

Regular Activities

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

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

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

4 September	Circuit welcome service for new minister for Royston, Orwell and Foxton, Revd Charity Nzegwu, at Royston at 5.00pm
8 September	First Friends Toddler Group inaugural meeting (12:30pm—2:30pm)
25 September	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.
16 October	Church anniversary. Revd Steven Wild, immediate past president of the Methodist conference, will lead morning worship.
3 December	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 11th 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.*

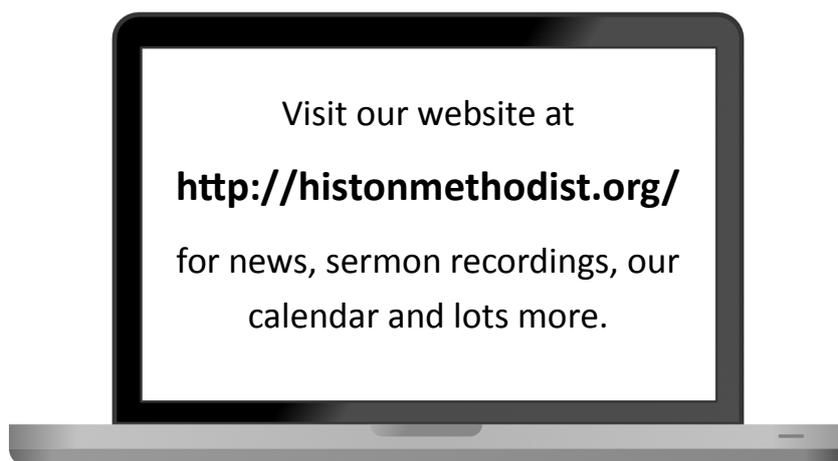
*If you should find the perfect church
Then don't you ever dare,
To tread upon such holy ground;
You'd be a misfit there.*

*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



Please email any content for the next newsletter to
newsletter@histonmethodist.org
or hand it to Chris Whitworth