the cost is £6. Professor Williams' topic will be *Stories of Jesus: Portrayals of Christ in Art and Fiction*.

Tickets available from Jim Bradbury, usually around at *Big Issues* and coffee mornings.

## **SINGING THE FAITH DAY**

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2015, Wesley Church, Cambridge, 10.30am-4.00pm

You are warmly invited to a day exploring the fantastic new music in *Singing the Faith*. The session will be led by professional organist and choral director (and husband of local Minister Alison) Robin Walker. It will be a day full of music, with plenty of practical involvement and something for people at every musical level. The day will also include tips for introducing new music into our weekly worship, and ways to get the best out of this fantastic new resource.

Did you know that some of the hymns were written especially for *Singing the Faith* and 50%

of the contents are not in the earlier *Hymns and Psalms*!

So, whether you want to enjoy a good sing, encouragement to try the new music in *Singing the Faith*, or practical tips on how to keep your worship music fresh and interesting, then there will be something for you. The day will be split into three hour-long easily digestible sessions, a break for lunch, and conclude with worship open to all. We hope you will come and join us for a wonderful day of music and fellowship.

### Programme

10.30am Meet for coffee  
11.00am How to get started - finding and trying new music  
12.00noon Introducing new music to your church  
1.00pm Lunch break. Soup and a roll etc. will be provided  
1.45pm Being creative and having fun!  
2.45pm Tea, Coffee break  
3.00pm Time of worship with lots of singing  
4.00pm Close and depart

To reserve a place, contact Revd Alison Walker (alison.walker@methodist.org.uk or 01223 872862) or Philip Dale (phildale48@aol.com) . Cost: by donations on the day - as a guide about £10per person to include lunch and refreshments.

Please bring a copy of *Singing the Faith* if you can (make sure it can be identified). Some copies will be provided.

Circuit Worship will be at 3.00pm and led by Revd Dr Peter Graves and Revd Alison Walker and open to everyone, so if there are those who would like to join us just for this time, they will be very welcome.

Robin Walker has extensive experience in leading music, including *Come and Sing* days in churches and schools, and choral workshops. He has over 20 years of experience of conducting professionally, working with choral societies, chamber choirs, church groups and professional singers. He currently conducts the prize-winning *Cantate* chamber choir and its sister ensemble *Vivace!* in Kent, and he enjoys a mixture of solo organ performance, church work, ensemble playing and teaching on the organ and voice.

### THURSDAY GROUP

On 5th February the Thursday Group welcome Rev Simon Oliver as our speaker. Many of you will know Simon from Cottenham and its Community Café. In September Simon will become the minister at this church.

Everyone is invited to join us on 5th March at 2.45pm, when our speaker will be Revd. Baroness Kathleen Richardson. Among other milestones in her working life Kathleen became the first woman President of the Methodist Conference. Kathleen spoke at our church anniversary service last October, and in a more relaxed setting on 5th March she will relate some Travellers Tales.

### CONNEXION MAGAZINE

This is a new magazine issued three times a year by the Methodist connexion. Some copies are available on the table at the back of the church. Please take one, and then return it for others to read.

### NEWS FROM THE TURNING POINT TRUST

Mary and her husband Benson manage the *Turning Point* project at Kianda where, since the opening of the school at the main project in Mashimoni, the children going to prep class or transition class meet. These are the classes that prepare children for their first experience of school or help them to catch up if they have missed for a long time - which is sadly a common occurrence.

Mary and Benson have been involved in that part of the slum for many years. Even before they started to work for *Turning Point* about seven years ago they were trying to bring hope and change lives. Mary has a theory about transformation that seems very simple but, those of us who have visited Kianda, met the staff and watched the children, have witnessed the happy atmosphere she creates and the fun the children enjoy. She ensures the project is attractive and welcoming and has made a small garden, an oasis of green and colour in a vast ocean of filthy mud. They also have a banana tree, a great resource for hungry children and providing just a little shade.

Her theory is simply that she is changing that part of Kibera one child at a time by ensuring that love, care and hope are part of their lives. She has maintained this for years and her wisdom and experience have touched many people. Once a child knows they are loved and cared for, they become hopeful for the future and she has seen many times that, in an environment as needy as the slum, these qualities in a life are attractive. Family and friends see the difference as the children share, quite unconsciously, what they have found. Love, care and hope together create joy and are highly infectious!

We have so much to learn from folk like Mary and Benson, they can help us in different but important ways to our help for them and the wonder of Mary's theory is that there's no need to be clever or wealthy to put it into practice. Perhaps in our increasingly secular, broken and driven society, we can all learn a lot from Mary and we know she and Benson would value your prayers as, for Jesus' sake, they continue changing lives one at a time.

Thank you for your support for all that *Turning Point* does.

*Jean and Michael Simmonds*

### ACTION FOR CHILDREN

£62 was raised from naming the doll, which was won by Ann Burling, and the collections at the carol service and on Christmas day totalled £419.69

Thank you for your support.

### PRAYER

Give to us Lord, the peace of those who have learnt to serve you, the joy of those who are glad to obey you, and the delight of those who rejoice in your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Aidan of Lindisfarne (d 651)*