

**Histon
Methodist
Church**

Histon Methodist Church
High Street
Histon
Cambridge
CB24 9JD

Histon Methodist Newsletter February 2021

Schrödinger's Church?

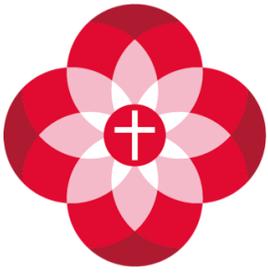
Here is a thought experiment: when is a church both open and shut? Trying to 'be the church' during the pandemic feels like trying to maintain the impossibility of being closed and open at the same time. Do we contribute more to the public good by continuing public worship or by shutting the doors? Even though we have decided to close, the dilemma continues.

You might think that being shut is easy, but it feels more like a continual drain on my personal batteries without the opportunity for a 're-charge' that usually comes with Sunday worship. For those of you who have found church services to be boring, you may think that the re-charge comes from snoozing through the sermon! but for me, the spiritual experience of worship is a recharge moment, similar to the way that you may experience exercise or meditation or a breathing exercise. These similarities are not surprising because in a church service we do meditate and often slow our breathing as we pray and fill our lungs as we sing. I do of course also pray at home, but I find it to be less energizing compared to the experience of corporate worship. It doesn't give me the same spiritual energy boost. So keeping our church closed and finding other ways to get that necessary Sunday rest and continue the work of the church in the face of its closure, requires as at least as much work and effort as keeping it open.

But although we are not meeting for public worship (and I think we will not for the next few months) the church is very alive and open. We meet on Zoom each Sunday for worship and for chat and DIY coffee on a Wednesday, people natter on the phone more than ever, volunteer and support charities and take action against injustice. In some ways, the building being shut has not changed the fundamental work of the church – worship, care, community, learning, putting faith into words and action, challenging unfairness – all continue without a pause.

So, is the church open or shut? It's a bit like asking are you or a home-worker or home-schooler? The answer is both. Like everything else during the pandemic, trying to be more than we normally are takes more energy and it can be difficult to find your renewing source. For me, I need to keep on digging deep into the other aspects of church and faith life to help me feel that sense of renewal and balance that we all need.

Yours in Christ, Alison



**Histon
Methodist
Church**

Histon Methodist Church
High Street
Histon
Cambridge
CB24 9JD

Sunday Services on Zoom

We are invited to join the services at 10:45am The link below is the same for all Sundays. Don't forget you can join by phone if you don't have access to the internet. Please contact us if you would like the zoom link

Wednesday Coffee Shop

We are a small group of people who have a chat for an hour or so at 10:30am on Wednesday mornings. Please contact us if you would like the zoom link.

Prayer

This month we pray for Pam and Mary and all in their pastoral groups.

A Prayer from Janet: Lord God, you called Abraham to leave where he was and journey to a place you had not yet shown him. Help us to let go of who we are and where we have been. Aid us in our journey of faith. When we are blind to where you are taking us, give us the faith that sees the next step and takes it. Amen.

January Light

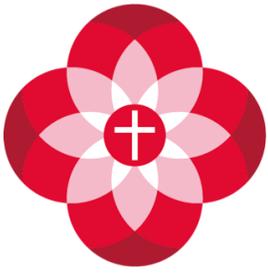


The January Light initiative is well underway with many cards having been sent to neighbours, friends, coffee shop attendees, our doctor's surgery, local schools, Addenbrookes and Papworth Hospital, and more ideas are coming forth all the time. We have had feedback from some and they have been much appreciated.

The Lighthouse Scene in the meeting room window is sharing some light with passers by. We appreciate some of you are not able to get out to see it, but if you are, do take a close look as more things are being added. The latest additions are a crab, RNLI lifeguard, and some seagulls. By the time you read this we hope

there will also be some postcards, which have been coloured in by the children we miss seeing so much at our Sunday Services.





**Histon
Methodist
Church**

Histon Methodist Church
High Street
Histon
Cambridge
CB24 9JD

With lockdown likely to continue, our January Light will continue into February until the scene is changed at the beginning of Lent. Something else to spot when you pass the church, are the snowdrops appearing in the garden either side of the front church porch. Those of you who attended Christine's funeral last January, may remember the snowdrop plants which decorated the tables for the refreshments. Helen Allen kindly planted some of them for us as a memory in years to come.

Rosemary Watson

Grateful thanks to Joy McCombie for the photograph.

A Challenge for us All!

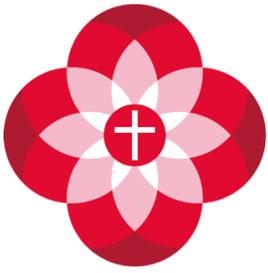
At a recent coffee morning Helen Allen told us about the 'Singing for Fun' group which she and Paul belong to. During lockdown members were invited to write a Covid Song and Helen shared hers with us, see below. This led to a suggestion maybe others might like to write one too, whether you attend zoom coffee or not, why not have a try? The following week we heard one from Margaret Brierley, Nicholas Warrington and one in sea shanty style from Julia Daft! It doesn't necessarily have to be set to music, could be a poem, a short verse, meditation, serious or humorous. Something which has perhaps inspired, amused or encouraged you, during the past difficult months for us all. We would be happy to collect your written masterpieces from you or they can be sent by email, maybe we could produce another Histon Methodist Publication! Rosemary Watson

A Covid-19 song by Helen Allen to the tune of 'The Church's One Foundation'

*We now have Covid vaccines,
So help is on the way,
To help us fight this virus,
Which affects all each day.*

*Some folk have found their talents,
Others employed their skill,
To help those who're more challenged,
And those who are must ill.*

*So many lives have been changed,
Worldwide there's so much pain
But soon we will see sunshine*



**Histon
Methodist
Church**

Histon Methodist Church
High Street
Histon
Cambridge
CB24 9JD

Coming out through the rain.

*Some will begin with new lives,
Others return to old,
The story of our special world
Will continue to unfold*

World Day of Prayer Friday 5th March

This service has been postponed until later in the year. However we are asked to specifically pray on this day for the women of Vanuatu, an area in the South Pacific which suffered an enormous cyclone in April last year which destroyed everything in its path. They prepared the original service for this year. They also struggle with gender equality and education. Please also pray for the whole world in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic, its ramifications and long-term effects. T

wo requests from Martin Thompson re The Besom Project Currently there isn't a representative from Histon Methodist Church. Martin asks if anyone is willing to do the job. It only involves ensuring that the congregation receive relevant information from the Besom. They issue a monthly prayer letter that informs their half hour prayer slot at the Methodist church on the first Wednesday of every month at 2.30pm. (Currently not meeting).

Martin's second request is for the following:

The Besom in Histon and Impington could do with some dry garage storage space to store beds in. We use a couple of garages in Cottenham supplied courtesy of the Council for our goods but beds tend to go mouldy in the winter. So if anyone can help, we would really appreciate it. Many thanks.

Please get in touch with Martin Thompson if you can help or email contact@histonmethodist.org and we will pass on your details.

Contributions for the March Newsletter would be appreciated. Please send them in by February 25th. Thank you.