

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

I have been thinking a lot about hospitality and generosity since I started as minister here in September.

Firstly, my family and I have been so warmly welcomed, with many kind words and an amazing cake (not to mention a great meal at *The Rose and Crown*). We are all very grateful for this, and I already feel at home here. I know other newcomers to the church have felt a similar sense of welcome (although perhaps not everyone gets a cake with their name on it!)

Secondly, we have celebrated our Harvest Festival. I was genuinely overwhelmed by how beautiful the displays were, by the obvious love and creativity and generosity which went into them, and by the gifts which people brought to share with the *Foodbank*, and to raise funds for the work of *All We Can*.

And as I write this article, I am sat in our fantastic *Community Café*, eating one of the delicious gingerbread bunnies which are given away to any children who visit, and supping on an excellent (but very good value!) mug of filter coffee. Around me, people of all ages seem relaxed, welcomed and at home, the team keeping an eye out for newcomers and catching up with friends, old and new. In the Bible and throughout the history of the Christian faith, there is a strong tradition pointing to the importance of hospitality and generosity. There are hundreds of verses which we could have looked at, but one particular scripture which we considered during our Harvest celebrations was from Deuteronomy;

“When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow.”

I find this sort of principle to be both encouraging and challenging. Encouraging, because it feels like we're already on the right track. And challenging, because I think if we take it seriously we will have to go deeper, and be stretched wider in what it means to be hospitable and generous in our personal lives and in the life of the church....to what extent are we motivated by hospitality and generosity in our response to the Syrian refugee crisis? To what extent are we motivated by hospitality and generosity in the use of our homes and finances? To what extent are we motivated by hospitality and generosity in how we embrace and encourage the participation of children in the life and worship of Histon Methodist Church? To what extent are we motivated by hospitality and generosity in the way we develop the building here for the use of all?

I don't think there are straightforward responses to any of the issues, but as we commit them to God in prayer, and explore the possibilities with one another, perhaps we shall find some interesting and exciting ways forward..... *Simon*

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DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER

Thu 1 st	Thursday Group AGM	2.45pm
Sat 3 rd	Yard sale (see notice). Tables for outside users £10	9.30am
Sun 4 th	Preacher: Revd Jean Simmonds	10.30am
Mon 5 th	Craft group	2.00pm
Wed 7 th	Service at Bramley Court	2.45pm
Thur 8 th	Big Issues. Speakers: Martin and Moya Thompson <i>The Besom</i> in Histon and Impington – how, what, where, when?	7.30pm
Sun 11 th	Holy Communion. Preacher Revd Simon Oliver	10.30am
Fri 16 th	Country Dancing	8.00pm
Sun 18 th	Church Anniversary. Preacher: Revd Michael Wilson followed by lunch at 12.30pm	10.30am
Mon 19 th	Craft group	2.00pm
Wed 21 st	Service at Etheldred House	11.00am
Thur 22 nd	Big Issues. <i>Cruse</i> : supporting bereaved people Margaret Nimmo-Smith and Pennie Harrison	7.30pm
Sun 25 th	Preacher Revd Simon Oliver Material for November <i>Newsletter</i> , please	10.30am

NEWS FROM TURNING POINT TRUST

I cannot remember when we started sending monthly articles to churches who had enquired about the work of the trust, but it was a long time and, with 12 articles a year, many news reports ago! We feel it is time to sign off because Jo and Jon are now settled back in this country but still working for *Turning Point* and our access to news and information is now more limited than theirs.

Since we began writing these, we have shared stories of lives transformed by education, the farm project, the microfinance scheme and in many other ways. We have tried to introduce you to staff members, children and families who live on the slum and at the farm and, as the work has gradually grown, we have shared the joy of three projects working in different areas of the slum with similar aims but meeting varying needs, the school, the library, the fun and joy of camps, holiday clubs and staff retreats. Maybe you feel as we do that much has been achieved and it has....but there is potential for more.

How is it that two young people with vision but little experience, moving to a culture they know little of, can change so many lives? How is it that the Christian staff, many of whom live in the unspeakably awful shacks crowded together on Kibera slum and face every day the open sewers, the endless rubbish, poverty and disease, can keep smiling and trusting? There are several words that sum up the answers to those questions, they are detailed in 1 Cor. 13: faith, hope and love. We, whose lives are cushioned with comparative riches and comfort have much to learn from them. However they would say that they see God at work through our prayer, care and giving and that helps sustain their faith, hope and love. You may never have the opportunity to meet these amazing people, but their faith inspires us and our love enables them so please, keep praying and giving so that hope stays alive.....and who knows what God will do next? Thank you everyone and God bless you all.

Jean and Michael Simmonds

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

Our 119th Church Anniversary will be held on Sunday 18th October.

Our guest preacher at the morning service at 10.30am will be Revd Dr Michael Wilson.

A buffet lunch will be served in the hall following this service at 12.30pm.

Lunch tickets are available from the stewards priced at £7.50, children under 12 £5.

If you are willing to provide a homemade dessert, please add your name to the list on the table in front of the vestry

SAFE HAVENS FOR CHRISTIANS PETITION

Christian communities have lived in the Middle East for 2000 years. Yet today Syrian and Iraqi Christians are desperately fleeing the killing fields of Islamic State territory, where they face being driven from their homes, robbed, enslaved or murdered by Islamist militants.

In response to the deteriorating situation in the Middle East, and requests received for help from church leaders in the region, *Barnabas Fund* has launched *Operation Safe Havens* to rescue Christians in danger, and enable them to re-settle in places of safety outside the region.

The first group of 157 Syrian Christians was flown to Poland last month, many more need to leave, but few western governments will give them visas.

Despite the fact that Christians are considered the most vulnerable of the refugees, so far the UK government seems unwilling to accept many Christian refugees seeking asylum. This petition calls on our political leaders to work with governments in the Middle East to provide and support secure areas for displaced Christian communities, and welcome Christian refugees, giving them priority in granting asylum as particularly vulnerable people.

The petition is on the table in front of the vestry for anyone who wishes to sign it.

GARDEN PARTY

Thank you to everyone who supported our last Church Development fund-raising event. We were grateful to those who baked such delicious cakes, tray bakes, buns, scones, etc. and to those who put in such a lot of work beforehand, during and after the garden party and everyone that helped in any way. We hope that everyone who joined us enjoyed the afternoon, in spite of a rather chilly day – but at least it was dry!

Joy and Robin

It was a drier day at the beginning of September for the garden party at Joy and Robin's home than for the one at Peter's, but we could have done with a bit more sunshine. However the garden looked absolutely beautiful and we thank Joy and Robin for opening their home and for all their hard work. Thank you also to the many others who helped, by providing a lovely tea, transporting all that was required, putting up gazebos, organising the games etc. £266 was raised for development funds.

Christine Pooley

HARVEST 2015

The most enjoyable weekend was the result of a lot of hard work by people behind the scenes – Thank you. The Friday was the work of the *artists* who laid out the fruits and the flowers in the church. Saturday the church was open for viewing, and a considerable number of visitors joined us for refreshments in the hall.

Sunday saw a full church with a nice service from our Minister, who got the children to collect the parcels for the local food bank. After the service we had a delicious church lunch in the *Rose and Crown*, with forty plus enjoying the companionship and food.

Monday brought the harvest market when the sale of fruit and vegetables benefitted the Methodist relief charity *All We Can*.

All in all what a lovely weekend, which also helped with the two charities.

Peter Harrison

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We will be participating in the *Shoebox Appeal* again this year, leaflets will be available in the church and in the hall.

Completed shoe boxes will be received during our morning service on Sunday 15th November. Donations of money are also welcome and can be given to Rosemary Watson

BIG ISSUES

Our Autumn series of *Big Issues* continues on 8th October when we are delighted to welcome Martin and Moya Thompson of St Andrews Church, Histon, to tell us about *Besom* in our villages. This is something our church is involved with and will be a very informative evening.

22nd October is the date Margaret Nimmo-Smith and Pennie Harrison from *Cruse* are our speakers. *Cruse* supports those who have been bereaved, whatever their age.

Do join us at either or both of these evenings. Meetings start at 7.30pm, and also include a time for chat over refreshments.

YARD SALE

Our next fundraising event for our Development Fund is a Yard Sale on Saturday 3rd October from 9.30am to 12noon.

A limited number of tables will be available to hire at a cost of £10, to book please phone 237981.

Coffee, tea, sausage rolls, and cakes etc will be available as usual in the hall.

An opportunity to have an autumn turn-out!

Items to be sold may be left in the church during the week preceding the sale, preferably not until after morning service on 27th September.

If you can help sort from 4pm on Friday 2nd and/or help set up and serve on the stalls on Saturday morning, please add your name to the sheet on the table in front of the vestry.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The garden party on 5th September was a great success (see above) and our next fund-raiser is the yard sale on 3rd October (see notice). We are hoping to arrange some more Wednesday afternoon concerts in December.

We have had a setback with our planning permission. Originally due in early September, it was delayed two weeks, and then we heard just recently that our planning officer has left and there is a further four week delay.

We have raised over £17,000 during the financial year that finished at the end of August. £6000 was given from the Community coffee shop, £5000 in donations and planned giving, and most of the rest by fund-raising events. A great total, and many thanks to all who have supported us.

About £144,000 has been raised through the church since we started, and the total with all the grants promised is now £343,000. Michael continues to apply for more grants, and we thank him for all his hard work.

We have enough money now to begin with building phases 1-3, hopefully in the New Year, and will continue actively fund-raising.

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

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

NOVEMBER DATES

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. 15th November will be *Shoebox Sunday*, and there will be a retiring collection for the *Angel Tree* trust on 29th November (Advent Sunday).

OAKINGTON (at Histon!) COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Jane and Kathryn look forward to seeing you on the following Fridays from 8.00pm to 10.00pm:

18th September, 16th October, 13th November and 11th December, 2015 (Party Night, so finger buffet food would be appreciated, please)

Guest callers each month and music provided by Heather (violin), Mike (button accordion) and Alison (recorder), if available.

Do come and join us.

Adults: £1.50 Accompanied Children: 50p.

Everybody most welcome.

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.

INCORPORATING AND ENCOURAGING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN WORSHIP

One of the joys of my start at Histon has been working with the children and families who have been attending Sunday worship.

The stewards and myself (and others) are taking seriously how we best incorporate children in worship and encourage their spiritual growth alongside adults, as part of the church. And so we will be experimenting with different ideas as we move forward over the coming months.

Please do share your thoughts with me about how we might develop this aspect of our life and worship together.

In order to give a bit of shape to things, it will be my intention to be preaching on at least the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. For the next few months I am also hoping to attend some services which I won't be leading, in order to get a sense of what being part of Histon Methodist feels like when I've not got a dog collar and a microphone!

Simon