

## Regular Activities

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

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## Minister's Message

In recent weeks, in the wake of the EU referendum and with a certain degree of uncertainty and fear about what the future holds, it has been good to focus on some core aspects of the Christian faith.

In recent services we have been reconsidering what it means to follow Jesus today; what it means to love the Lord our God with all our mind, with all our strength, with all our soul, with all our heart; what it means to love our neighbour as ourselves.

I find it reasonably easy to love my neighbour if they are my natural friends: if they share the same outlooks, social backgrounds, politics, theological perspectives or taste in music as me! But things become more complicated—and a lot harder work—when my neighbour is someone who is very different to me. What about someone with different politics or a different spirituality to me? What about someone with a different ethnicity or a different approach to ethics? How do I love my neighbour as myself if they have a different sexual or gender identity to my own, or if they are a vastly different age, or if they have a different family status? What if I voted 'leave' and my neighbour voted 'remain'?! What if my neighbour likes Adele?

Loving people with differences or with whom we don't have a natural affinity is not always easy but is at the heart of what Jesus calls his friends to. In a society which—in the build up to and in the wake of the EU referendum—has often been characterised as irreconcilably divided, this is part of the way in which Jesus calls his friends to live.

As we move closer towards our building works getting underway, I think it is good to remind ourselves of these very simple yet incredibly challenging ideas and ways of living we find at the heart of the Gospel, and to remember the reasons we are investing so much time, energy, finance and love into the project.

It is not—we sincerely believe and hope—a vanity project; something which will simply provide a pretty new building in which to sing hymns. Rather it is an outworking of a belief that we are called to love the Lord our God with all our mind, heart, soul, and strength; and to love our neighbours—every single one of them—as ourselves. My sincere hope is that the redevelopment will give us the space to both deepen our worship and our love of God, and to create an inclusive, expansive, loving space for all in the community who want or need it. Exciting times!

**Simon**

## Diary dates for August

<b>Mon 1 August</b>	Craft Group	2pm
<b>Sun 7 August</b>	Preacher: John Boocock and Elliot Harris	10:30am
<b>Thurs 11 August</b>	House group	2:30pm
<b>Sun 14 August</b>	Preacher: Revd Jean Simmonds (Holy Communion)	10:30am
<b>Mon 15 August</b>	Craft Group	2pm
<b>Sun 21 August</b>	Preacher: Revd Dr Michael Wilson	10:30am
<b>Thurs 25 August</b>	House group	2:30pm
<b>Sun 28 August</b>	Preacher: Revd Jean Simmonds	10:30am

*Please note: there will be no Thursday group this month, and no service at Bramley nor Etheldred.*

## Future dates for your diary

<b>4 September</b>	Circuit welcome service for new minister for Royston, Orwell and Foxton, Revd Charity Nzegwu, at Royston at 5.00pm
<b>8 September</b>	First Friends Toddler Group inaugural meeting (12:30pm—2:30pm)
<b>25 September</b>	Harvest Festival. Revd Simon Oliver will lead morning worship and there will be a Songs of Praise at 4:30pm to which Impington Parish Church have been invited.
<b>16 October</b>	Church anniversary. Revd Steven Wild, immediate past president of the Methodist conference, will lead morning worship.
<b>3 December</b>	Christmas market

## Church Logo

As part of our building development project, we felt that it was a good time to have a logo designed for the Church which can be used on signs, posters, letter-heads and so on.

Our hope is that it will reflect something of who we are and what we are about here at Histon Methodist Church; our faith in Jesus and our relationship with the community.

If you've got any thoughts about this please get in touch with Simon or one of the Stewards as it would be great to hear your ideas and inspiration!

## Nearly New Sale

Many thanks to everyone who supported our recent nearly new sale by offering items to sell, helping sort and to sell on the day, supplying and serving refreshments, buying a new outfit, designing posters and more.

Your help is very much appreciated, and £380 was raised for our Development Fund.

Items are still available displayed on a rail in the hall for which we just ask a small donation.

## First Friends Toddler Group

To enhance the Church's mission to Families, we are starting a Toddler Group on Thursday lunchtimes. The inaugural meeting of **First Friends** will be on **Thursday, 8th September**. Alison Clark, who is running similar groups at Wesley and Castle Street, will be the Leader and Kathryn Coles will be the Church's co-ordinator. However, in order to have something to co-ordinate, we need to have some volunteer helpers!

We have a few willing volunteers already, but can always do with more. If you are able to spend a couple of hours (12.30 to 2.30) either helping to make hot drinks for the adults, meeting and greeting the parents/carers and children as they arrive, collecting the fees and registering the toddlers, playing with the children, etc., Kathryn would be pleased to hear from you. We need people of all ages and sexes – grandfather/grandmother figures, aunties and uncles, etc. – and, although we know you are already on practically every rota going, we would love if you could commit to helping out once or twice a month.

If you think you may be able to help, please speak to Kathryn.

## Pastoral House group

House group starts again on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Christine will introduce a session on the Psalms and we shall follow a York Course which looks at 5 Psalms in more detail, listening to a CD extract each time and following a course booklet for discussion. Anyone is very welcome to attend, it is very informal.

## Prayer

*God of stillness and creative action  
Help us to find space for quietness today  
That we may live creatively, discover the inner  
meaning of silence  
And learn the wisdom that heals the world.  
Send peace and joy to each quiet place, to all  
who are waiting and listening.  
May your still small voice be heard through  
Christ in the love of the Spirit*

**Amen**

## MHA Sunday

Thank you very much for your donations which amounted to £145. The gift aid declarations added a further £27.50 to the total raised by our church this year.

## Refugees—A reflection

*They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are  
born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way*

**(now read again from end to start!)**

## Development report

We have just received two further large grants towards our Redevelopment Project:

1. More than £56,000 from the Cambridge Methodist Circuit, bringing their total contribution to £150,000; and
2. £20,000 from a major Trust we asked for support.

We now have over £430,000 towards the work and further pending requests could bring in another £100,000. This means we have enough to complete Phases 1 and 2, which is the church and the new kitchen and foyer areas. But we need to continue fundraising to complete Phase 3, which is refurbishing the hall and altering the existing kitchen etc. Please continue to support, to give, and to pray.

We are still waiting to hear about tender documents, our next meeting with QMP is early August.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in buying a church pew, please let Christine know.

## The Perfect Church

I bought a card several years ago bearing the words of the following poem and came across it recently whilst sorting through my card box. I thought I would share it with you.

*If you should find the perfect church  
Without one fault or smear,  
For goodness sake! Don't join that church;  
You'd spoil the atmosphere.  
If you should find the perfect church*

*Where all anxieties cease  
Then pass it by, lest joining it  
You'd mar the masterpiece.*

*If you should find the perfect church  
Then don't you ever dare,  
To tread upon such holy ground;  
You'd be a misfit there.*

*But since no perfect church exists  
Made of perfect folk,  
Let's cease looking for that church  
And love the church we're in.*

*Of course, it's not a perfect church,  
That's simple to discern  
But you and I and all of us  
Could cause the tide to turn.*

*What fools we are to flee our post  
In that unfruitful search  
To find at last where problems loom  
God proudly builds His church.*

**Rosemary Watson**



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**newsletter@histonmethodist.org**  
or hand it to Chris Whitworth