

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 come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

As I sit typing in a moment of relative calm in our Community Coffee Shop, enjoying a gingerbread aeroplane and a filter coffee, braced for the imminent arrival of babies, toddlers, mums, dads, and our many other regulars of all ages, shapes and sizes, it occurs to me that it has been a very full couple of months in the life of the church. We have celebrated Easter, Ascension and Pentecost; the fullness of the expression of Christian faith. We have experienced the joy and excitement of christenings and the sadness and loss of funerals, of saying farewell to beloved members and friends. We've had quizzes and yard sales. A number of you kindly stepped in to do numerous extra tasks whilst I was off sick last month. And we've continued to do all those things we always do; exploring creative ways of worshiping God and exploring faith; serving the local retirement homes; and those countless 'unseen' actions and prayers, exercising genuine hospitality in caring for one another and seeking to care for those in our wider community.

Jesus said “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” And it seems like he wasn't joking!

And the next few months promise to be just as full.

As well as all our usual activities, we are looking to develop a mid-week lunch time Toddler group as part of our hospitality and ministry in the community. (Please see separate notice in the newsletter for more info.)

And we are getting ever closer to the prospect of our development scheme taking off. It is such an incredible opportunity for us to build upon the many good things we already do, and to see where God might be leading us next, to experience more of the fullness of life which Jesus promises.

Please continue to pray, to give generously, to get involved, and to support the tireless work of the Development Committee, the members of which have all devoted countless hours over many months and years to this exciting endeavour. You wouldn't believe how much hard graft, brain power and prayer goes into this, and I feel very grateful to be part of a church which has people so committed to such a project.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Jenny for whom this *Newsletter* will be her last as editor. I - along with everyone else I'm sure! - am

very thankful for all she has done over many, many years.

As I finish typing, the joyful noise of children enjoying themselves and the friendly chatter of friends old and new now fills our back hall... Jesus came to bring life in all its fullness, and

what a privilege it is to share in that fullness, in all that we do at Church and in our local community, both today, and in the months and years to come...

Simon

DIARY DATES FOR JUNE

Wed 1 st	Service at Bramley Court	2.45pm
Thu 2 nd	Thursday Group. Garden party at Jenny's, 57 Lone Tree Avenue, Impington	3.00pm
Fri 3 rd	Country Dancing	8.00pm
Sun 5 th	Preacher: Miss Elsie Salmon	10.30am
Mon 6 th	Craft Group	2.00pm
Sun 12 th	Holy Communion. Preacher: Revd Simon Oliver	10.30am
Wed 15 th	Service at Etheldred House	11.00am
Fri 17 th	Beetle Drive (see notice)	7.00pm
Sun 19 th	Methodist Homes Sunday, Preacher: Mrs Judy Wynn Material for July <i>Newsletter</i> to Chris Whitworth, please	10.30am
Mon 20 th	Craft Group	2.00pm
Tues 21 st	20/30 young people's group	7.45pm
Sun 26 th	Preacher: Revd Simon Oliver	10.30am
Tues 28 th	Church Council	7.45pm
Thur 30 th	Housegroup planning meeting at 2 Ambrose Way (see notice) Big Issues planning meeting (see notice)	2.00pm 7.30pm

Future dates for your diary

25th September: Harvest Festival, Revd Simon Oliver will lead morning worship

16th October: Church Anniversary (see notice)

3rd December: Christmas Market

We are very privileged to have Revd Steven Wild, current President of the Methodist Conference, to lead our Church Anniversary service this year on Sunday 16th October at 10.30am. Please make a note in your diary.

HOLIDAY CLUB

This year's holiday club will be held from Monday 25th to Friday 29th July and we have been asked to prepare lunches again. If you are willing and able to help, please speak to Judy Houghton or Rosemary Watson indicating which days you will be available, to enable a rota to be prepared.

THURSDAY GROUP

This month's meeting is on 2nd June at my house for tea in the garden (weather permitting) or conservatory. As before, this is open to both men and women, so everybody is welcome (even if you don't usually come to the group!)

Could some of you bring a few sandwiches, scones or homemade cake please? If there are a lot of people coming, could some of you bring a garden chair, please?

Thanks

Jenny Phillipps

SINGING

Following on from last month's *Choir Rules* we now have John Wesley's version:

DIRECTIONS FOR SINGING

- i Learn *these* tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please.
- ii Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.
- iii Sing *all*. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find a blessing.
- iv Sing *lustily* and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of *Satan*.
- v Sing *modestly*. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.
- vi Sing in *time*. Whatever time is sung, be sure to keep with it. Do not run before or stay behind it; but attend closely to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can. And take care you sing not *too slow*. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from among us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.
- vii Above all sing *spiritually*. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your *heart* is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the *Lord* will approve of here, and reward when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.

TODDLER GROUP

As part of our commitment to the local community and the development of our ministry amongst young families, we are hoping to start a mid-week lunch time Toddler Group during the summer and beyond. Circuit children's worker Alison Clark will be spearheading the arts, crafts, songs and stories! The current plan is that it will take place on Thursdays, and possibly involve providing simple sandwiches etc. at a small cost. If you might be interested in helping out in any way (hosting, setting up, preparing or serving food, praying), we will be having a planning and prayer meeting in early July. Watch this space for a date or please talk to Simon or Rosemary if you'd like a bit more information or are interested in getting involved.

NEARLY NEW SALE

Following the success of the *Yard Sale*, it is hoped to have a *Nearly New Clothes Sale*. So if you have a pair of shoes still in the box which proved to be not so comfortable as anticipated, or anything else which has hardly been worn taking up space in your wardrobe, hang on to it for this fundraising event.

Please note, this is NEARLY NEW not JUMBLE. We hope to fix a date very soon. All proceeds will be for our development fund.

Does anyone have a portable garment rail we could borrow please?

Rosemary Watson

GENERAL CHURCH MEETING AND GIFT DAY

The General Church meeting and Gift day took place on Sunday 1st May after morning worship, and a good number stayed on.

Papers from the various organisations were presented at the meeting (copies available). Stewards elected for the year May 2016 – April 2017 are Joy McCombie, Julia Daft, Judy Houghton, Judy Wynn, Michael Simmonds and Derek Slaymaker.

A vote of thanks, with flowers, was given to Rosemary Watson for her superb work as steward for seven years, the last four as senior steward.

Thanks were also offered to Roberta Harrison, who is standing down.

Representatives to the Church Council, elected from this meeting are: Jean Simmonds, Gillian Slaymaker, Joyce Barker, Naomi Whitworth, Nick Bailey, Wendy Toates, Trisha Clarkson, Kathryn Coles, Rosemary Watson, Roberta Harrison and Lileth Warford.

Money received at the gift day was £1,700 for the Development fund, and £1,230 for the General fund. Thank you for your support.

BEETLE DRIVE

The *Beetle Drive* will take place on Friday 17th June at 7.00pm. If you haven't played *Beetle* for a while, do come and try your skill/luck on this fun evening.

Tickets, price £5 to include desserts, will be available soon from Christine or a steward. There will also be a list to sign if you can help by providing a dessert, help set up or serve.

HMC YOUNG-ISH PEOPLE'S GROUP

The 20 and 30-somethings of Histon Methodist have an informal gathering once a month, usually on a Tuesday night at The Red Lion (but sometimes in people's homes). It's a chance to get to know one another, and explore issues of life and faith from a variety of perspectives. In June, we'll be meeting at 7:45pm on Tuesday 21st. Do chat with Simon or someone else before turning up (just in case plans have changed!)

BIG ISSUES

7.30pm on Thursday 30th June is the time and date for the planning meeting for our next series of *Big Issues*.

As usual we will include a wide range of topics, all 'big issues' in their own way. All the speakers are invited following suggestions from *Big Issues* or church attendees.

So if you can, please attend the planning meeting, or advise me your suggestions for speakers or *Big Issues* beforehand. Also if you would like to be more involved at the meetings, or could offer lifts, please let me know.

Helen Allen

WHAT'S GOING ON IN COTTENHAM...?

For anyone who might be interested in some of the initiatives Simon is involved with at Cottenham Community Centre, here is some of what's happening in June:

Sun June 5th 7 for 7:30pm, *Community Cinema: Spectre* (£4). For this Bond Special, there will be a bottle of something fizzy awarded for the most glamorously or smoothly attired attendee! (Although of course you can wear whatever you want). We'll also be attempting to make cocktails!

Sat June 11th 10:30am, *Dads Play*: a chance for dads/male carers to hang out with their children, drink great coffee and eat bacon sandwiches!

Sun June 19th 3-4:30pm, *The Roost*: a great, fun, family event exploring life and faith with arts, craft, videos, music and more...plus the Sunday papers, cake and more great coffee. If the weather is good, we'll be at Cottenham Recreation Ground, rather than the Coffee Shop.

Sun June 26th 7:30-9:30pm, *Arts Night*: a small group of musicians, singers, photographers, poets, artists and storytellers exploring life and faith through the arts.

If you want to know more about any of these things or fancy getting involved, please talk to Simon or get in touch via simon.oliver@cantab.net or www.revcoffee.net

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

It was a beautiful day for the *Yard Sale*. Business was brisk, and £505 was raised for development funds. Many thanks to all who helped, both setting up, and on coffee and the stalls. Our next fund-raiser is a *Beetle Drive* at 7pm on 17th June (see notice).

We hope to go out to tender by the end of May, and start building work in July, though the schedule is tight.

Stewards have been busy clearing out cupboards, and a list is now available on the bookcase in the Church about what is for sale (for Development funds).

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

For two years the women's groups of the East Anglia District arranged activities to support the charity founded by our daughter and son-in-law and Michael and I visited many churches to speak, raising over £17,000 which has been a tremendous help to people whose depth of poverty we have never had to experience.

During my years in ministry there wasn't the time for me to be involved. However, after all their support I didn't want to just walk away and in the two years I had come to value the deep bonds of friendship that are created and the amazing efforts they are making to change the lives of the neediest women. A five year national project has enabled some Dalit girls in India to go to school when formerly they had no opportunity for education and faced hugely restricted, tightly controlled lives. Currently in this district we are supporting EACH in their need for funds to build a new children's hospice. We have also enabled women from poorer Eastern European countries, often in small churches and rather isolated, to go to America, with women from this country and share in the world federation conference, broadening their experience and opening their eyes to just what can be achieved when we all work together. Lives are changed forever because of Methodist women's groups.

I've also been able to attend several MWiB day and weekend conferences and have never been disappointed. We are not fund raising all the time! There is friendship, fun, worship as well as the opportunity to learn and to be part of changing lives. We can do very little as individual churches but together we can do so much good.

East Anglia District are very aware that there is little support or interest in our circuit so on 24th June at 10.00 am at Chesterton Church, some of the District office holders are coming to tell us about the work and what we're missing! You do not have to be a member of the church to come to MWiB events, just someone who is sympathetic to our aims. If you are free we would be glad to see you and will try to arrange lifts if possible, just speak to me or Gillian Slaymaker.

Jean Simmonds

PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY

The theme of the Methodist Prayer Handbook for 2015/2016 is *Pilgrims on a Journey*. The Circuit Service hosted by the Church in Toft in the Methodist Chapel on April 24th explored this same theme from the dual perspectives of the Theology of Migration and the Spirituality of Pilgrimage. As a refugee or a Christian each is on a journey to reach a safer part of the world or the Kingdom of God respectively. Just as the refugee identifies where he or might like to arrive in search of a better life, the journeys in the Bible are not aimless wanderings, they are pathways with a purpose. The journeys create identity.

The Bible is a book of migration. God takes a nomadic people, the Hebrews, and at first, wanders with them. Abraham and Jacob are wandering shepherds, with a route to follow but no fixed abode. For a while God's people settle in Egypt, but seeking to escape enslavement they become migrants, lead out again into the desert by Moses. As they fled they were in mortal danger, a situation that resonates only too often with today's refugees who may not have the reassurance that God is on their side.

Jesus himself is an immigrant to humanity. Even as a baby, He experiences the life of a refugee, fleeing to Egypt for safe haven. And while Mary and Joseph may have been totally unaware of this Jesus journey to the cross had begun; there could be neither deviating nor turning back. The Apostles Creed tells us how Jesus, Son of God, was born, suffered, was crucified, died, descended to the dead, and on the third day rose again and ascended into heaven. And His journey is still unfinished, for he will come again.

And so we understand that God is a migratory God, always moving on, and calling God's people to travel with God; that faith and identity are formed by the journey that God calls us to undertake, and that Jesus typifies this. Thus our eyes are opened to the presence of God in modern day immigrants, to journeys that fulfil the intention of God – that people will be able to settle in better lands, where peace and safety can become realities. We can help people on their journeys, and accept them as they arrive, because God travels with them, and in them.

A congregation of some 80, including representatives from Churches across the Circuit and the Anglican Church of St Andrew's in Toft, packed the chapel. Music was provided by the Circuit Music Group; the readings were from Ruth Chapter 1 and Colossians Chapter 1; the poem *Refugees* by Malcolm Guite who lives in Cambridge was an interesting counterpoint to an extract from *Pilgrims Progress* read by members of the Church in Toft, and chosen not least because Bunyan actually preached in the village. Members of the congregation were encouraged to write their own prayer considering the needs of migrants or for people on their faith or life journey on small squares of paper which were transformed into origami boats. These were floated serving to highlight the fragility of the boats the migrants use, and that the boat is an image of the church too.

The congregation raised the roof in the archetypal Methodist way and among the selected hymns were Bunyan's *He who would valiant be* and the eternally stirring and highly relevant *Guide me o thou Great Jehovah*. A collection on the night for the *Methodist Refugee Support Fund* raised over £440 and this has been rounded to £500 by the Circuit.

Pilgrim God, you keep travelling on, but we are weary and weighed down. We carry so much about us, some of it because we treasure the memories and the people, but a lot is superfluous.

Unclutter our lives Lord,
free us from all that we have, because in the end it possesses us.
free us from all that we consume, because in the end it bloats and consumes us,
free us from all that we worry about and expect, because in the end our worry stops us from understanding your hope.

Help us Lord to treasure what you treasure and to give all that we have to nurture and value as you do.

Unclutter our lives Lord, and give us instead
wisdom to trust you,
love to return to you
and faith to follow you.

Steve Acklam

STREET PASTORS

It is with great regret that I have had to give up being a Street Pastor. My back has finally told me I can no longer sit on cold pavements helping people and then get back up again (without help!!!).

It was a great privilege to have been part of such an amazing team and I shall miss so much of it. Nevertheless after nearly 7 years I feel the time is right to hand in my cap and uniform.

May I please take this opportunity say a big thank you to all who have supported me and the team in their thoughts and prayers? Thank you also to the Church for their donations to our charity.

I do hope we as a Church can continue to support this valuable work in the future years. It really does help so many people in so many ways.

Thank you again, please remember all *Street Pastors* in thought and prayer.

Wendy

COUNTRY DANCING

Jane and I look forward to seeing you at Country Dancing on Friday 3rd June, in the Methodist Church Hall at 8.00pm.

Adults £1.50, Accompanied children 50p.

See you there!

Kathryn Coles

EDITOR

I am very pleased to say that Chris Whitworth has offered to take over as editor of this *Newsletter*. This is my last time, so I'm signing out with a bumper edition!

Thank you, Chris.

In future all material should be given or emailed to him.

Jenny

HOUSEGROUP

We are having a planning meeting for the next study at 2 Ambrose Way at 2pm on Thursday 30th June.

We have had some interesting discussions, and you really don't need to be knowledgeable, but we'd love to see you.

Do come, and tell us if there's something you'd like us to study together, perhaps a book of the Bible, but we're open to other suggestions!

Jean Simmonds

PRAYER

Let our trust be in you, O God, that nothing may disturb us or frighten us. Teach us that all things are passing, and that you are changeless. In patience let us strive and quietly achieve. You alone meet every need and in you we can lack nothing. Amen

Teresa of Avila 1515-82