



Histon Methodist Church

NEWSLETTER

November 2019

Regular Activities

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

Minister's Message

As the nights draw in and we head towards winter, as a Church we have been thinking a little about Light! As the darkness gathers and perhaps as we feel overwhelmed sometimes by the darkness of the world—or of our own lives—it is encouraging to be reminded of the Light promised to us throughout the Bible.

From the third verse of the first book of the Bible—*Let there be light*—through to God telling the Israelites they were to be *a light for the Gentiles*, and on into Jesus' own description of himself as *light of the world*: time and again we see God pouring light into a sometimes-dark world.

Hopefully this should be a great encouragement to us, as should be Jesus' exhortation to his followers to *let your light shine before others*. As with all His gifts to us, God's Light is not to be kept to ourselves, but to be shared with individuals and a world which needs it too.

Simon

What's going on in Cottenham?

The Roost: Advent Special

Sunday 17th November, 3–4:30pm—a great, fun, family event exploring life and faith with arts, craft, videos, music—plus the Sunday papers,

cake and more great coffee. Also includes a short, informal Holy Communion at 2:45pm.

Cottenham Cinema

Sunday 3rd November, 7 for 7:30pm—*Can You Ever Forgive Me?*

Each screening includes bar, introductory talk and the opportunity to stay on for a conversation about the film, life and faith at the end. See www.revcoffee.net for more information and tickets.

Christmas Market

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind make moan.

Come to our Christmas market, and you might need a loan!

Stalls will groan with goodies and gifts galore. Delicious refreshments and a warm welcome lie in store.

We hope snow upon snow will not fall, But warmth, sparkle and light await us all.

Our annual Christmas Market will be held on Saturday, 30th November, 10am–2pm. With books, games, homemade cakes, preserves and pickles, toiletries, bric-a-brac and crafts.

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Diary for November

Sun 3 Nov Preacher: Mrs Phyllis Salmon	10:30am
Tues 5 Nov Study Group	2:30pm
Wed 6 Nov Service at Bramley Court	2:30pm
Thu 7 Nov Thursday Group AGM (see notice)	2:45pm
Sun 10 Nov Civic Remembrance Service at Histon Methodist	10:30am
Mon 11 Nov Craft Group	2pm
Tues 12 Nov Study Group	2:30pm
Wed 13 Nov Service at Etheldred House	11am
Wed 13 Nov Late Night Shopping: Church open for refreshments	6pm
Fri 15 Nov Country Dancing (see notice)	8pm
Sun 17 Nov Preacher: Prof. Morna Hooker-Stacey	10:30am
Tues 19 Nov Study Group	2:30pm
Sun 24 Nov Preacher: Revd Simon Oliver (All-age service with HC)	10:30am
Mon 25 Nov Craft Group	2pm
Tues 26 Nov Study Group	2:30pm
Sat 30 Nov Christmas Market	10am

Church Council, 15 October

A resume of the Minutes is usually printed in the Newsletter but owing to holidays these will be delayed and this is a brief summary of some of the matters.

The Council noted with pleasure that Simon has been invited to stay for an extra year and he will now be our minister until August 2021.

For the redevelopment, the Council approved a loan from Methodist Chapel Aid (MCA) of £50,000 repayable over five years. This has also been approved by the Methodist District and agreed by MCA.

The Accounts for the year to 31 August 2019 have not yet been finalised or audited but these are being processed. We have adequate funds. The Circuit Assessment for 2019/20 will be £6759 quarterly: this pays for items such as ministers' salaries.

A range of future services and events was noted and agreed, including support for the village late-night shopping evening on Wednesday 13 November.

The Civic Remembrance Service on 10 November will be held at our church, following the usual service at 9.30am at the War Memorial.

John Wyborn and Michael Simmonds were authorised to process an application for Histon Methodist Church to be registered as a charity, which is now a legal requirement.

Nick Bailey has very kindly secured a new laptop for use by the church, which he will set up for our use. Simon and Nick will consider updating the church website and also the possibility of a church Facebook page.

The old plastic chairs from the hall have been collected by Emmaus for re-use.

If you wish to know more, please ask a member of the Council.

Coffee Shop Late Night Opening 13 November

Our coffee shop will be joining in the festive spirit for our local Winter Fair on the evening of 13 November. Several shops and businesses on the High St and beyond will have special late night opening, and there will be craft stalls in St Andrews Centre. We will be open from 6pm until 7:45pm, serving hot drinks and mince pies.

If you are willing to donate some mince pies please let Judy Houghton or Rosemary Watson know.

Redevelopment: phase 3A

The work is progressing well and it is hoped this will be completed by early November.

Work which is now completed or will be by the time you read this includes:

- Complete re-tiling of the Hall roof;
- Repair of the dormers to the Parsons Room;
- New windows throughout the Hall and Parsons Room;
- New heating and lighting;
- New audio-visual facilities;
- Increased insulation;
- New hall ceiling which should reduce noise;
- New staircase to Parson's Room;
- New fire escape door to improve ease of egress;

Painting and decorating is proceeding apace and the Hall floor will be re-sealed and re-varnished.

We are grateful to the contractors, C D Hood Ltd, and the various sub-contractors, for all they have done, and doing so within time limits.

Grateful thanks are due to the development committee and all the hard work that has been done over several years to reach this point.

Thanks are also due to a number of people who have made most generous donations and to the various Trusts and other bodies—including

Methodist, and the Parish and District Councils—who have supported the work with grants.

The toilets and other minor areas are still to be renewed and this work will be considered as and when further funding becomes available.

If you are among those who have helped and supported in any way—**thank you!**

Michael

The Greta Thunberg Effect

We have all admired the tenacity and determination of Greta Thunberg—just how much has been achieved by a young girl with determination. OK, so she hasn't saved the world but she has made leaders across the globe (albeit with certain notable exceptions) take notice and consider the planet we are leaving for our children and grandchildren.

We sometimes think that there is little or nothing that we can do as individuals, but this is not true. If you do what you can, and I do what I can, and others do what they can—and what about our church?

Christchurch Baptist Church, where friends of ours are members, has just been given an award for their efforts in 'going green', and Histon Baptist is moving that way. The European Methodist Church Council has considered this and has issued a list of priorities, the first of which is:

"We pledge to be active in our own churches and countries with respect to climate change and to raise awareness in our local contexts."

For a start, we can all be conscientious in recycling in our correct waste bins at home: did you know that if you are careless, the whole lorry-load may be put into landfill because of mixed waste materials? Do we try to use less plastic?

Many of us have a computer or laptop, and most of us have a printer: there is now at our church a box into which all your used printer cartridges can

be deposited for recycling, which not only helps the environment but also raises funds for a local pre-school group in Girton. Please do use this.

Perhaps we can have a team of people who will spearhead something to encourage our church to do what it can? Are you willing to help?

You know it makes sense!

Michael

Thursday Group

Our next meeting will be held on the 7 November at 2:45pm It will be the AGM, but what we really need to know is what topics you want us to have speakers and/or demonstrations on next year?

If you'd like to give a talk or demonstration yourself, we'd be very pleased to hear from you.

See you there.

Kathryn

Country Dancing

Jane and I look forward to seeing you on Friday 15 November at 8pm for our next dance session.

Dennis Owen will be our caller, and music will be provided by our resident band.

Everybody is welcome whether you can dance or not—just come and enjoy the fun and fellowship.

Adults: £1.50; accompanied children: 50p

Kathryn

Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal

This year, we will be supporting Link to Hope with their Family and Elderly Shoebox Appeal. Your boxes will be received by people in need in Romania, Moldova, Ukraine or Bulgaria.

If you feel you could put together a box, please take a leaflet (available in church) which lists the items requested for either a family or elderly (unisex) box, and bring your completed shoebox to church for collection at the morning service on Sunday 17 November, along with a £3 donation towards distribution costs.

We will also be making a shoebox to send as part of our Sunday Club activities on Sunday 10 November, so if you have any individual items from the list you would like to donate, please bring them along.

Naomi

Prayer

*Loving God, as pilgrims on a journey,
we can often feel uncertain about the future.
Help us to remember that past, present and
future
are all held in your loving hands.
Help us to learn more and more about how we
can trust in you
so that, whatever the future brings,
we can know that you are with us and will help
us to face it.
as we share the love you give us with a needy
world. Amen.*

**John Howard, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury
District Chair**

Heating

We apologise for the occasional lack of heating in the building recently. Hopefully when the builders finish in a few week's time the heating will be more reliable.

John Wyborn

Remember, remember...

*Remember, remember, the 5th of November;
Gunpowder, treason, and plot.
I see no reason why Gunpowder Treason
Should ever be forgot.*

Until quite recently, November 5th was quite a domestic affair. If you had a bonfire, you made a Guy and burnt him on it, but most were like ours—a modest box of fireworks and Dad in charge in the back garden.

Oh, the interminable wait—while Dad finished his tea, then sat for a while by the fire with a soothing cigarette, and then: coats, hats, gloves, scarves,

wellies on and out into the dark of a November night. If we were lucky the sky was clear and blazing with stars.

We didn't have bangers because the noise frightened me. We couldn't have jumping jacks, because mother swore they latched on to her, and sent her dancing and leaping up and down the garden; and we couldn't have rockets because Dad once leaned over one to see if the fuse had gone out, and it screamed up past his face and nearly took his eyebrows with it—but we often saw other people's rockets fly up into the sky and burst into stars. Instead, we had to be content with Golden Rain (golden sparks), Snowstorm (silver sparks), Volcanoes (ominous red fire, then a green, a red, and a golden ball) and variations on this theme.

My favourite was the Catherine Wheel: my Dad's DIY skills just about stretched to nailing it to the fence, but they were tricky—sometimes, just as they got up to speed they stopped and sulked;

sometimes they fell off the fence and lay in the grass, fizzing but unable to spin. But—just occasionally—they got up to speed and span and spat out sparks and showed their colours, and I thought they were wonderful.

When the box was empty, we went back inside, but the fun was not yet over—for there, on the dining room table, was a packet of sparklers. They were quite small, and could safely be held in your bare hand indoors. We turned off the light, and Dad lit them, and we waved our sparklers and wrote our names in the air with fire.

I always felt that was a defiant gesture: an affirmation that we would get through the dark of winter safely, and see the light of another Spring.

Margaret Brierly



The deadline for the December newsletter is
Sunday 24th November

Please hand any items to Chris Whitworth or email
them to **newsletter@histonmethodist.org**