

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

I recently came across the poem "Kenosis" by Luci Shaw in Malcolm Guite's excellent Advent book 'Waiting On The Word: a poem a day for Advent, Christmas and Ephiphany'. You can read more about it and hear Malcolm reading the poem [here](#).

For me, this poem captures something about the fragile hope of Advent and the Incarnation of God in Jesus, about just how vulnerable God became in order to dwell with us, encounter us, to enter into our joys and our sufferings, and to bring reconciliation with all of humanity and creation.

Can it really be that the God of all the universe was this small, this needy, this weak, this reliant on the

love and care of another? We also see in the poem, intimations of what is to come in Jesus' life, ministry and death. Can it really be that the God of all the universe would go through that for us? It is our Christian Hope that – yes! – God would!

And, in response to such a God, we continue to wait, we continue to celebrate and we continue to commit to following Jesus during Advent, Christmas and our annual Covenant Service on 8th January.

Wishing you and yours a very merry Christmas and a happy new year...

Simon

Shoe Box Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Samaritans Purse Shoebox Appeal. 12 filled shoe boxes, plus hand knitted scarves, hats and gloves and over £140 in cash donations were received.

Angel Tree

The recent retiring collection for Angel Tree amounted to £138.42. Prison Fellowship has sent out 243 Christmas gifts to children this year. Thank you very much to everyone for your support.

Joyce Barker

Diary dates for December and January

Thu 1 Dec	First Friends Toddler Group	12:30-2:30pm
Thu 1 Dec	Thursday Group Christmas Party	2:45pm
Sat 3 Dec	Christmas Market	10am-2pm
Sun 4 Dec	Preacher: Rev Jean Simmonds	10:30am
Mon 5 Dec	Craft Group	2pm
Wed 7 Dec	Service at Bramley Court	2:45pm
Thu 8 Dec	First Friends Toddler Group	12:30-2:30pm
Thu 8 Dec	House Group	2:30pm
Sun 11 Dec	Preacher: Rev'd Simon Oliver (Holy Communion)	10:30am
Wed 14 Dec	Carols on the green (singing at 6:30, stalls open from 6pm)	6pm
Thu 15 Dec	First Friends Toddler Group	12:30-2:30pm
Sun 18 Dec	Preacher: Rev'd Gillian Slaymaker	10:30am
Sun 18 Dec	Carols by Candlelight	4:30pm
Wed 21 Dec	Carol service at Etheldred House (If you enjoy singing carols please come and help us entertain the residents)	11am
Sun 25 Dec	Christmas Day service led by Rev'd Simon Oliver	10am
Sun 1 Jan	Preacher: Rev'd Simon Oliver	10:30am
Wed 4 Jan	Service at Bramley Court	2:45pm
Sun 8 Jan	Covenant Service; Preacher: Rev'd Simon Oliver	10:30am
Mon 9 Jan	Craft Group	2pm
Thu 12 Jan	Thursday Group lunch at the Old Crown	
Thu 12 Jan	Big Issues: <i>Jesus goes to the Movies: an introduction to theology through contemporary cinema.</i> Rev Simon Oliver	7:30pm
Sun 15 Jan	Preacher: Judy Wynn	10:30am
Wed 18 Jan	Service at Etheldred House	11am
Sun 22 Jan	Preacher: Lynn Taylor	10:30am
Mon 23 Jan	Craft Group	2pm
Thu 26 Jan	House Group	2:30pm
Thu 26 Jan	Big Issues: <i>A butterfly's view of conservation</i> Dr Ed Turner, University Museum of Zoology	7:30pm
Sun 29 Jan	Preacher: John Boocock/Elliot Harris	10:30am

Community Coffee Shop Team

Meeting

As we prepare to transition from Wendy's leadership into a new era for the Coffee Shop, we will be holding a planning meeting for all current team and those who wish to be involved going forward. We are hoping to have a small team to coordinate the project, and would really value everyone's input into how we take this amazing initiative forward.

This meeting will be held from 3-4:30pm on Thursday 12th Jan, at the Church.

Simon

Cottenham Community Cinema

Simon's Community Cinema will be showing 'The Secret Life of Pets' at 2pm Sunday 4th December, and Star Wars: The Force Awakens' at 7:30pm (doors at 7pm). Tickets are £2 for the afternoon film, and £4 in advance for the evening... and available via www.facebook.com/CottenhamCommunityCinema, from the Cottenham Community Centre, or from Simon.

All We Can

Thanks to everyone for the recent gift sent on behalf of Histon Methodist Church towards the Emergency Haiti Appeal.

The gift will be put straight into action by partners on the ground in Haiti, helping to improve conditions and prospects for families that had their homes and livelihoods destroyed by Hurricane Matthew on October 4.

At the time of writing the death toll is over 1000, and over 350,000 people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, so thank you again for offering your support to the Haitian people when they need it most.

You can read updates from the partners on the ground at the All We Can website at www.allwecan.org.uk/haiti.

*Claire Welch, Churches and Volunteers
Manager*

From Macmillan Cancer Support

We wanted to say a massive Thank You for making this year's coffee morning a huge success.

You should feel extra proud for raising £636.12 - that's one of our most generous contributions, and will make a big difference in helping people affected by cancer.

Claire Driscoll (Head Coffee Lady)

Stamps Wanted

CamSight is a registered charity working with blind and partially sighted people of all ages in Cambridgeshire. They would really like your used stamps - British, Foreign and Franked. Please ask friends and neighbours to pass on their stamps, everything is welcome including stamp collections and albums. They can be given to Jenny Phillipps, who will pass them on to CamSight's team of volunteers who will trim, sort and sell the stamps at Stamp Fairs and to dealers. Thank you!

Mercy Ships and more...

At the Zenith Global Healthcare Practitioner's Awards Ceremony in London recently, Mercy Ships were presented with a Special Recognition Award for their provision of free medical care to the world's forgotten and needy poor. Maxillofacial and thyroid surgeon Dr Leo Cheng accepted the award on behalf of Mercy Ships UK.

Leo and his wife Hilary—our minister at Histon until quite recently—will be working on *The Africa Mercy* in January with their two daughters.

Hilary's sister, Sharon, and her husband, Dr John Harbottle, are missionaries in Haiti and are currently assisting with relief work after the recent disasters there.

Let us remember them all in our prayers and those so much in need of help.

Janet M. Houghton

Thursday Group

On 1st December at 2.45p.m. the Thursday Group look forward to the delights of Christmas by sharing seasonal readings, and poems, both amusing and poignant, and eats! Always a very popular meeting, all are welcome; bring a contribution if you wish.

Our annual lunch will be at the Old Crown, Girton on 12th January. More information at the December meeting, or in Sunday notices; again, all are welcome to book and join us.

Development report

The good news is that the tender documents went out to six firms on 18th November. They are due back by 16th December and then there is a period for analysis. We are planning to hold a short Church Council to agree a contractor early in January, either on Tuesday 3rd Jan at 7.45pm or Sunday 8th Jan, after morning worship.

Sub-contractors will be digging a hole in the car park shortly, haven't got a date yet, at request of neighbouring properties, before party wall agreement can be signed.

There is another sample chair for people to try out, but it is rather heavy.

Big Issues

... is the name given to our series of Autumn and Spring talks: 10 evenings covering a wide range of subjects. We hope the evenings are stimulating, at times controversial and challenge our thinking. This was certainly the case in November when some 50

people came to hear more about Refugees, immigration and the EU.

Our next evening is the 12th January at 7.30, when Simon Oliver's subject will be 'Jesus goes to the Movies: an introduction to exploring theology and spirituality through the best (and worst) of contemporary cinema.'

7.30 on 26th January, Dr Ed Turner of the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge, will talk on 'A Butterfly's View of English Conservation'.

Very different subjects! Do come along, a warm welcome awaits. Flyers detailing all the Spring meetings will be available soon.

Helen Allen

The Methodist Church in Britain and the US Presidential Election

The President and Vice-President of Methodist Conference have released a statement in response to the recent US election, with particular regard to the deep concern prompted by the many statements made by President-Elect Trump that are profoundly at odds with the beliefs and values of our church. The full statement is too long to reproduce here but you are encouraged to read the statement and accompanying prayer on the Methodist church's website at:

www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases/us-elections.

We continue to pray that the United States will travel a peaceful, generous, faithful and just path.



Please email items for the February 2017 newsletter to
newsletter@histonmethodist.org
 or hand them to Chris Whitworth