

Histon Methodist Newsletter

June 2021

“One more step along the world I go” (Singing the Faith 476 by Sidney Carter) we sang with enthusiasm at school choir, relishing the line “You are older than the world can be” as we thought of our teacher, not God. I found myself humming the hymn again as I stepped out to complete the fundraising challenge “300k steps in May” for Christian Aid. The hymn line “where I see no way to go” is particularly apt if I get lost and need someone to “tell me the way”! I’ve been delighted that church members have responded to my invitation to “travel along with me” as well as with generous sponsorship. It has been an opportunity to re-connect, to explore streets or country parks I didn’t know existed. It even feels that my daily target is reached more quickly when I walk in company and with conversation.

I’m aware that there is an irony in raising funds for Christian Aid by walking. I find walking pleasurable, it brings physical and mental health benefits, it is something that I choose to do, for fun. I have special walking shoes and snacks if I desire. Christian Aid resources this year remind me that many people walk daily to fetch water, covering long distances without any of my luxuries to ease the necessary journey. I even carry water in a special hydration pack that fits in my rucksack and cannot imagine carrying sufficient for my household and crops for a day in a couple of plastic containers. Access to clean water within 30 minutes of home is improving (according to UNICEF data) but it is still shocking that many families must walk much further and still find only dirty unsafe water. As I walk and enjoy the chat I’m aware that even my walking shows injustice in action.

I want to keep walking in June, in company with others as much as possible. Outdoors in the fresh air, subject to the vagaries of British weather, still feels like a safer place to be. It will also help me not to be as desk-bound as before, particularly as we need to be ready to step out again from Southampton to Canterbury, my adjusted sabbatical pilgrimage plan. So if you would like to walk or stroll with me please give me a call and let’s arrange a time and a place. I’m enjoying discovering your favourite places. And if the walk involves a coffee-stop then that is also good!

With best wishes, Alison

6th June Service at Church 10.45 am led by Mr. John Boocock.

Please book your seat by phoning John by the 3rd June. **Please note the 10.45am start time.**

20th June Covenant Service at Church 10.45 am led by Rev. Alison Walker

Please book your seat by phoning Rosemary by the 17th June. **Please note the 10.45am start time.**

Sunday Services on Zoom

We are invited to join the services at 10:45am

Please contact the church office for the link.

The Methodist Church intends to produce weekly service sheets for use at home until the end of August. We will continue sending them either by email or printed copies. However please note, if you join the zoom service on Sunday mornings, the theme and hymns won't necessarily be the same.

Wednesday Zoom Coffee Shop

Join the coffee shop each Wednesday at 10.30am – please contact the church office for the link.

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.

Building Work at Church

Just to let you know that Hood's the builders will start from 7th June, work altering the inner doors in church and redo the canopy in the Foyer. Then later in June the sun shade will be fixed to the outside of the small meeting room.

Lent Water Aid Collection

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the great Welsh Cake Bake Off for Lent. I have been able to send £200 to the charity on behalf of Histon Methodist.
Judy Houghton

Groups Return

You will notice increased activity in our building as groups hiring our premises begin to start meeting again.

Hope Again Bereavement Support will be continuing their summer programme in the church hall on Thursday 20th May 2.00 pm - 3.30pm for four weeks.

Mother's Circle will meet weekly on Monday mornings from 7th June, and Su will be starting her in person Pilates Classes on Wednesday evenings from 9th June.

Holiday Club 2021

The churches in Histon are planning to hold a Holiday Club during the mornings of July 27th, 28th and 29th. The plan is to use a large marquee in an open air space. Volunteers will be needed to supervise children's groups and to help with administration, such as registration, safety, crowd control etc. If anyone is able to help in any way please see either Judy Wynn or myself. Many thanks in anticipation
Judy Houghton

REFLECTIONS

I sat in the lounge, looking out of the double-aspect windows at the beautiful surrounding hills. The sun was shining but the grey clouds suggested they had other options in mind as they moved across. It was mid-May but there was a coldish breeze and the trees waved gently.

In the large rear garden, six chickens of various colours and varieties moved in random ways across the lawn. With their feathered legs, from behind they look as if they are losing their drawers! They were watched by Lily, the large black cat. Earlier, a magnificent cock pheasant had visited, showing his glorious plumage. There are also mallards who visit the pond, whilst a bluetit family has made a home in the new nesting box fixed in one of the trees. On the hills above the house, sheep wandered about grazing, most with a pair of lambs each, which frequently pestered their mother for another drink, their tails wagging.

All this was to be seen from the home of our daughter and family in Buxton, Derbyshire.

In the evening, we drove to the nearby Goyt Valley, beautiful, rugged, remote and almost devoid of human activity, with a sparkling stream flowing swiftly through its deep-cut valley. In the autumn, these hills will turn colour with the purple of the heather.

The next day, we went a little further, the always winding road taking us up and round the hills to Whalley Bridge, where we left the car park and walked UP to the canal with its many narrow boats, most in permanent occupation and in less than pristine condition, moored along the bank. Afterwards, as we drove back along the always-meandering and mainly traffic-free roads, we remarked on how therapeutic it is just to be in an area like this: hills and valleys, lakes and rivers, trees and moorland.

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder..... Michael Simmonds May 2021

A prayer contribution from Janet Houghton

Gracious God,
when the way is easy, may we walk it joyfully.
When the way is hard, may we walk it faithfully.
And when the way seems unclear, may we trust the one who walks alongside us.

Jesus, our companion and Friend.
Amen.

**Contributions for the June Newsletter would be appreciated.
Please send them in by June 20th to johnnewyborn@hotmail.com Thank you.**