

**Histon
Methodist
Church**

Histon Methodist Church
High Street
Histon
Cambridge
CB24 9JD

Histon Methodist Newsletter

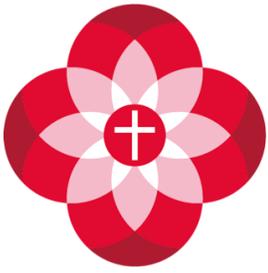
March 2021

Too much giving up:

It is Lent. I consumed an excessive amount of pancakes (in the spirit of “Fat Tuesday” although not really to eat up anything forbidden during this season of fasting and penitence). I do usually give something up during Lent but this year – I just can’t. I’m just not going to make it all the way to Easter Day (4th April) without any salt and vinegar crisps and jaffa cakes (my vices of choice). It feels like we have given up so much over the last year, so that even these small things will be the straw that will break this camel’s emotional reserves!

In all seriousness, I don’t think this is the year for renunciation. Giving up something for Lent is supposed to remind you to enjoy it all the more later. The next time I can indulge in a trip to the theatre or a hug from my whole family will create a memory that I will never forget – I don’t need reminding now to enjoy these pleasures later when we have missed out for so long already. Giving things up is also supposed to create mental space to focus on more important things, but I’m finding that hard. On the one hand, life is not as busy and so there should be less to think about anyway. On the other hand, my mental space and thoughts often feels too full up with grief for those who have died, with sadness for all that has been missed, with concerns for those making life-changes. Denying myself a treat hasn’t made any difference to the direction of my thinking nor my praying.

So this Lent, I’m not worrying too much about my diet. Instead I’m trying on some new habits and I’m refusing to take on any additional sense of pressure. I want my prayer life just to be time with God. I want to enjoy the pleasure of a walk with bird song and all the people I bump into on the way. For seven years we have lived in a



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village but previously in the middle of a noisy city taking a walk meant discovering new angles looking at familiar buildings, people-watching as the tourists went by and birdsong usually meant the coos of pigeons and the screaming of swifts in summer time. Wherever you are then this Lent, if you feel you cannot give anything else up, then don't. Perhaps instead dig deeper into who you are and where you are and rediscover the pleasures of being you and your place in our still vibrant world.

Alison

Sunday services on Zoom

We are invited to join the services at 10:45am. Please contact us on contact@histonmethodist.org for the details to join.

Wednesday Zoom Coffee Shop

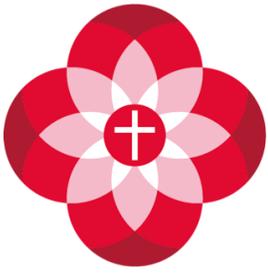
Join the coffee shop each Wednesday at 10.30am -contact use for the link to join.

Don't forget you can join by phone if you don't have access to the internet. We are a small group of people who have a chat for an hour or so.

Prayers

This month we pray for Roberta and Vera and all in their pastoral groups.

We pray for others who are undergoing hospital tests, and treatment, and all who are finding life particularly hard during this ongoing difficult time for us all.



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Covid 19 Songs

A reminder to send in your Covid 19 poems, or even one about Springtime and brighter days.

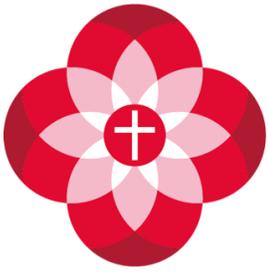
January Light

As our initial supply of 50 Lighthouse postcards given to us by our Methodist District soon diminished, a further 75 folded cards bearing the same picture and our own church logo were ordered from Vistaprint.

As our outreach widened we soon ran out of cards once more. Having contacted Vistaprint explaining how our cards were being used, they kindly donated another 50 cards, saying they applauded our efforts and felt honoured to be a part of what we are doing.

We were moved and encouraged by the appreciative responses received, not only from individual recipients and local village organisations, but also senior management and staff at Addenbrooke's Hospital who circulated our greetings via their internal channels.

We are pleased that a positive message of hope has radiated from our church so widely. Many thanks to everyone involved in this team effort.



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Lent Collection for Water Aid

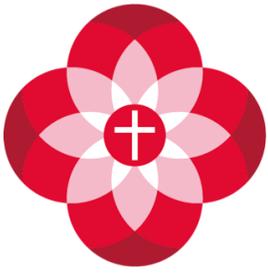
During Lent we normally have a charity collection jar at our Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday coffee times. Obviously, this won't be possible this year, but I am planning to sell Welsh cakes at £1.50 for 6 and donating the money to Water Aid. I will begin this on March 1st, which is St David's Day and continue throughout Lent.

They can be ordered any time during Lent from Judy Houghton. Email contact@histonmethodist.org for details.

Collecting for Food Banks during Lent

Along with other Methodist Churches in our circuit we are encouraging everyone to support our local Food Banks during Lent. Georgina and Rob Symons our local Salvation Army Officers have been organising an emergency Food Bank for our villages throughout the current pandemic, using our premises for storage. Having spoken to Georgina we have identified items which are needed and they are listed below.

They quickly run out of longlife milk, coffee, pasta sauces, tinned potatoes/packet mash, jam, tinned meals, meat, veg, fruit and puddings. Other useful items tea, sugar, biscuits, cordial, spaghetti letters/hoops, toiletries, toothpaste/brushes. **They have plenty of soup, beans and pasta.** As our premises are currently closed John Wyborn is willing to collect items from you so please ring him or leave items in the box outside the St Andrew's Centre on Histon High Street.



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World Day of Prayer Friday 5th March

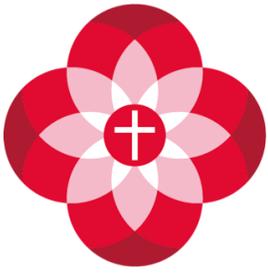
As our joint service this coming month is postponed, we have been asked to pass on the following information to our Church members and friends.

We are encouraged to join the rest of the world on this day in praying for the host country Vanuatu. Vanuatu is an archipelago of 80 islands in the South Pacific (incidentally it is where the musical South Pacific was filmed). These islands are incredibly beautiful with a wealth of flora and fauna. However, they also exist in an area prone to violent volcanoes and cyclones. The islands were devastated in April 2020 when a cyclone destroyed everything in its path. This was followed by three months of rain and floods which, of course, occurred during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Vanuatu became independent within the Commonwealth in 1980. Their economy is boosted by tourism and they have many local businesses, but education and health facilities are not good for women. In spite of the struggles generally there is a strong Women's Christian Fellowship and they always demonstrate hope and great warmth of friendship.

Their theme for the Word Day of Prayer service this year is "Build on a Strong Foundation" which echoes their understanding of the need for safe buildings in this cyclone-hit area.

Vanuatu will be one of the first countries to start the wave of prayer across the world. We join with these confident and purposeful women in praying for them



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and the needs of Vanuatu who have suffered so much extra trauma in this pandemic.

As this is a worldwide pandemic we also pray for the whole world as we face the huge repercussions; physical, mental, economic, social and spiritual. We would encourage everyone to set aside some time during the day of 5th March to pray for Vanuatu and our world, for God's mercy, strength and resilience as we move forward into a new era in His Name.

District Day of Prayer and Reflection Saturday 6th March

Our East Anglia District of The Methodist Church have organised a Day of Prayer and Reflection on Saturday 6th March. The aim is to give us a focus to pray for our country and our world at this crucial time in the pandemic.

There are lots of opportunities to take part online but for those without that facility you may like to use the suggestion below:

Use the **five fingers of your hand** to pray for:

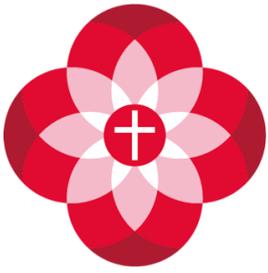
Thumb: The effects of the pandemic in the world especially in the poorer countries

Index Finger: The ongoing situation in the UK, pray for our government and PM

Middle Finger: Medical staff dealing with the virus, administrators & managers

Ring Finger: Those who are ill or in hospital with the virus & those whose treatment for other conditions is delayed

Little Finger: The bereaved and all suffering in any way



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Notes from Church Council held 11th February 2021

At long last we have managed to register the church as a charity.

Registered Charity Number 1193162.

Derek Slaymaker to step down as a steward but to remain on council as a representative from membership to meeting.

Virtual Christmas Market: Rosemary gave a report on this successful event, financially and socially, thanking those who produce goods and those who supported in any way.

Property

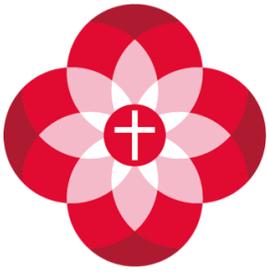
We have instructed Hoods (the contractors who did the alterations to the hall) to do the following work: -

Reseal the canopy above the foyer doors

Replace the faulty glass inner doors at the front of church

Install external louvres to the small meeting room

Collacotts have modified the central heating system so that all three systems should now work as designed.



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Finance

A Financial Report had been circulated by the treasurer. A budget has been prepared for the coming year showing a deficit as obviously our income has been affected by the pandemic, with no church services and few lettings, but as the minister pointed out we do have funds to cushion us for 'these rainy days', which we are now experiencing.

Pastoral

A new pastoral list has been drawn up.

Judy Houghton agreed to be the contact person for Besom group.

Lent and Easter services

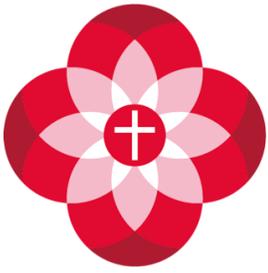
Members had been notified of several Lent courses available.

Easter Day:

It is hoped that we may be able to have an open air communion service using our car park, with bookings and chairs set out socially distanced, -of course all dependent on the weather. We would possibly need a back-up plan. Stewards to discuss further.

Covenant Service: Minister agreed to carry out this on June 2nd 2021:

Safeguarding



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The current policy is still OK. Julia and Alison will be making sure that all officers of the church have a job description so they know what they are supposed to do officially.

There was a long discussion regarding GDPR regulations and the annual GDPR review.

Contributions for the April Newsletter would be appreciated.

Please send them in by March 21st. Thank you.