

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

Central to the Christian faith is the idea that God is somehow revealed to humanity. Many would believe that the ultimate revelation of God was – and is – in the person of Jesus Christ. But we would also point to The Bible, to the natural world, and some of us -perhaps- to what we might describe as personal encounters with God. And in receiving this revelation of God, the Church throughout the ages has sought to make sense of God's nature, God's action and how we might live in the light of that.

For me, one of the strengths of the Methodist Church is that in seeking to make sense of God's revelation to us, we have traditionally placed a great value on 'conferring', on conversation, on the importance of working things through and working things out together. From local churches to the annual nationwide decision-making body (the Methodist Conference), "the process of discerning revelation is communal", as Rev Stephen Dawes has suggested.

This means that each of us potentially has a say in how the life, mission, practice and theology of the Church is shaped.

Intrinsically linked to this – and something else which I value a great deal about Methodism – is the capacity to hold within our Church people with vastly differing views on all manner of issues. At its best, this means that we are a people who are willing to listen to others; not just on a superficial level but in such a way as to

mean we ourselves might be enriched and transformed by that encounter.

Here at Histon Methodist, I already sense an openness on the part of many to engage in meaningful conversation about the things that matter. And it is my hope that – over the coming months – we will continue to cultivate a church culture which encourages genuine, loving conversation.

I will particularly value an ongoing conversation as we seek to develop worship and other aspects of our work with children and families, and our wider engagement with the Histon community. And we also have the opportunity coming up to shape a wider conversation in the British Methodist Church around issues of marriage and human sexuality. Our Superintendent Rev Colin Smith, and Rev Carol Irwin from Wesley House, will be hosting a special evening on Thursday 3rd December at 7:30pm to introduce the themes and encourage a conversation on these issues in the hope that we might provide some useful feedback to input into a nationwide consultation process. I do hope that many of our congregation, as well as others from around the Circuit, will be able to attend. There will be mince pies! There will be coffee! And there will be the opportunity to listen and to share with others and to – hopefully – discern something of the revelation of God on issues of real importance.

Simon

DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER

Sun 1 st	Preacher: Revd Charles Mather	10.30am
Mon 2 nd	Craft Group	2.00pm
Wed 4 th	Service at Bramley Court	2.45pm
Thu 5 th	Thursday Group. Speaker: Helen Allen <i>Egypt and a Coptic engagement</i>	2.45pm
Sun 8 th	<i>Remembrance Sunday</i> . Preacher: Revd Simon Oliver	10.30am
Mon 9 th	Housegroup planning meeting at 29 Brackenbury Manor	12.00pm
Thu 12 th	Big Issues. <i>Dogs for good: just who can assistance dogs help today?</i> Andy Lee	7.30pm
Fri 13 th	Country Dancing	8.00pm
Sun 15 th	<i>Shoebox Sunday</i> . Preacher: Revd Jean Simmonds	10.30am
	<i>Out of Africa into Malta</i> . Talk by Geoff and Joy Levine at Castle Street	1.15pm
Mon 16 th	Craft Group	2.00pm
Wed 18 th	Service at Etheldred House	11.00am
Sat 21 st	Christmas Market (see notice)	10.00am
Sun 22 nd	Holy Communion. Preacher: Revd Simon Oliver	10.30am
	Material for combined December and January <i>Newsletter</i> please	
Thu 26 th	Big Issues. <i>Why does God allow suffering? Reflections of a doctor and chaplain.</i> Revd Prof Alasdair Coles	7.30pm
Sun 29 th	<i>Advent Sunday</i> . Preachers: Mrs Tess Maddin & Mr Craig Shepherd	10.30am
Mon 30 th	Craft Group (last meeting until 4 th January)	2.00pm
Thu 3 rd Dec	<i>Living with different views: Marriage and relationships</i> . Speaker Revd Colin Smith	7.30pm

On 1st and 8th November there will be a retiring collection for the wreath that the church lays at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday

There will be a retiring collection for the *Angel Tree* trust on 29th November (Advent Sunday)

LIVING WITH DIFFERENT VIEWS

Marriage and relationships

Thursday 3rd December, 7:30-9:30pm

This event will follow a similar format to our *Big Issues* sessions, but - on this occasion - is just for those directly involved in Histon Methodist Church, and others in the Circuit. The evening will begin with a presentation, pause for mince pies and coffee, and conclude with a time of conversation and feedback.

Please make a special effort to be involved in this important consultation.

SERVICES AT BRAMLEY AND ETHELDRED

As most of you know, our church is responsible for taking monthly services at Bramley Court and Etheldred on the first and third Wednesday of the month respectively. We would really appreciate more support with this important contribution to the local community, either with help preparing and taking the service or as support with the singing and talking to the residents. It is very rewarding, so please give this your serious consideration and if you feel able to help in any way, speak to me for further information.

Many thanks.

Judy Houghton

**CHRISTMAS MARKET FROM 10am
SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER**

Christmas comes but once a year,
Time for our Market to appear.
Do come along for seasonal fun,
There are gifts and games for everyone.

The homemade cakes, pickles and pies,
Are delicious to eat and a feast for the eyes.
November 21st at 10am, is the day,
When to HMC all will wend their way.

Happy Christmas to one and all,
Wishing you joy and festive fun
in our church hall!

Gifts for the various stalls would be most welcome.

There will be Handicrafts, Books, Games, Bric-a-brac, Cake stall, Preserves, Toiletries and a Raffle plus of course coffee/tea, sausage rolls, scones from 10am and delicious lunches served from 12 noon.

Remember, Remember 21st November!

Judy Wynn

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The committee has had a quieter month and we hope planning permission will have been granted by the time you read this so we can move on.

We are now seeking advice on refurbishment in the church.

The yard sale raised £331 last month, and grateful thanks to all who helped, both on the Friday and Saturday. The church lunch on 18th October made £182, thank you to all the helpers. We have received a grant of £5000 from the *AllChurches* trust and a promise of £750 from the *Ebenezer* trust in Cottenham. We have enough money now to begin with building phases 1-3, hopefully in the New Year, and will continue actively fund-raising.

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

BIG ISSUES

On November 12th Andy Lee is coming to talk to us from the very recently renamed charity *Dogs for Good*, previously *Dogs for the Disabled*.

Andy will be accompanied by his dog, Rufus, and will tell us about the many ways dogs now help their owners and others.

26th November is the date of our last meeting before the Christmas break. Revd Prof Alasdair Coles will call on his experiences as a doctor and chaplain at Addenbrooke's to reflect on 'Why does God allow suffering?' Surely a question many of us grapple with.

As usual meetings begin at 7.30, with a chance for discussion when we break for tea, coffee and desserts, before concluding with questions and discussion with our speakers. Do join us, everyone is welcome.

Our next group of meetings begin on 14th January 2016, all details will be in the December/January Newsletter.

Helen Allen

THURSDAY GROUP

The Group is now open to everyone, men as well as women, and we have started to plan an exciting programme for 2016.

On 15th January we are going out for our New Year lunch at the Rose and Crown (menus will be available at the November meeting), and in February we will discuss experiences and stories connected to hymns. In March Simon will be coming. We have also booked Revd Kathleen Richardson in April, to talk about

being a baroness and Paul Allen will be telling us about the world of fancy pigeons, in May.

Do come and join us at 2.45pm on the first Thursday of the month!

Jenny Phillipps

REFUGEES

We have been invited by our friends at Castle Street Methodist Church to join them for a talk by Joy and Geoff Levine upon their experiences visiting refugee camps in Malta.

Their talk will take place on Sunday November 15th following the morning service and all are invited to join in a 'bring and share' lunch at 12.30pm, and/or arriving at 1.15pm for coffee in preparation for talk commencing at 1.30pm, until approximately 3pm.

It is hoped a group will go from Histon and lifts will be arranged.

The talk is entitled *Out of Africa into Malta*.

Revd Joy and Dr Geoff Levine are Methodists - Minister and Cambridge GP respectively. Geoff has a particular interest in diabetes and they have both worked over the past 11 years with hospitals in the slums of India where Geoff trains doctors. However, on this occasion they will talk about a project with St Andrew's Church, in Valletta, Malta (www.saintandrewsmalta.com). They have twice visited the refugee camps in Malta at the invitation of the church and have explored the setting up of self-help groups there. This is a particularly critical time to discuss the plight of refugees with so many attempting to enter the EU and the risks to their lives they are taking both overland and at sea. As Christians we are all concerned about our response and this is an opportunity to air some of our thoughts.