

Regular Activities

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

Minister's Message

As part of our always colourful, vibrant and prayerful Harvest celebrations, this year we made a special emphasis on the Bible as a source of nourishment in the Christian life.

Scripture is scattered with analogies about the word of God being “as sweet as honey”, to be “devoured and relished”, and “as essential to life as milk is to a new-born”. Jesus—the ultimate expression of the word of God—refers to himself as the bread of life, suggesting that those who nourish themselves on him will be spiritually fulfilled and sustained.

In his short, simple but profound book ‘Being Christian’, the always-inspiring Rowan Williams has this to say about Jesus—about how the rest of the Bible relates to his life, death and resurrection and vice versa:

“All these stories, narratives of God’s initiative and human response pivot around that one central fact. Here, in the story of Jesus, is the story in which we see what an unequivocal obedience and love look like. Here is the story where we see a response to God so full of integrity, so whole, that it reflects perfectly the

act of God that draws it out. Here is the story in which the speaking of God and the responding of human beings are bound together inseparably. And so if the whole Bible is about the speaking of God and the responding of human beings, then of course it is by looking at the story of Jesus, the luminous centre, that we discover how to read the rest of it. Jesus, living, dying, raised from the dead, breathing his Spirit on the Church – it is in his light that you read the rest of the Bible.”

As with the bounties of Harvest, the revelation of Jesus in Scripture is a wonderful gift from God. But—just as the harvest requires the dedicated work of faithful human beings for the crops to reach fruition, and to then end up as delicious and sustaining meals on our plates—so too does the word of God require committed and faithful work to reach fruition in our spiritual lives.

So, as well as gathering to worship and explore the Bible together on Sundays, Histon Methodist also offers the opportunity for more in-depth studies; our House Group meets on the afternoons of 2nd and 4th Thursdays and is always happy to welcome new faces (do talk to me, Christine or Jean if you’d like more details); our Young-ish People’s

Gathering meets monthly on a Tuesday night in the Red Lion (ask me for more details), and we continue to have the opportunity to explore creative methods of prayer and bible reading on Wednesdays during the Coffee Shop if anyone has any interesting ideas!

And for those who want to develop their private devotional life, we've made available a selection of

resources which might suit different tastes and personalities. Again, do talk to me or Jean Simmonds if you'd like more information.

Exploring the Bible is not always easy, and I must confess that I often struggle to find the space and time myself, but it just might be worth the effort!

Simon

Diary dates for September

Sun 2 Oct	Preacher: Revd Jean Simmonds	10:30am
Mon 3 Oct	Craft Group	2pm
Wed 5 Oct	Service at Bramley Court	2:45pm
Thu 6 Oct	Thursday Group (AGM)	2:45pm
Thu 6 Oct	First Friends Toddler Group	12:30-2:30pm
Sun 9 Oct	Preacher: Revd Simon Oliver—Holy Communion	10:30am
Thu 13 Oct	First Friends Toddler Group	12:30-2:30pm
Thu 13 Oct	House Group at 23 Harding Way	2:30pm
Thu 13 Oct	Big Issues: <i>God and Biology—how curiosity leads to wonder, worship and big questions.</i> Dr Ruth Bancewicz, Faraday Institute	7:30pm
Fri 14 Oct	Country Dance Club (see notice)	8pm
Sun 16 Oct	120 th Church Anniversary. Preacher Rev'd Steve Wild. Followed by church lunch (see notice)	10:30am
Mon 17 Oct	Craft Group	2pm
Wed 19 Oct	Service at Etheldred House	11am
Thu 20 Oct	First Friends Toddler Group	12:30-2:30pm
Sun 23 Oct	Preacher: Revd Simon Oliver	10:30am
Thu 27 Oct	First Friends Toddler Group	12:30-2:30pm
Thurs 27 Oct	House Group at 57 Lone Tree Ave	2:30pm
Thurs 27 Oct	Big Issues: <i>Leeches to Laser—Addenbrookes 250th Anniversary.</i> Nicky Newton, Community Fundraising Manager	7:30pm
Sun 30 Oct	Preacher: Rebekah Blyth	10:30am

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 October, we'll be meeting at 7:45pm on Tuesday 18th. Do chat with Simon or someone else before turning up (just in case plans have changed!)

Development Committee

The imminent re-issue of the tenders as reported to the Church in June 2016 has not taken place yet as our new architect found changes in design were necessary; the committee has met regularly throughout the summer, both with and without the architect, and we have been assured tenders will be re-issued as soon as the revisions have been incorporated into the scheme. There are a few minor issues/clarifications which require the approval of the planning authority but this should not delay the tender issue.

The committee is delighted to be able to share various samples and colour schemes suggested by Angelica (QMP Architect), together with final amendments to plans, and kitchen layout. New plans are on the board in the hall.

The church will be fitted with more efficient gas-fired heating and secondary glazing, glazed doors and a new AV system, and we are looking into commissioning a cross as a focal point under the rose window. The stage area will be carpeted; the main floor will be repaired, sanded and stained, with walls being painted white or off-white (with most existing panelling and beams retained and made good). We have a sample chair available to try.

The toilet plans have reverted to a layout similar to the current arrangement, with new sanitary ware.

Plans for the new kitchen are available from the committee.

The stairs will be left as they are, with new fire doors: a design which met building control regulations took too much space from the hall, but we can keep our existing stairs without

contravening regulations.

We appreciate church members wish to be kept informed, and we endeavour to do so with reports to church council meetings and in the newsletter. While we cannot incorporate everyone's ideas and comments into the scheme we are happy to discuss and explain things in more detail. All comments on the construction and operation of the scheme are considered by the Committee so please do talk to us. A scheme must be finalised for tender purposes which will include compromise on some issues, and the tender issue documents do not necessarily reflect the final scheme and minor amendments may be considered once we have a builder appointed.

Fund-raising

First of all, thanks to all who have organised or helped with fundraising during the year: our garden party, advent concerts, two yard sales, quiz, nearly new sale, beetle drive, anniversary lunch and funeral teas.

We have raised about £20,000 during the last financial year, with £7000 from the community coffee shop, and nearly £6000 in donations and planned giving (including gift evening). Michael has worked very hard all year on grants and money is still coming in.

We need to keep fundraising and would welcome more help. The next event is the anniversary lunch, then Christmas market (some of this comes to development). Nothing else is planned because of uncertainty about building works but if anyone would like to hold a coffee morning or lunch we would be most grateful.



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

Big Issues

Big Issues continues its Autumn Series on **13th October** when we welcome Dr Ruth Bancewitz. We have all been amazed when we have looked closely at a natural thing, be it a flower, pets face or the landscape around us. With Ruth we explore *God and Biology: How curiosity leads to wonder, worship and the big questions*.

2016 is a year of special anniversaries, and sees Addenbrookes celebrating its 250th! On **27th October** Nicky Newton will give us an insiders view of a hospital many of us have watched grow and transform from *Leeches to Laser*—maybe not many of us remember the leeches!

Big Issues meetings cover a wide range of topics, flyers showing the Autumn Programme are available in the Hall or Church, do give them to friends.

Helen Allen

Church Council

This is a resume of the minutes of Church Council meeting held on 20 September 2016—for further details, please see a steward or any Church Council member.

Michael has re-joined the Circuit Stewards' team in order to represent the interests of Histon.

Following consultation, the Methodist Conference will revisit the definition of marriage.

The 'branding' exercise for our church is continuing .

A property report was given. At this time of year, several schedules have to be completed and various inspections carried out, including Health & Safety, and these are in hand or complete.

A report from the development committee was circulated. Chair and floor samples are available to look at. A further grant of £30,000 from the District has been confirmed and we now have enough to complete phases 1 and 2 of the development.

A summary statement of the accounts for the year

to 31 August 2016 was circulated and accepted. An independent examiner was appointed.

The first meeting of 'First Friends' Toddlers Group was to be on 22 September (and reported as very successful).

The community coffee shop continues to do well. One regular member would be 100 in early October. Cards would be sent to members of the kitchen team who had been or were still unwell.

Various future events were agreed (details elsewhere in this Newsletter)

The safeguarding policy was agreed and details are displayed on the board in the hall.

The new regime for counting money after services was agreed, using the duty church steward.

A new church mug was proposed and the options would be considered further.

Prayer

Although this prayer is 17 centuries old it struck me as very modern and still relevant:

Teach us, O Lord, to attempt what we fear we cannot attain, to ascend what we fear we cannot reach and to express what we fear we cannot utter.

In adoring you whom we cannot comprehend, teach us to celebrate the faith we cannot prove, for your own love's sake.

Amen.

Hilary of Poitiers (316-367)

Church Anniversary

Our 120th Church Anniversary will be held on Sunday 16th October.

We are delighted Revd Steve Wild, immediate past President of The Methodist Conference will lead our worship at 10.30am.

This will be followed by lunch in the hall. Tickets are now available from Christine Pooley or Rosemary Watson, price £8. To assist catering please purchase your tickets by Sunday 9th October at the latest. There is a form to sign on the table near the vestry if you can provide a homemade pudding, and/or help on the day.

First Friends

Our new toddler group has got off to a good start with six children (five families), and has been much enjoyed by those who came. If you would also like to join the rota so that you can enjoy playing with the toys and games, doing jigsaws and crafts or reading and singing, then please have a word with me. We meet every Thursday from 12.30—2.30 p.m. Many thanks.

Kathryn

Pastoral Country Dance Club

Jane and I look forward to seeing you at country dancing on Friday, 14th October, at 8.00 p.m. We shall have music provided by Heather (violin), Mike (button accordion) and Alison (recorder), and our caller this month will be Dennis. You do not need a partner and flat shoes are the recommended footwear. See you there!

Kathryn

Harvest Festival

Our annual harvest services took place amid spectacular displays, enjoyed by all. Many thanks to those who helped with the preparations. Full report to follow.

Shoe Box Appeal

If you would like to fill a shoe box for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Appeal, leaflets are available in the church and on the notice board in the hall. If you prefer to give a donation of money this can be handed to Judy Houghton or Rosemary Watson. Filled shoe boxes will be received during our morning service on November 6th.