

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

After the joys of Easter Sunday, the news of the upcoming General Election wasn't quite the new life, hope and resurrection I'd been looking forward to—nevertheless, this is the situation in which we find ourselves!

During and after last year's referendum, as a Church we touched on the sometimes complicated relationship between faith and politics. Personally, I don't think it is the Church's role (and definitely not the ministers') to tell anyone how to vote, nor to claim that Jesus would have been a member of a particular party. But I do think it is the Church's role (and, therefore, mine) to point people towards The Bible, to different aspects of the Christian Tradition, and—most particularly—towards Jesus Christ as we seek to make wise decisions for ourselves, our community and this country.

What do the biblical narratives, the prophets, the Israelites and early Christian communities have to say to us about the issues that matter? Of course, many aspects of the Bible were particular to their historical era and might need translating or re-contextualising for the 21st Century. But issues of justice? Of equality? Of how we are to treat the poor, the sick, the disabled, the elderly, the disadvantaged? Issues of how we are to manage

and respond to power? Issues of peace? Issues of how we are to treat strangers?

These are timeless—and timely—issues which I believe the Christian tradition has much to say about in 2017.

During Elections such as these, it can be easy to be swung by an emotive or provocative soundbite, by charisma over meaningful policy. It can also be easy to be so overwhelmed by all the issues and competing campaigns that we retreat into a kind of confused apathy. It can be easy to dig ourselves ever deeper into entrenched views and be unwilling to listen openly to alternatives. Or to simply vote for who we've always voted for out of habit rather than as a proactive decision. And it can be all too easy for any of us to vote from a place of fear or greed, or in order to hold on to what we've already got.

So my simple suggestion is that as we prepare to cast our vote on 8th June, we look first to Jesus Christ and the voices of others in Scripture, and to then prayerfully consider how we might most positively vote for the good of all when it comes to the kinds of crucial issues above. This doesn't make it any less complex, and of course it won't mean we all end up voting in the same way, but it might not be a bad place to start... **Simon**

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Diary dates for May

Wed 3 May	Service at Bramley Court	2:45pm
Thu 4 May	Thursday Group: <i>Loving Care and a pot of Porridge</i> (The TPT) Rev'd Jean Simmonds	2:45pm
Fri 5 May	Quiz Night (see notice)	7pm
Sun 7 May	Preacher: Rev'd Barbara Garwood	10:30am
Sun 7 May	Cottenham Community Cinema: <i>La La Land</i> (see notice)	7 for 7:30pm
Mon 8 May	Craft Group	2pm
Thu 11 May	House Group	2:30pm
Fri 12 May	Country Dancing	8pm
Sun 14 May-	Christian Aid Week	
Sat 20 May		
Sun 14 May	Preacher: Rev'd Simon Oliver (Holy Communion)	10:30am
Wed 17 May	Service at Etheldred House	11am
Sun 21 May	Preacher: Rev'd Colin Smith (Superintendent minister)	10:30am
Sun 21 May	The Roost (at Cottenham Community Centre)	3-4:30pm
Mon 22 May	Craft Group	2pm
Thu 25 May	House Group	2:30pm
Sun 28 May	Preacher: Rev'd Simon Oliver	10:30am

2 July Feast Sunday. Our bid for Feast funding has been provisionally accepted but we need to help sell programmes.

17 Sept Harvest Festival - 17 September.

15 Oct Church Anniversary, to be led by Rev. Peter Graves.

Cottenham Community Cinema

Get on your dancing shoes for 'La La Land' on Sunday 7th May. Doors 7pm for 7:30pm start, with optional conversation afterwards. Tickets available at the Cottenham Coffee Shop, from Simon or www.picatic.com/lalaland.

Quiz Night

A date for your diary - there will be a quiz night on Friday 5th May starting at 7.00 p.m. There can be up to eight people in a team. A selection of cheeses and various accompaniments will be provided in the interval. The cost will be £8.00 per person.

Tickets will be on sale shortly and available at the Church. Please speak to us or any of the Stewards if you wish to buy tickets or you can telephone us direct. Wendy has kindly agreed to sell them at the Community Café if this is easier for anyone.

We hope we will have an evening of light-hearted quizzing and fun!

Robin and Joy McCombie

Country Dancing

We look forward to seeing you at Country Dancing on Friday 12th May at 8pm.

Kathryn

The Roost

Sun May 21st, 3-4:30pm, 'The Roost': a great, fun, family event exploring life and faith with arts, craft, videos, music and more at the Cottenham Community Centre Coffee Shop...plus the Sunday papers, cake and more great coffee. See Simon or www.revcoffee.net for more info.

Blessings Bags

Many thanks to everyone who supported our recent Blessings Bags scheme, £700 was raised for our Development Fund, your help is much appreciated. Grateful thanks to Mary Easy who made the bags for us.

Lent Coffee Money

Our Lent Coffee money this year—which amounted to £316—has been donated to help fund The Mental Wellbeing Champion for Histon and Impington.

Annabell Webb has been recently appointed in this role for an initial two year contract, to increase mental wellbeing awareness, to tackle the stigma associated with mental health, and to break down barriers in our villages.

She will help with early intervention and prevention, working with the community and existing providers to develop, deliver and coordinate a range of activities and groups to promote mental wellbeing for all ages.

Initial funding has been secured from a wide variety of sources, and it is hoped this will continue to enable the role to be sustainable in the longer term.

Those of us who attended the Feast AGM in January were concerned to hear how many young people are in need of support.

We are pleased to have been able to play a small part in this local initiative and maybe we should consider additional support in the future for such a worthwhile cause.

Prayer for the General Election

For those who are campaigning for political office, that in serving our communities and national life—truth, justice, peace and wellbeing might become priorities for all.

For those whom the results could mean significant change—that they might find grace and wisdom for the way ahead.

That those with leadership and influence will act wisely and in the interests of all people—seeking stability and justice for our world.

That as Christian citizens in society, regardless of whether we currently face the prospect with relish or trepidation, we will have the wisdom and courage to seek God's Kingdom and pursue his purpose in the emerging political landscape

For those whose Christian identity has inspired them to serve in public life—that they might act as faithful followers of Jesus in every circumstance they face.

Adapted from election prayers from the Joint Public Issues Team <http://jointpublicissues.org.uk>

Holiday Club 24th to 28th July 2017

A reminder that if you are able to help with holiday club lunches this year please let Judy Houghton or Rosemary Watson know. Before we commit to do this we need to ensure we will have enough help each day.

Community Coffee Shop

As I am sure most of you know I will be retiring from the coffee shop at the end of April. It has surpassed my wildest dreams in providing a place for the community to meet, feel welcome & loved.

After the untimely death of our daughter Paula at the age of 50, I had many sleepless nights, and I wanted to turn negative thoughts into positives. So, after exploring other alternatives in the village, I had a meeting with Hilary—our then Minister—explaining my idea and to ask if it would be

possible to use the Church premises. After a meeting they so generously gave full backing, offering the use of the hall, heating, tea and coffee. We were on our way!

With lots more thoughts, canvassing and backing from my two rocks, Colin and Anne, I approached several friends, who of course volunteered their help and we were up and running.

Since then, we have had a gratifying 5 years with many friendships and connections made enabling lots of involvement with the community:

Camtrust, with all the help they give us and the offspring of their monthly pop-up sale—a great community event and a much needed fund raiser to support their work.

The IVC special needs group comes to see us, Etheldred House residents come when they can (this week in their Easter Bonnets). Besom hold their prayer group with us on Wednesdays.

Jean, the over 60's co-ordinator, is a regular, popping in to see her clients. Over the years I have been able to pass on to her people that have needed her help.

The Scrabble group, the “afternoon ladies” who play their board games and catch up with each other.

The Table Tennis players; the Walking group with their maps, planning routes; Salvation Army volunteers; many residents from Windmill Grange; The “Brunswick Group”, as they call themselves, getting together recalling junior school days...

What a privilege it is to have so much going on in our coffee shop!

Another great privilege was to be nominated twice to South Cambs District Council for “Outstanding Service to the Local Community” - just to be nominated made us feel winners.

Many people from the Coffee Shop have gone on to support Church events—Big Issues, music concerts, and quiz nights, to name but a few.

Some have attended our services throughout this time and we have even had a Christening for one of our small people. We are a family, and this is how I saw it from the very beginning. As with all families we range from our youngest—only 4 days old when she first came!— to the “Head of the Family” at 100 years! We are blessed to have such an age range from all walks of life.

Over 100 people come to us every Wednesday, and one of my aims was that the Community Coffee Shop should be affordable to all. Nevertheless with the generosity of our volunteers giving time, ingredients, mixing & baking we have also raised over £27,000 for the Development Fund. We have also been a good source of reading matter having sold over 2,400 books.

As I stand down I would like to say special “thank you”s:

To all of our Ministers—Hilary, Peter, and Simon—who have given me so much support over the years.

To all the volunteers (some of whom are also standing down); to Anne, Margaret (soup lady), Janice B, Joyce and Gillian.

To everyone from the Church especially those on the Coffee Shop rota, and the team that took over the setting up of tables and chairs from Colin.

Without you all and the support of the community, this dream would never have become a reality.

May I wish the new team all the very best in whichever direction they go, and I hope they and the community continue to get as much from the Community Coffee Shop as we have over the years.

Thank you to everyone, especially those loyal supporters who have been with us week after week. Without you the Community Coffee Shop would not be there.

Thank you.

Wendy

Support for Zoe Cheng

Zoe Cheng (daughter of our former minister, Hilary and her husband Leo) has been accepted on a year's internship programme with a Christian Mission Organisation Agape/Cru in their legal department in the United States. There is a leaflet on the church notice board in the hall which explains in detail what she will be doing.

Zoe is currently studying Law at Oxford Brookes University and graduates in June. She is requesting support by way of forming a Partnership Team. Partners can be involved in any of 3 ways.

Prayer: Praying for God's guidance, strength and wisdom. Zoe states this should work both ways, she would love to hear from her partners so she can pray for them too.

Encouragement: Having people who will encourage will be invaluable and help to keep her going when life becomes challenging.

Financial: Zoe will be responsible for raising all funds for her ministry and living expenses.

More can be found about the ministries of Agape/Cru on their websites: <http://www.agape.org.uk/>
<http://www.cru.org/>

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week runs from 14-20 May this year. Most churches in Histon and Impington help with the house to house collection.

If you can spare an hour or so to help cover the roads we have been allocated please let me know.

Thank you to Paul and Helen Allen for their extra help with counting the money.

Christine Pooley



Gift Aid

Thank you to all who gift aid their giving to the church; we were able to claim on over £28,000 of our giving for the tax year that has just ended.

However please will everyone ensure that they do pay enough tax to cover their giving. If you are unsure I can supply some further information.

Christine Pooley

Prayer

Lord, let us not give up your cause, nor abandon your work. Let us not give up the fight. Let us persevere, until we see your kingdom come and enter into your glory. Amen

Francis Asbury (1745-1816)

(Francis Asbury was one of the first Methodist missionaries to America, and we remembered the bicentenary of his death last year)

Kate Oliver: Fenland Poet Laureate

We are delighted to hear that Kate Oliver has won the Fenland Poet Laureate award for 2017, for her poem 'Tree'. The judges chose her poem for it's different perspective on the fenland landscape.

Please email items for the June 2017 newsletter to

newsletter@histonmethodist.org

or hand them to Chris Whitworth by 21st May