

**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**

After months and years of prayer, giving and hard work we have reached an exciting moment in our development project. More details will be given below but - for now - I just want to thank everyone for their generosity and efforts and ask that you prayerfully consider how you might continue to support this project going forward.

We haven't reached the finish line yet, and so ongoing prayer and generosity are needed. And more patience and graciousness all around will be required as we work out how we prepare for building work to begin and for worship to take

place in the hall. It might not always be straightforward, but I've got a hunch that we might have a lot of fun this year!

With all this taking place now, the timing isn't ideal, but I will be taking 2 weeks paternity leave, plus 2 weeks holiday once our new baby has been born. In my absence, please contact the stewards for local matters, and either Rev Colin Smith or Rev Alison Walker with any urgent Methodist issues.

*Simon*

**Development Update**

Six tenders were sent out before Christmas, five came back, and the three lowest were analysed in more detail. All tenders came in way over budget and an extra church council was held on Wednesday 18th January to discuss the figures.

It was agreed at this meeting that we delay phase 3 of the project for now, that we appoint Butlers as contractors, and that we accept the savings recommended by the development committee. The committee will now go back to the architects, then the contractors with these suggestions.

We are hoping that building may start at the end of February, in which case worship will move to the church hall a couple of weeks before this to allow the church to be cleared.

More fund-raising is planned; there is to be another beetle drive on 17th March at 7pm and we hope for another quiz a bit later in the year. We will also be using Blessings Bags, which Rosemary has written about later on in this newsletter.

Please do support us however you can.

*Development Committee*

## Diary dates for February

<b>Wed 1 Feb</b>	Service at Bramley Court	2:45pm
<b>Thu 2 Feb</b>	First Friends Toddler Group	12:30-2:30pm
<b>Thu 2 Feb</b>	Thursday Group: My life fostering in the 1960—Revd Gillian Slaymaker	2:45pm
<b>Sun 5 Feb</b>	Preacher: Judith Lieu	10:30am
<b>Mon 6 Feb</b>	Craft Group	2pm
<b>Thu 9 Feb</b>	First Friends Toddler Group	12:30-2:30pm
<b>Thu 9 Feb</b>	Big Issues: <i>Diabetes Today</i> —Martin Davies	7:30-9pm
<b>Fri 10 Feb</b>	Country Dancing	8pm
<b>Sun 12 Feb</b>	Preacher: Revd Dr Brian Beck	10:30am
<b>Web 15 Feb</b>	Service at Etheldred House	11am
<b>Sub 19 Feb</b>	Preacher: Revd Dr John Barrett	10:30am
<b>Mon 20 Feb</b>	Craft Group	2pm
<b>Thu 23 Feb</b>	First Friends Toddler Group	12:30-2:30pm
<b>Thu 23 Feb</b>	House Group	2:30pm
<b>Thu 23 Feb</b>	Big Issues: <i>Thinking Again about Marriage</i> —Revd John P. Bradbury	7:30-9pm
<b>Sun 26 Feb</b>	Preacher: Mr Craig Shepherd	10:30am
<b>Tues 28 Feb</b>	Church Council	7:45pm
<b>Thu 9 Mar</b>	Big Issues: The future of Jewish-Christian Relations—Revd Colin A Smith	7:30-9pm

## Future dates for your diary

Friday 17 March @ 7pm: Beetle drive—Tickets will be available nearer the time price £6, to include delicious desserts, tea and coffee. Please make a note of the date and come along for a fun evening, all proceeds to our Development Fund.

## Big Issues

On 9th February, 'Diabetes today' will be the subject of our evening with Martin Davies, Chairman of Huntingdonshire Diabetes UK Group. Then on 23rd February we will be 'Thinking again about marriage' with Revd Dr John P. Bradbury. John is Vice-Principal of Westminster College and co-editor of 'Thinking Again about Marriage' published by SCM press in 2016.

Our final evening of this 2016-17 series on 9th March will consider 'The future of Christian-Jewish relations', our speaker on that evening will be Revd Colin A Smith who is, of course, the Superintendent of our Cambridge Methodist Circuit.

All evenings will begin at 7.30 with a talk and finish with questions and discussion after the refreshments, and be held in our Hall as usual.

**Helen Allen**

## Blessings Bags

Recently whilst having a post Christmas clearout I came across a collection of Blessings Bags which were used over 20 years ago to raise funds for essential woodworm treatment and new carpet for the church. This was organised by what was known as 'The Fixit Committee' and the bags were lovingly made by Edith Knightley.

It has been agreed we should try this form of fundraising again for our Development Fund.

The idea is to take one of the bags in which there are 31 'Blessings', one for each day of the month. Each day take out a blessing and put in a small donation of money.

Small amounts have been suggested hoping everyone will be able to be involved but please free to donate any amount you wish, small or large.

Although this is a fund raising venture, we hope it will also make us realise just how much we have to be thankful for.

Bags will be available in the church and from the Coffee Shop Wednesdays and Saturdays from mid February. Filled bags can be handed in to the coffee shop or brought to our morning service on April 9th.

Thank you in anticipation of your help with this.

*Rosemary Watson*

## Creating Safer Spaces Training

Creating Safer Space Foundation Module refresher training will take place on Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Feb (2pm) (venue tbc), Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb (7.30pm) at Royston and Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Feb (10am) at Castle Street.

This mandatory training is for all who have undertaken the Foundation Module and includes points learned from the Past Cases Review. This is brand new refresher training so it is important that you attend—even if you have done the training in the last year. Because of the importance of this training, and other things happening this year, Ian and Richard want to deliver it in to the Circuit as soon as they can, thus full timing and format details will be available as we know.

Please do note these dates and then please contact Circuit Administrator Miriam Webb as soon as possible to book into the most convenient training session (you only need to attend one of the sessions). Your local Safeguarding Officer or Circuit Safeguarding Steward Richard Elcock are happy to answer any other questions.

*Miriam Webb, Cambridge Circuit Administrator*

## Quiz 2016

Many thanks to everyone who purchased a quiz. The winners were Joy and Robin McCombie, the only ones to answer all fifty questions correctly, so there was no need for a draw this time. Four runners up all scored forty eight and a half points.

## 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 February, we'll be meeting at 7:45pm on Tuesday 21st. Speak to Naomi Whitworth if you've got any questions.

## Preserves

Thank you to everyone who continued to buy the preserves which were still for sale following our Christmas Market, and to those who kindly sold them on Wednesdays and also during Saturday coffee mornings.

Together with the marmalade which I have been selling during the course of the year, over £100 has been added to the Church Funds. Encouraged by the response to the marmalade, I have made extra this year, so if anyone is interested in buying the odd jar, please let me know! All proceeds will be given to the Church. I also appreciate the supply of spare jam jars and material for jam jar covers – all gratefully received!

*Joy McCombie*

## Charitable Giving

At the last stewards meeting we started to discuss the church's charitable giving. People may not be aware that throughout the year we contribute to a range of charities.

At the February Church Council we decide our regular annual donations. Last year we sent £100 each to Methodist Homes, LWPT (local preachers trust), Jimmy's night shelter, Street Pastors and Camtrust. We also give annually to the Methodist Fund for property (£150 at present) and £120 to the Histon and Impington Council of Churches.

Then in Lent we give some money from Saturday and Sunday coffee. The charity usually changes each year and is decided at the February CC. Anyone can suggest a suitable charity.

The Sunday coffee money after communion services goes into the benevolent fund which provides presents for elderly and/or sick church people at Christmas and can also be used by the minister in cases of need.

Money from our Harvest Songs of Praise and the harvest market usually go to All We Can (a Methodist relief and development charity) and money from the Christmas carols by candlelight and Christmas Day service to Action for Children. Methodist Homes is supported by envelopes in the pew for a designated Sunday, as is Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) by the Easter offering envelopes.

Also in the autumn there is usually the Shoebox appeal, the British legion poppy appeal and the Angel Tree appeal (for presents for the children of prisoners).

Then there is the ongoing appeal for the food banks. There is a basket in the church foyer for donations and a list of suitable items.

Finally we try to respond through a retiring collection to urgent disasters. The most recent one was the appeal for Haiti after the hurricane.

Overall in 2016 we gave over £3000. If you have any thoughts on what we can do more, or differently, please talk to one of the stewards.

## First Friends

First Friends continues to meet on Thursday lunchtime. We would very much welcome your prayers however, because at the moment, unfortunately, it is not attracting many toddlers or babies. We realise that the timing of the meetings is not very convenient for some, but it is the only time that fits in with other village and Church activities.

Please note that we will not be meeting on the 16th February during half-term week.

*Kathryn*

## Prayer

In prayer, may we come to know ourselves and to meet our maker; to rejoice in God's goodness, to share in God's life, and to be enfolded in God's love. *Amen.*

*Julian of Norwich (1342-1420)*

## Country Dancing

Our next country dancing evening will be on Friday, 10th February, when our guest caller will be Dennis Owen. Do come and give it a go. See you there.

*Kathryn*