

## 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

If I was headlining Wembley Stadium with my (non-existent) rock group, this is the moment where I would shout "GOOOOD EEEVENING HISTOOOOON!!!"

It seems like a long time since we have all known that I would be starting as minister of Histon Methodist Church this September, and I have preached at a number of services, enjoyed the cake and hospitality of the community café and had interesting conversations with many of you in the meantime... but it is wonderful to finally be officially here!

I am really excited to be joining you in your life and mission, and to extend my 'pioneering' role in Cottenham to the ministry here. I really do feel that God is at work here and that if – as a community - we look to Jesus Christ and are strengthened by God's Spirit – then there is potential to both deepen and broaden the ministry which has been carried out faithfully by many of you, alongside Peter, Hilary and other previous ministers over many years.

When I shared in worship with you during August, we looked at an excerpt from T S Eliot's 'The Dry Salvages' alongside Jesus' description of himself as the bread of life, offering us a taste, a glimpse of an encounter with God;

For most of us, there is only the unattended  
Moment, the moment in and out of time,  
The distraction fit, lost in a shaft of sunlight,  
The wild thyme unseen, or the winter lightning  
Or the waterfall, or music heard so deeply  
That it is not heard at all, but you are the music

While the music lasts. These are only hints and guesses,  
Hints followed by guesses; and the rest  
Is prayer, observance, discipline, thought and action.  
The hint half guessed, the gift half understood, is  
Incarnation.

Here the impossible union  
Of spheres of existence is actual,  
Here the past and future  
Are conquered, and reconciled

I believe that the starting point, both for our lives as individuals and for the life of our church community, is such a glimpse of God; those hints followed by guesses which lead to the prayer, observance, discipline, thought and action which make up much of the Christian life. And, for me, it is imperative that we open ourselves up to the wider community and culture... not just to share those glimpses which we have been privileged to experience, but to see where God might be at work and what God might be saying in and through those who are not part of the traditional church.

Thank you to all of you who have already made me feel so welcome, for your enthusiasm and prayers; it will be very interesting to see where God leads us all over the coming years! Kate, Clara, Jesse and I would like to invite anyone who is available to our home for tea and cakes on Sunday 27th September, from 2-4pm. We are at Poplar House, 230 High Street, Cottenham and would be delighted to see you.

*Simon Oliver*

**DIARY DATES FOR SEPTEMBER**

Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Service at Bramley Court	2.45pm
Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Disciple</i> starts again	10.30am
	Thursday Group. Speaker: Roger Wright, <i>His time in the Police force</i>	2.45pm
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Party at 13 Highfield Road, Impington	2.00pm
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion. Preacher: Revd Simon Oliver	10.30am
	Circuit welcome at Wesley to Rev Colin Smith, Superintendent, tea from 5pm	6.30pm
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	Craft group	2.00pm
Thu 10 <sup>th</sup>	Circuit meeting at Orwell	7.15 for 7.45pm
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	Church open to view the Harvest display	10.00am
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival. Preacher: Revd Simon Oliver followed by lunch at the <i>Rose and Crown</i> (see notice)	10.30am
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee morning and sale of Harvest produce	10.00am
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting of Development group with user groups	7.30pm
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>	Service at Etheldred House	11.00am
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup>	Country dancing	8.00pm
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	Preacher: Mrs Valu Bullen Material for next <i>Newsletter</i> please	10.30am
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup>	Craft group	2.00pm
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Church council	<b>7.45pm</b>
Thu 24 <sup>th</sup>	Big Issues. Revd Simon Oliver on <i>Is the decline in the British Methodist church irreversible, or are there signs of hope?</i>	7.30pm
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	Preacher: Mrs Judy Wynn Open House at 230 High Street, Cottenham with grateful thanks to Kate and Simon Oliver	10.30am 2.00-4.00pm
Thu 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Thursday group AGM	2.45pm
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Yard Sale, with tables for outside users at £10	9.30am

**AS IF BY MAGIC...?**

It is so easy to arrive at church on a Sunday and just assume that everything will be done.

But each of us might be asking ourselves each week:

Have I prayed for those who have done so much, especially the minister / preacher and could I have done anything to help?

Behind Peter's farewell service on 16 August and the lunch that followed was a huge amount of planning, organising, buying, arranging, preparing, clearing up - not to mention the work Peter did in preparing the service and Matthew in writing a hymn tune and words for the occasion.

We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to the whole host of people who played a part in giving Peter such a wonderful send-off. The meal was lovely. So may we say - "THANK YOU SO MUCH" to those who helped make the occasion such a special time. It would be invidious to name names but some of us at least know who were at the heart of it all. Bless you.

Someone on our table said that there are three things that Histon always does so well - Friendship, Flowers and Food!

And a massive 'thank you' also to Peter for all he has done and been for us over the past months. Every blessing, Peter and Tricia, in the future - and don't forget where we are!

Now we look forward to welcoming Simon and moving into the future with him.

*Jean and Michael*

**COUNTRY DANCING**

Do come along on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> for an evening of fun. Partners not necessary as we all dance with each other. Soft shoes recommended – see you there.

*Kathryn Coles*

**HARVEST 2015**

The decoration of the church will take place on Friday September 11<sup>th</sup>. Gifts for the display will be gratefully received on or before this date (fruit, veg, eggs, preserves etc. please, or donations towards flowers).

The church will be open for visitors to view the display on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September between 10am and 12 noon, to coincide with coffee morning.

Gifts of tinned and packaged products will be received during the Harvest Service on Sunday morning, to be donated to the local food-bank.

Due to the close proximity of our minister's farewell luncheon, arrangements have been made for up to 40 members to have lunch on Harvest Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> at *The Rose and Crown* at £15 per person. A copy of the menu is available, and names, menu choices and payment for lunch should be given as soon as possible.

The Harvest Market and Coffee Morning will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September between 10am and 12 noon. All proceeds to *All We Can* Methodist Relief Charity.

*Judy Wynn*

**SINGING OUR FAITH DAY**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October, from 2pm**

Following the very successful *Singing the Faith Day* at Wesley Church, Cambridge in February, Robin Walker has agreed to lead another series of sessions. The afternoon will be full of music, with plenty of practical involvement and something for people at every musical level. The three sessions will include: 1. Re-finding our roots: As Methodists we are known for our singing, and in particular for our ability to break into harmony at any moment! In this session we will re-visit some old favourites, and learn those harmonies afresh. 2. The seasons ahead: In this session we will explore *Singing the Faith* for music for Advent, Christmas and the New Year. 3. Finding new favourites: We will sing new and nearly-new hymns and songs. The sessions will culminate in an hour of worship led by Revd Alison Walker. Our Guest Preacher will be Revd Catherine Dixon who was ordained at Methodist Conference in June 2015. We hope you will join us for a wonderful time of music and fellowship.

Contact Phil Dale (phildale48@aol.com or 01223 871522) to help us determine numbers.

(More details at the back of the church.)

**BIG ISSUES**

Our Autumn Series of *Big Issues* begins on 24th September at 7.30, when our new Minister, Simon Oliver, will challenge us with *The Death of Methodism. Is the decline in the British Methodist Church irreversible, or are there signs of Hope?*

8th October sees Martin and Moya Thompson telling us about *Besom* in Histon and Impington, and how folk ease the lives of others by helping in a variety of ways.

On 22nd October we hear from Margaret Nimmo-Smith and Pennie Harrison about how *Cruse* aims to support bereaved people.

12th November Andy Lee and Rufus from the newly renamed *Dogs for Good* will, I am sure, surprise us with all the ways specifically trained dogs now help their owners or groups of people of all ages.

Finally on 26th November Alasdair Coles will reflect, from his perspective as a doctor and chaplain, on *Why does God allow suffering?*

So, I hope you will agree that we have another varied selection of *Big Issues* to get our teeth into – not to mention those delicious desserts also being lined up for us each meeting by our talented providers!

All our speakers are committed to their subject and how they can help or support in their particular area. I am so grateful that all have readily accepted our invitation to come, and we look forward to meeting and hearing from them.

Flyers are available in the Church and Hall, please pass them on to your friends, and come along – all are welcome.

*Helen Allen*

**STREET PASTORS**

Please continue to pray for our street pastors, their recent newsletter contained the following requests for prayer:

- that our new recruits will be encouraged and strengthened in their calling to our work
- for more volunteers
- that as the new terms start we will be able to recruit some students from both the universities who will be able to support volunteer numbers during term time

for opportunities to speak in more churches and groups

Wendy will be on duty on Fridays 28th August and 27th September

**RHINE CRUISE  
AND REFORMATION TOUR**

5-13 November 2016.

In November 2016, Rev Dr and Mrs Peter Graves will be leading a group to join a river cruise from Amsterdam along the Rhine to Koblenz, followed by an overland tour to see sites associated with the Great Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther.

Organised by Educational Opportunities Tours, an American Company, founded by a Methodist Minister and specializing in Christian Travel, we will be cruising with Ama Waterways.

Places visited include Cologne, The Rhine Gorge, Mainz, Worms, Speyer and Heidelberg. The overland tour includes the Wartburg Castle, Eisenach, Erfurt, Eisleben and Wittenberg. We then journey to Berlin, before flying home.

Full information will be given at a publicity meeting, which will be held in the Upper Room at Wesley Church on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September starting at 7.30pm. Coffee will be served from 7.15pm. Brochures and other information can be obtained from Peter Graves (01638 724928) or [pcgam@yahoo.com](mailto:pcgam@yahoo.com)

**CHAPLAINCY TO PEOPLE AT WORK**

It was Friday morning. The chaplain had called into the police station on one of his routine visits when he heard a woman's scream from the corridor. Recognising the voice as a PCSO he knew, he rushed to see what was going on, to find a large toad sitting on the floor. Enormously relieved, he offered to move the intruder outside, and the kettle went on.

On a more serious note, our police officers and staff can be at real risk when they are out and about. One sunny day in June, in a peaceful Cambridge graveyard, three officers were assaulted by a cannabis user, resulting in one needing to go for hospital treatment, and court charges being brought. Through regular visiting, the chaplains can show the church's support for the valuable work done to protect our communities, and can also build up bonds which allow them to offer help in any way they can.

There are currently 12 police volunteer chaplains across the county, and their work is co-ordinated by the *Chaplaincy to People at Work*, an ecumenical Christian charity. If you would like to have a speaker for a church group or service please contact Rev Dorothy Peyton Jones on 07503746520 or [Dorothy@workplacechaplaincy.org.uk](mailto:Dorothy@workplacechaplaincy.org.uk)

### DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Our plans are now with SCDC and we hope to hear early in September.

There is a garden party on 5th September, with thanks to Joy and Robin McCombie.

We are planning a meeting on 15th September with all groups using our premises to try to answer any questions/concerns that they may have.

A grant of £2355 from a trust at Papworth has now been confirmed and donations of £2180 have been received.

HMC pens will shortly go on sale at £1 each.

Thank you for your support. Thoughts, prayers, ideas, practical and financial support are always welcome.

### NEWS FROM THE TURNING POINT TRUST

A lot of thought, planning and prayer is devoted to the development of Chemi Chemi Ya Tumaini, the *Turning Point Trust* School now in its second year. Plans for the immediate future include extra-curricular activities to broaden the children's experience, educational trips and working more closely with the children's parents. The staff of the school plan to hold more parent/teacher meetings and also run parenting courses. It has been very evident that the children whose parents show most interest in the school are the ones who achieve better grades, have higher attendance levels and also consistently complete their homework well and on time; simply because their parents are interested and help where they can. This is also reflected in the children's self-esteem, motivation, self-discipline and behaviour, all aspects of their lives which are greatly affected by living on such a dire slum.

Many of the children's parents have little education themselves and lack the confidence that education offers. These plans should enable them to be more confident in their parenting skills and decision making. Also, as they build closer relationships with the teachers they will be more aware of the emotional, social and intellectual needs that will give their children a better future. It will also help them appreciate just how much the Chemi Chemi Ya Tumaini teachers give in time and effort for their children. So, as the stronger link between home and school develops there should be gains all round.

The teachers at the school, Philip, Rachel, Obadiah, Lilian, Godfrey and Robert, are an incredibly committed group who work with children whose needs in every area of life are huge. They are all committed Christians and they say that the faces of

the children motivate their commitment to the work they do and their desire to serve. Please pray for them. Many of us will never understand the effects of the depth of poverty and rejection that these families live with but if we pray for the teachers who do understand, we can accomplish a great deal for the both the children and their parents.

Thank you for your support,

*Jean and Michael Simmonds*

### PETER'S FAREWELL SERVICE

The church was full for a moving service on 16<sup>th</sup> August. Peter preached on Acts 20 verse 32 (sermon available on web and on CD). Rosemary thanked Peter on behalf of all the church for all he has done for us during the past 16 months. His thought provoking teaching, pastoral care and encouraging support has given us a firm foundation on which to move forward with confidence. The presentation of a gazebo to which was tied a large smiley faced balloon added some fun to a rather emotional moment, and will be a lasting reminder of the very wet garden party held in Peter's garden in June. Peter was also given a book containing many personal messages from members and friends, and Tricia, his wife was presented with a plant for their garden. During the past few months Matthew has been composing a new hymn tune and writing some very special words, for the occasion. He explained what had inspired him to do so, and gave Peter a framed copy of the music and words, with beautiful calligraphy by Vara. We then sang the hymn ably led by the choir who had had a preview of the music.

75 people sat down to a lovely buffet lunch, with thanks again to the stewards and all the helpers.

### PRAYER

Loving Lord, you have placed us where we are.

Help us to recognise that this time and space is your gift to us, and help us to embrace that gift with all that it offers.

When the sun is shining and life seems easy, help us to remember your call upon our lives.

When we feel the ground shaking under our feet, help us to remember that you hold us in your hand.

Help us to reach out to those with whom we share this time and place and offer them your gift of love. Amen.

*Richard Hall*, Isle of Man District Chair, ©Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.