



Histon Methodist Church

NEWSLETTER September 2017

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

"Nothing in organised religion works the way it used to. Real change requires more than doing conventional things better."

Trey Hall, keynote speaker at the *reImagine* conference at St Ives Methodist Church on Saturday 7th October

Histon Methodist Church is one of the larger churches in the Cambridge Circuit, and it has been great to see new people of all ages getting involved in the life of the church over the last few years. Our community coffee shop, coffee mornings, Big Issues, craft club and more show our willingness to be creative and engaged with the wider community. And we are poised on the edge of an exciting new stage in our ministry with the building development and all the potential that brings.

But it is worth noting that our good numbers here in Histon have been bolstered in part in the last 10 years by the sad closures of Cottenham, Oakington and Papworth Methodist churches. And we are still part of the wider Methodist Church which continues to be in significant decline nationally. And, let's be honest, however well we do things, we do still have a tendency (which I'm as guilty of as anyone else) to "do what we've always done",

and hope that others might come and join us as we do that.

Is it time to think about things a little differently?

Organised by the East Anglia Methodist District, the **reImagine** conference aims to challenge, inspire and encourage us in our thinking about the future of the church. It will offer provocative ideas, theological exploration and practical advice. There is also a free lunch!

I had the privilege of spending time with the keynote speaker Trey Hall in Chicago before I started my work in Cottenham. He was part of an amazing church planting project called Urban Village, and is one of the most engaging and inspiring speakers I've ever heard. It will be worth going along just to hear what he has to say, but there are also some other great local practitioners exploring how they have tried to develop the ministry of the Methodist Church in the twenty first century.

It would be amazing if we could get a good group of us along to this so that we could put our heads together, pray and start to imagine what the future of the church might look like...

Please let me or Judy Wynn know if you would like to come along and we can make sure that we're all booked in!

Simon

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Diary dates for September

Sun 3 Sep	Preacher: Rev'd Jean Simmonds	10:30am
Sun 3 Sep	Circuit service at Wesley for beginning of new connexional year and to recognise the long ministry of local preachers Professor Morna Hooker-Stacey and Dr Derek Nicholls	6:30pm
Sun 4 Sep	Craft group	2pm
Wed 6 Sep	Service at Bramley Court	2:45pm
Thu 7 Sep	Thursday Group—Mr Ralph Carpenter: A history of sewing machines	2:45pm
Sun 10 Sep	Preacher: Mrs Mary Ratcliffe (with Sunday Club)	10:30am
Thu 14 Sep	House group	2:30pm
Fri 15 Sep	Country Dancing (see notice)	8pm
Sun 17 Sep	Harvest Festival led by Rev'd Dr John Barrett, followed by lunch at the Olive Tree Café, Oakington (see notice)	10:30am
Mon 18 Sep	Harvest Coffee Morning and Market	10am-12pm
Mon 18 Sep	Craft group	2pm
Wed 20 Sep	Service at Etheldred House	2:45pm
Sun 24 Sep	Preacher: Rev'd Simon Oliver (Holy Communion, Sunday Club)	10:30am
Tue 26 Sep	Church Council	7:45pm
Thu 28 Sep	House Group	2:30pm
Thu 28 Sep	Big Issues: Rev'd Simon Oliver - Christ and Culture	7:30pm

Future Dates

7 Oct	reImagine conference at St Ives Methodist Church—see Minister's Message and poster in church for more details
15 Oct	Church Anniversary, to be led by Rev'd Dr Peter Graves or Rev'd Dr Brian Beck
2 Dec	Christmas market

A few weeks ago our daughter Rev. Rose Westwood was privileged to attend a retreat at Larne in Northern Ireland. Delegates from various denominations were present, amongst which were a number of Methodists. Scanning the list of delegates, Rose recognised one of the names—Rev. Hilary Cheng. They were able to have a good chat and of course Histon came up as part of the conversation; Hilary asked to be remembered to all at Histon and we are happy to pass on the message.

Pat and Ray Webb

Christmas Gift Suggestion!

Bone China mugs depicting scenes of our villages will be available to buy early/mid October.

They are being produced as a limited edition, by Chown China of Cornwall, the company who produced our Church Centenary mugs in 1996, and will be priced at £7.50 each.

If you would like more details and wish to order in advance please speak to Rosemary Watson.

Big Issues returns!

Our 'Big Issues' series will be starting its autumn run at 7:30pm on Thursday 28th September. If you've not been before, Big Issues is a fantastic opportunity to explore a whole range of interesting topics covering anything from theology, science, the arts and any number of interesting charities and community groups.

In our first session, Rev Simon Oliver will be speaking on 'Christ and Culture: does the Church have the right to say anything to society in 2017?'. The evening will include some conversations on the ethos behind Big Issues, and how it might be developed in the coming year.

The other dates for this term are 12 and 26 October, and 9 and 23 November, and the programmes will be available very soon.

Harvest Weekend

Our Harvest displays will be limited this year due to lack of space, but we will decorate the hall on Friday afternoon 15th September and would welcome gifts of fruit and vegetables, which will be sold at the Monday Harvest Market.

A Harvest Lunch has been arranged to be held at The Olive Tree Café, Oakington Garden Centre at 12.30pm on Sunday 17th September, following our Harvest service of celebration at 10.30 am, to be conducted by Rev'd Dr John Barrett, to which all are welcome.

Menus for the lunch are available and lifts will be provided where necessary.

The Harvest Coffee Morning/Market will be held on Monday September 18th from 10am-12 noon, when goods are sold for charity.

Country Dancing

Do come along and try out some easy country dances – beginners are always welcome, and you do not need to bring a partner as we all dance with each other. Recommended footwear is soft shoes or trainers. We have live music and guest callers. Jane and I look forward to seeing you on Friday, 15th September in the Hall at 8.00 p.m.

Kathryn Coles

New Logo

As part of our development project, we commissioned a new logo for the church from Lisa Gifford, and starting this month you will start to see it popping up in various places—including on the front of this newsletter! In developing the design, Lisa drew inspiration from the Rose Window in the main church building, along with themes of welcome and togetherness which we hope reflects the heart of Histon Methodist Church.

If you would like to use the logo in any leaflets, posters or other church materials, please speak to Chris Whitworth, who will be happy to provide you with a copy and guidance on how it should be used.

Royston Fringe

As part of the Royston Arts Festival, Royston Methodist Church are holding a number of Fringe events to raise money for the Garden House Hospice and Royston Methodist.

There are a number of events between Saturday 16th September and Sunday 24th September, including a performance by Phoenix Chorus a capella group; a drama and choreography showcase; scenes from Arabian Nights; afternoon tea with light music; a talk on Peter Paul Rubens; and an art exhibition.

Full details including booking information are available on the poster in the church hall.

Afternoon Tea for Macmillan Nurses

Come and join us for afternoon tea on Friday 29th September from 2pm, to raise money for Macmillan Nurses. We hope to top last years wonderful response but we can't do it without you! For more information please see Wendy or Gillian.

Childrens' Sunday Club

Sunday Club, with planned activities for children, will be taking place upstairs during the service on the 10th and 24th September.

There will also be provision for the children on other Sundays and families are still welcome to use the families' corner throughout the service.