

**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,

It has been a great joy and an enormous privilege to serve as your minister over the past 15 months. Indeed, I can hardly believe that the time has passed so quickly. This has been the first time since my ordination, that I have had pastoral charge of a village church, and I have learned much from the experience. I have much appreciated all the support, help, kindness and encouragement you have shared with me throughout the time I have been with you.

The church is in good heart, and this is due in no small way to all the support and sheer hard work that our office holders have given to help us move forward and grow. We have a splendid team of Church stewards, and a fine team of people who maintain our premises, and are master minding our development plans. Our various groups are in good heart, and our outreach, especially through the *Community Coffee Shop* and the *Big Issues* meetings, has been a great help to so many. The warmth of your welcome and the caring and support offered to the people of this community is much appreciated. I want therefore to say a very big "Thank you" to all our leaders, members and friends for all you are, and all you do to further the work of this church, and to serve the wider community.

Many churches have a 'great future behind them'. They look back, long for the good old days, and lose hope for the future. At Histon we have a great heritage and history, but I really do believe that we have a 'great future before us'.

Attendance at Worship has grown considerably. We are welcoming new people, and the average age of our congregation is coming down. Aided by our house group and the *Disciple Bible Study Programme*, people are finding a deeper faith.

We are also beginning to explore ways of ministering to young families and children. We value those who have recently come to us from Oakington and Papworth, and rejoice in the continuing involvement of folk from Cottenham. We are aware that we now serve a larger area, and that this presents us with challenge and opportunity.

With so many possibilities before us, we seek to improve our premises. We rejoice that with the help of the circuit and district our plans for the refurbishment of our building are rapidly moving forward. Indeed we hope that the builders will begin work on site early in the coming year.

Rev Simon Oliver has done a great work in Cottenham, and I am very pleased that from 1st September, he will also serve as Minister of Histon. He is a very talented and highly qualified young man who, I am sure, will serve you well and lead this church forward in a very positive way. Please do pray for him and his family as they prepare for, and begin, their ministry here.

In conclusion, I sign off with the words of St Paul as he said farewell to the church leaders of Ephesus, which are recorded in Acts 20:32 "I commend you to God, and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build

you up, and give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified”.

With every blessing, your friend and minister,

*Peter C. Graves.*

**DIARY DATES FOR AUGUST**

Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> July	Holiday Club	
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Preacher: Mrs Judy Wynn	10.30am
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Thursdays (see notice)	
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion. Preacher: Revd Simon Oliver	10.30am
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Craft Group	2.00pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Thursdays (see notice)	
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	Preacher: Revd Dr Peter Graves followed by farewell lunch (see notice)	10.30am
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Thursdays (see notice)	
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Preacher: Revd Jean Simmonds Material for September <i>Newsletter</i> please	10.30am
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	Craft Group	2.00pm
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Thursdays (see notice)	
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	Preacher: Revd Jean Simmonds	10.30am
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Garden Party at 13 Highfield Road (see notice)	

**FEAST SUNDAY**

After early rain the day turned out fine and warm and people were able to sit outside for refreshments and enjoy all the activity in the High Street. Many thanks to all the helpers for such a successful day, particularly (again!) to Rosemary and Joy for organising. £65 was given to feast charities and £352.30 to church development.

The church was full for the Junior School and Tensing concerts, and the Songs of Praise.

**SUMMER THURSDAYS**

Throughout the summer holidays a space will be made available for mums, babies/toddlers/children of preschool age to come on a Thursday afternoon (2-4.30 from July 23rd to August 27th inclusive). This will be a stay and play session with songs at the end.

This will be a way to introduce the church environment to children and parents, some of whom already know it from the Wednesday community coffee shop. It is hoped this will encourage families to consider not only being with us for those days, but to also consider us for worship. It allows us to do something that is not in direct competition with the other churches provision and also allows us to provide some much needed group/community support during

the long summer holidays.

Further details are available on flyers from the Community Coffee Shop.

**GARDEN PARTY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

A date for your diaries. We will be holding a get-together in our garden (we hope for fine weather!) on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September in the afternoon from 2.00 pm onwards. Proceeds from this event will be for the Church Development Fund. Refreshments will be served and we hope to have various games of a not-too-strenuous nature.

We would be very grateful for offers of help on the day and for donations of home-made cakes, etc. If you are able to help in any way, please add your name to the list which will be by the vestry table a little nearer the time.

*Joy McCombie*

### FAREWELL TO PETER

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August is Peter's final service at Histon and there will be a farewell lunch. Tickets for lunch are £7.50 for adults and £5 for children under 12. There is also a list to sign if you can provide a homemade dessert.

### HOPE FOR CHILDREN COFFEE MORNING HELD TUESDAY JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>

A big thank you to all who helped or contributed in any way towards raising £300 for such a worthwhile cause.

The gifts of cakes and donations were much appreciated and a very pleasant fun morning was enjoyed by all who attended.

My granddaughter Amabel will give us a report upon her return from Africa in September, from meeting some of the street children which this charity supports, and on her adventure climbing Kilimanjaro.

She is delighted with our contribution to this cause, which will go towards a total of nearly £3000 that she has raised over the past months, by holding similar events at her own church and home in the IOW, and by selling cakes and holding events at University, holding car-boot sales etc.

We wish her well.

*Judy Wynn*

### EXCITING TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY RHINE AND REFORMATION TOUR, 2016

From 5-13 November 2016, Rev Dr Peter Graves will be leading a group from the Circuit and beyond on a five day River Cruise along the Rhine followed by a three day Land tour in Germany. We will visit sites associated with the life and work of Martin Luther, and the Protestant Reformation.

Brochures will be available shortly, and full details can be had from Peter Graves.

There will be meetings to give full information and publicize the tour in September and October. They will be announced in the next edition of this *Newsletter*.

### STEVE WILD PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE

In his inaugural address at the Conference in Southport, the Revd Steve Wild challenged each Methodist church in Britain to aim to bring just one person to faith in the coming year, saying: "Let's take God seriously. I want to help us in the task of evangelism, to put mission on the agenda and give our churches an aim to win a person for Christ."

"We cannot sit back in complacency," he added. "We have a massive Kingdom of God task. I'm wanting this year to challenge each church to bring one person to faith - to make one new member this next year, let's make bringing people to faith the main point, we don't do it alone. The unconditional love of Jesus is our motivation."

He told those gathered at the Conference that John Wesley only had ten guineas to his name when he died. Wesley's will directed that four of these guineas should pay four unemployed men to carry his coffin and the remainder be distributed among his poorest preachers.

"What else did he leave behind?" Steve asked. "Changed lives, hundreds of them, Christian communities dotted all over this country and in other parts of the world, fellowships seeking to take God seriously. Oh that we may all draw to the foot of the cross and experience this powerful love and make this our legacy one of transformed lives and communities!"