

## Regular Activities

<b>Sunday</b>	Services	<i>10:30am, some evenings</i>
<b>Monday</b>	Craft Club (alternate weeks, see diary for dates)	<i>2pm to 4pm</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Community Coffee Shop	<i>9am to 5pm</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	Thursday Group (1st Thursday in month)	<i>2:45pm to 4pm</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	Community Coffee Shop	<i>10:30am to 11:30am</i>

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## Minister's Message

By the time this month's Newsletter goes to press, the EU referendum will be over, and we will be starting to come to terms with what the political landscape looks like.

If you're anything like me, you might have been left somewhat reeling by the events of the last few months; from the claims and counter-claims of the opposing sides, from the frequent appeals to both our greed and our fear, from the egos and personalities on display—it has been quite an exhausting process. And I'm sure many of us would have been tempted to stick our heads in the sand or our fingers in our ears and just pray for it all to be over! But as July begins we might contemplate once again how, as individuals and as a Church, we engage with the political and social situation in which we find ourselves.

There are many and various perspectives on how faith and politics mix, ranging from those who would claim that Jesus would support a particular political party or a certain policy, right through to those who would say that religion has nothing to

contribute and should stay well away from politics. There are those who would closely associate religion with the established political order, and those who would see an essential part of the Christian faith as being its capacity to protest against that very same political order.

It can be confusing, and—again, perhaps—something which we don't have the inclination to engage with.

I am certainly not an expert on any of these issues, but I do find some of the writings of Anabaptist theologian Stanley Hauerwas helpful in considering how the church might exist in relation to society and politics. In his book *A Community Of Character* Hauerwas suggests that the church's "first social task in any society is to be herself". By this he means that church is to be a space and a place in which "people of virtue" can be developed. As the church always has to function within a political context he suggests that the challenge is always for the church to be a "contrast model", and to be a "community formed on trust rather than distrust." Such a Church—which in an individualistic society, displays counter-cultural characteristics such as

obedience and community—should not reject or withdraw from the world, but serve it on her own terms, seeking to make positive contributions to whatever society she finds herself a part of.

I don't know if I entirely agree with Hauerwas' perspective (or fully comprehend its implications!) but

it is perhaps something to think about as the dust settles from the referendum and we continue to minister together as a Church, and in the wider community of which we are a part.

*Simon*

## Diary dates for July

Sun 3 July	Preacher: Mrs Tess Maddin	10:30am
Mon 4 July	Craft Group	2pm
Wed 6 July	Service at Bramley Court	2:45pm
Thurs 7 July	Thursday Group (see notice)	2:45pm
Thurs 7 July	Toddler Group Planning Meeting	7:45pm
Sat 9 July	Nearly New Sale (see notice)	9am-12noon
Sun 10 July	Preacher: Revd Simon Oliver (Holy Communion)	10:30am
Fri 15 July	Country dancing	8pm
Sun 17 July	Histon and Impington Churches United Service at the Recreation Ground	11am
Sun 17 July	Farewell service for Rev'd Chris White at Royston	6:30pm
Mon 18 July	Craft Group	2pm
Wed 20 July	Service at Etheldred House	11am
Sun 24 July	Preacher: Revd Simon Oliver	10:30am
Mon 25 July - Fri 29 July	Holiday Club	
Sun 31 July	Preacher: Revd Gillian E Slaymaker	10:30am

## Future dates for your diary

**25 September** Harvest Festival. Revd Simon Oliver will lead morning worship.

**16 October** Church anniversary. Revd Steven Wild, immediate past president of the Methodist conference, will lead morning worship.

**3 December** Christmas market

Please email any content for the next newsletter to [newsletter@histonmethodist.org](mailto:newsletter@histonmethodist.org) or hand it to Chris Whitworth

## 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 July, we'll be meeting at 7:45pm on Tuesday 26th. Do chat with Simon or someone else before turning up (just in case plans have changed!)

## Country Dancing

Jane and I look forward to seeing you at Country Dancing on Friday 15th July in the Church Hall at 8pm. As this is the last one this term, we shall have strawberries and shortbread in the interval. See you there! *Kathryn*

## Archangels at Thursday Group

Priests, Nuns, Monks, even Archangels will feature in Paul Allen's talk on Fancy Pigeons to the Thursday Group and friends at their July meeting. They are among the hundreds of varieties known across the world, some dating back to the 1500's.

Charles Darwin kept Fancy Pigeons at Down House, and studied the beautiful Frillback Pigeons as part of his research On the Origin of Species. This is the variety Paul keeps and he will bring along a few (in special show pens) to explain some of their unique characteristics. Will you think they remind you of chocolate flakes, or think they have just visited the hairdressers?

All are welcome on Thursday, 7th July at 2:45pm.

## Toddler Group Planning Meeting

We are hoping to launch a Thursday lunchtime toddler group at Histon Methodist Church in the near future, and so a group of us are getting together to plan and pray on Thursday 7th July at 7:45pm at the Church.

If you might be interested in getting involved in any way (going on a general helpers rota, helping with craft, setting up, story-telling, music, making sandwiches, praying etc...) please talk to Simon, and do come along to find out more.

## Nearly New Sale

A date has now been arranged for a Nearly New Sale; this will be held on Saturday 9 July from 9am until 12 noon alongside our usual coffee morning. Items to sell can be left in the church any time after morning service on 3rd July

Please note, this is NEARLY NEW not JUMBLE, and can include clothes, shoes, bags or any other nearly new items, unwanted gifts etc.

All proceeds will be for our development fund.

If you can help set up late afternoon on Friday 8th July or help on stalls on Saturday please add your name to the list on the table in front of the vestry. Extra help will also be needed with coffee on that morning.

## Christian Aid Week 2016

Thank you very much to all our collectors and supporters. £560 was raised through our church, and the total for the two villages was £3272.40. Especial thanks to Helen and Paul who have counted our church's money the last two years.

## Holiday Club

We will shortly be preparing the rota for serving lunches at this year's holiday club, which will be held from Monday 25th to Friday 29th July. If you are willing and able to help, and haven't already done so, please speak to Judy Houghton or Rosemary Watson indicating which days you will be available. The lunches are always much appreciated which makes this a very worthwhile task to be involved with.

## Development report

Tender documents went out to five firms in late May. Three have declined due to work pressures, so documents have been sent to a further two companies. We need three estimates to take to the Church Council. This means that starting date has now moved back to early September.

We had a good meeting with the QMP team. Lighting and heating have been agreed, and the architect has produced some exciting and stylish colour schemes which the committee is very pleased with. Do talk to one of the committee if you want further details, and there are some samples in the vestry.

We had a successful and fun evening at the Beetle drive on 17th June. £200 was raised for development funds. Thank you to Pearl for the idea and materials and prizes and we are sorry that she wasn't well enough to attend. Thank you too to all who helped with puddings, setting up, or during the evening.

Our next fund-raising event is the Nearly New sale on Saturday 9 July (see notice). Fund-raising may be more limited during the autumn but if anyone would like to hold a coffee morning or afternoon tea in their homes this would be very much appreciated.

We have received a grant of £1500 from South Cambs District Council and been promised £5000 from the parish council. Michael continues to work hard at getting grants and there are others in the pipeline. If you know anyone who would like to buy a pew please let Christine know. Pews will begin to be removed early August. There is a list of other contents for sale on the bookcase in church.

## Prayer handbook

The Methodist prayer handbook for 2016-17 is now available, price £3.50 plus postage. Please give your name to Christine Pooley by 10 July if you

would like her to order you a copy. (An order for multiple copies keeps the cost down).

## Prayer

Today, O God, let us know your power to make us strong, your counsel to make us wise, your grace to make us holy, and your glory to bring us into your presence. **Amen**

*Martin Luther (1483-1546)*

## What's going on in Cottenham?

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

### Sun July 3rd: Community Cinema

2pm: Zootropolis (£2)

7 for 7:30pm: The Man Who Knew Infinity (£4 in advance)

Tickets for these great films are available via [www.picatic.com/knewinfinity](http://www.picatic.com/knewinfinity), from the Cottenham Community Centre, or from Simon.

**Sat July 9th: 10:30am, 'Dads Play'**: a chance for dads/male carers to hang out with their children, drink great coffee and eat bacon sandwiches!

**Sun July 17th: 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. This month will be slightly different from usual, and will be an opportunity to creatively explore what we might do with The Roost in the next academic year.

**Sun July 24th: 7:30-9:30pm, Arts Night**: a small group of musicians, singers, poets, photographers, 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](mailto:simon.oliver@cantab.net) or <http://www.revcoffee.net/>