

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,

May has certainly been a busy month. The election has been and gone, so now a new government is being formed. Our leaders will certainly need our prayers. The problems we face and the challenges and opportunities before us will need a great deal of wisdom and insight, and we pray they will be given the guidance needed as they lead us forward.

We have also been greatly concerned about the situation in Nepal, a poor country that has suffered enormous devastation caused by two major earthquakes. I was very impressed by the immediate and enthusiastic response of our church annual general meeting, to the suggestion that, on the two Sundays following the first quake, we have a retiring collection for Christian Aid earmarked for Nepal. I am deeply grateful to the congregation for their generous support of this very worthy cause, and also for donations given for *All We Can*, the new name for the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. This is a practical demonstration that living faith involves faithful living. As Christians, and indeed responsible humans, we are called to put love into action by helping to meet the needs of those facing such terrible situations. Please pray for Nepal, and all those involved in the relief efforts there.

For the past few years we have been concerned to refurbish and develop our premises so that we can be

more effective in our mission and ministry to the local community. Because of the fatal illness of our architect, preparations had slowed down of late, but new architects have now been appointed, plans are being revised, and we are actively fund raising again. Indeed we hope that building work will commence at the end of this year, or early in 2016. We are therefore grateful to those who generously gave to our annual Gift Day Appeal, which was linked with the AGM. Thanks also to all those involved with the Yard Sale on 16th May, which also raised a considerable sum for this worthwhile cause.

The next big event in aid of the Development Fund will be an afternoon Garden Party on Saturday 13th June at our home. (Old Ness Farm, Ness Rd., Burwell, CB25 0DB) Transport will be organized. Full details will be found in this newsletter and announced at Sunday services. We hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be a very happy occasion.

Good things are happening in this growing church, and we move forward with prayer, and with faith and hope, as we face the exciting future that awaits us.

With all good wishes,

Your friend and minister,

Peter C. Graves.

DIARY DATES FOR JUNE

Mon 1 st	Craft Group	2.00pm
Wed 3 rd	Service at Bramley Court	2.45pm
Thu 4 th	Thursday Group: tea in Jenny's garden, 57 Lone Tree Avenue	3.00pm
Sun 7 th	Preacher: Mrs Valu Bullen Short Church council after morning service Tea from 5.00pm, followed by <i>Circuit Easter Offering</i> service	10.30am 6.00pm
Thu 11 th	House group	2.30pm
Sat 13 th	Garden Party at Old Ness Farm, Ness Road, Burwell by kind permission of Peter and Tricia Graves (see notice)	2.30pm – 5.00pm
Sun 14 th	Methodist Homes Sunday. Holy Communion. Preacher: Revd Dr Peter Graves	10.30am
Mon 15 th	Craft Group	2.00pm
Wed 17 th	Service at Etheldred House	11.00am
Sun 21 st	Preacher: Mrs Cathy Michell Material for next <i>Newsletter</i> please	10.30am
Tue 23 rd	Coffee morning <i>HOPE for children</i>	10.00am
Thu 25 th	Housegroup Planning meeting for <i>Big Issues</i>	2.30pm 7.30pm
Fri 26 th	Country dancing	8.00pm
Sun 28 th	Preacher: Revd Dr Peter Graves	10.30am
Mon 29 th	Craft group	2.00pm
Tue 30 th	Church council	7.30pm
Sun 5 th July	Feast Sunday (see notice) Lunches United songs of praise Circuit service of thanks to Revds. Peter Graves, Robert Dolman and John Barrett at Wesley	12.30-3.00pm 3.30pm 6.30pm

Also, please note

Sun 16th August Peter's final service at Histon and farewell lunch (please note change of date)

BIG ISSUES

Following our last successful series of *Big Issues* we will be having a planning meeting for the next series at 7.30 on Thursday 25th June. We try to include a wide range of subjects which are all 'big issues'. We would like your suggestions for speakers, either at the meeting or please advise me beforehand.

All are welcome to attend the planning meeting, but you will have to wait until September when the series starts for desserts - just coffee and biscuits on 25th June!

Helen Allen

DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the yard sale a success. £612 was raised for the development fund. A number of fundraising events have been planned but more will be needed. If anyone has an idea or would like to organise something, please have a word with one of the stewards. It doesn't have to be a large event, every little helps.

The new architect has been working very hard and he has produced an exciting variant on our earlier plans that uses our fixed space better, seems to fit our criteria better, and will not cost

any more. The plan is on the noticeboard in the hall.

The development group accepted this plan unanimously and recommend it to the church council which will meet after church on Sunday 7th June.

It may seem that not much is happening yet but please be assured that much hard work is taking place behind the scenes and the new architect has put forward a number of useful ideas and proposals. We are moving forward as quickly as possible but there are many requirements that have to be met. The future is now looking exciting and promising and we hope we can start work at the beginning of 2016. We trust that everyone will support with their prayers as well as their giving.

EASTER OFFERING SERVICE 7TH JUNE

The Annual Easter Offering service will be held in our Church on Sunday 7th June at 6pm, preceded by tea at 5pm.

This is a Circuit Service, when members from other churches will be taking part, and money received in the Easter Offering Envelopes will be dedicated.

Please come along to help make this a memorable circuit get-together.

PRAYER BOX

As most of you know, prayer baskets are available on the tables in the coffee shop, for people to write their requests for prayer. At a recent steward's meeting it was agreed we should extend this facility.

Personal written prayers can be placed in the prayer box, (which is kept on the vestry table), at any time during the week. Prayers can also be placed in the baskets, along with the offering, during morning service.

There will be a notepad and pen available on the bookcase, or you may wish to bring a prayer request already written.

The prayer box will be placed on the Communion Table with the collection baskets.

The prayers will be offered collectively, rather than individually, by the preacher as part of the offertory prayer or during the prayers of intercession.

GARDEN PARTY

Our next Fundraising event for our Development Fund will be a Garden Party at Old Ness Farm, Ness Road, Burwell, on Saturday 13th June from 2.30pm until 5pm by kind permission of Revd Dr and Mrs Peter Graves.

Full afternoon tea will be served, consisting of sandwiches, cream scones and cakes. There will also be a raffle and quiz. Tickets are now available from the stewards, and coffee shop, price £7.50.

Transport will be arranged by car and minibus for which a minimum donation of £1 is requested to help defray the cost. If you require transport or can offer seats in your car, please add your name to the sheet on the table in front of the vestry

Tickets are numbered, and the prize for the lucky number will be a three course lunch for two at *The Hole in the Wall*, Little Wilbraham, for which we must thank Robert Craft.

Do come along to what will be a very enjoyable afternoon.

If you are unable to attend, you could still purchase a ticket and have an opportunity to win the prize!!

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

I would like to express my grateful thanks for all the members with collecting boxes for *Action for children*. The sum of £300.75 was raised.

Thank you

Lileth Warford

ANNUAL MEETING

There follows a resumé of the minutes of the Annual Church Meeting held on 28th April 2015

- > Various annual reports from the stewards and groups had been printed and circulated.
- > A submission had been made for Gift Aid, which should produce c. £7,000 this year.
- > The Development Group had met with the new Architect. The total raised so far towards refurbishment was now £303,000, with more expected. Applications for grants would be continuing. A loan of £100,000 has been offered.
- > There were further leaks in the toilets and the Property Committee would meet to consider this and other items
- > Development of the work with children would be referred to the Stewards for consideration of the current issues.
- > Congratulations were offered to the coffee shop on its third anniversary.
- > Mrs Tricia Graves would be asked to speak on Methodist Homes Sunday, 14th June.
- > Various future dates were reported.
- > Church Stewards: Rosemary Watson, Roberta Harrison, Julia Daft and Michael Simmonds were re-elected; Judy Wynn and Joy McCombie were elected to serve for 2015-16.
- > Representatives elected from this meeting to the Church Council were Rev. Jean Simmonds, Joyce Barker, Tricia Clarkson, Naomi Whitworth, Nick Bailey and Wendy Toates.
- > Representatives to the Circuit Meeting were Rosemary Watson, Jenny Phillipps, Michael Simmonds and Margaret Brierley (substitute Julia Daft).
- > Jean Simmonds and Nick Bailey were elected as representatives to the *Histon and Impington*

Council of Churches, with Judy Houghton as reserve.

> Donations received with thanks during the evening were:

General Fund	£984.90
Development Fund	£930.00

(plus Gift Aid where offered in each case).

The evening concluded with refreshments.

[Further details, if required, may be obtained from the stewards].

COFFEE MORNING IN CHURCH HALL HOPE FOR CHILDREN

Tuesday 23rd June 2015: 10am – 12 noon

In September my granddaughter Amabel will be flying out to East Africa to participate in a 6 day challenge to climb Mount Kilimanjaro for the charity HOPE which was founded in 1994, and is part of *Your Uni. Their Lives* (YUTL), a grassroots initiative of which students are an integral part.

As the destination is Tanzania, their primary focus is to raise money for the orphaned, poor and other marginalised children living and working on streets in East Africa, by providing education, public health projects and income generating programs.

As a student she is very grateful for the opportunity to make a positive change in their lives. The most amazing thing for her is that before she sets off on the trek, the group will actually be meeting some of the children who have benefited by HOPE to see first-hand what a difference they have made.

Some friends and I are holding a coffee morning, with bring and buy and raffle to raise a donation towards this cause.

Do come along and enjoy good company with home-made refreshments, a raffle and bring and buy, and by doing so support this worthwhile charity.

Judy Wynn

METHODIST PRAYER HANDBOOK PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY

Pilgrims on a journey, looks at God's call to pilgrimage, both journey and destination, our companions on the way and the everyday realities of the road to Heaven.

Depending on the number we order, the price will be £3.75 or £3.35 plus p&p, large print copies are available.

Past prayer handbooks have proved helpful and thought provoking. Sometimes people we know have contributed.

To pray with and for the world-wide family of the Methodist people, please let me know as soon as possible if you would like a copy.

Janet Houghton

FEAST SUNDAY 5TH JULY

As there will be a *Feast Festival* in the High Street again this year, we will be serving refreshments from 12.30pm until 3pm. This is an opportunity for us to be involved in the community. There will be no coffee after morning service, but you can buy made-to-order sandwiches from 12.30pm.

There will be a sign up sheet available shortly on the table in front of the vestry to offer help on the day and to make cakes.

Please note the High Street will be closed to traffic from 10am but the Feast Committee have been advised that cars will need access to our church for morning service. If you do need to get to church by car that morning, the traffic marshals should let you through, but those able to walk are best advised to leave their car a little way from the High Street. There also may well be problems getting out again!

Weather permitting we intend having tables outside, so there will be **no parking** at church that day.

NEWS FROM THE TURNING POINT TRUST

The *Turning Point* staff greatly appreciate meeting supporters from the UK. It reminds them that they are not alone in their work; others also care deeply about the children and families living on Kibera. Recently a group from Holy Trinity Church, Knaphill in Surrey visited the *Fountain of Hope School* and spent time with both teachers and children. Most teaching in Kenya is purely learning by rote but this group were able to demonstrate more creative teaching methods which are both more appealing and more helpful for slum children. The teachers were so encouraged by the impact that the lessons had that they are asking for more visits like that because relational interactive work with these children is so important. Now, the staff feel that they are not working alone at the school, the awfulness of the slum doesn't isolate them because other teachers in far off places know about them, understand the needs and problems they have to deal with and are standing alongside them and praying for them. There was time for fun too! The staff against visitors netball match was a great occasion.... though nobody has said who won!

There will be another visit at the end of May, after this article has been sent but before you read it. A team from Christ Church in Woking, where some trustees worship and much of the administrative work for the charity is done, are also flying out. They will be taking a group of the staff who live on Kibera away from the slum to stay at a Retreat Centre for a couple of nights. These are people who will never have experienced having a holiday. They will sleep in beds, not on mud floors; have bathrooms with water on tap, tiled walls and flushing loos. They will be away from the polluted air and environment of the slum, eat three meals a day and sit on grass in a garden. All special and exciting opportunities for them....but things we take for granted. With the UK team they will worship, share, listen, learn, relax, laugh and know they are valued. What a wonderful experience to offer to some very special people. Do pray that this treat will be a blessing and encouragement that stays in their memories for a very long time. *Jean and Michael Simmonds*