



Regular Activities

Sunday	Morning Worship	10:45am
Monday	Craft Club (alternate weeks, see diary for dates)	2–4pm
Wednesday	Community Coffee Shop	9:30am–12pm
Wednesday	Besom Prayer Meeting (1 st Wednesday of the month)	2:30pm

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Ah, the season of “mists and mellow fruitfulness”¹ has returned. Autumn is my favourite time of year, with lingering warmth and coolness that is just enough for me to find my socks again. Perhaps this year it also has the hint of hibernation beckoning us to hide out until the spring, so that any winter trouble (meaning ill-health) might just pass over us and leave us alone.

Hibernation though is not physically practical for humans, nor is it spiritually good for us, I think. For those people who have continued to keep distance from others or self-isolate to a greater or lesser extent, the great dilemma continues to be how to work out when it feels safe enough to go back to a favourite group meeting, or linger in a café. The more time on our own, the harder it is and yet the more we feel our need of social contact. Fear of illness can become associated with fear of other people, fear of contagion may be expressed in fear of contact. How can we help each other to enjoy company again? How can we ensure that these understandable anxieties are not realised? Can we tread softly together, with

awareness of each other's sense of fragility? I know that we must continue to hold spaces open for each other, so that we can all have our ‘wobble moments’, knowing that our friends and family are here for us.

I associate autumn with a softness that is lost in a heatwave or big freeze: it is a time to be soft and gentle with the last fruits of the harvest, to give thanks for what we have received. Let us carry that softness and thankfulness into our hearts and actions. One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (a sign that God is working in and through you) is gentleness: it is a quality we can overlook, yet we know the importance of a gentle touch and a soft word, given at the right time.

With best wishes,

Alison

Wednesday Zoom Coffee Shop

Having had one Zoom coffee shop in September it was agreed we should have another one on Wednesday 6th October at 10:30am. We will then decide when to meet again.

Please note: the link will be different to the one used previously and will be sent nearer the time.

¹ *Ode to Autumn by John Keats*

Diary for October

Sun 3 Oct	Preacher: Rev Barbara Garwood	10:45am
Mon 4 Oct	Craft Group	2pm
Wed 6 Oct	Besom Prayer Meeting	2:30pm
Sun 10 Oct	Church Anniversary (HC) led by Rev Alison Walker	10:45am
Sun 17 Oct	Preacher: Miss Elsie Salmon	10:45am
Mon 18 Oct	Craft Group	2pm
Sun 24 Oct	Preacher: Revd Dr Michael Wilson	10:45am
Fri 29 Oct	Country Dancing (see notice)	8pm
Sun 31 Oct	United Service at Castle Street	10:45am

Future Dates

Tue 2 Nov	AGM, Church Council and Gift Day	7:30pm
Sat 20 Nov	Christmas Market	
Fri 11-Sat 12 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival	

Coffee Shop Donations

The Wednesday coffee shop has generated donations of £364 during August—this is an excellent result. Many thanks to all who attend and donate.

John Wyborn

Poppies

Thank you to all of you who have been busy knitting poppies. I am very grateful for all your hard work.

Please can you pass them on to me in time for the craft group meetings on October 4th and 18th.

Many thanks.

Anne Wyborn

Country Dance Club

Jane and I are pleased to be able to start the Country Dance Club up again and will be meeting in Histon Methodist Church Hall from 8–10pm on Friday 29th October, 12th November, and 10th December.

Adults: £2, accompanied children: 50p.

We hope to have guest callers and local musicians, if available, each month. Soft shoes or trainers are the recommended footwear. Everyone welcome!

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we advise that you bring your own hand sanitiser; windows and doors will be kept open for ventilation. Refreshments will be provided as before, but you can bring your own, if you prefer.

Kathryn



The deadline for the November newsletter is
Friday 29th October

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

Lilian

Lilian was a lady at our church: I do not know if she was a widow or had never married, but she was probably born around 1900. She was always there: every Sunday, and busy during the week on various Christian activities. Everyone liked her. When she was about 73 (which at the time seemed very old to me!) she became very ill and was taken into hospital; we weren't sure if she would come out again. Our Minister went to visit her, and she indicated her concern about the people whom she visited regularly.

"That's alright", said he, "We'll take care of that". So she gave him a list of these people—he expected a list of three or four. There were twenty-five names on the list, all people Lilian visited regularly and faithfully. These included two older single gentlemen of limited ability, one of whom had a bungalow inherited when his parents died, and the other who had needed a home. Lilian had brought them together and taught them how to manage, which they did adequately for some years.

Well, Lilian did come out of hospital and continued her care for all her people, including shopping and other needs—pastoral visiting and caring friendship at its Christian best!

However, the time came when Lilian could not continue walking all round the area, and she had to go into a Care Home. What to do about the people she visited? She felt the Lord say to her "Lilian, you have a telephone—use that!" And so she did, ringing her folk regularly, one or two at a time so none of them was overlooked.

Much later, Lilian was (if I recall correctly) one of five nonagenarians all kneeling at the church rail at the same time during a service of Holy Communion. She was one of God's saints.

It is a joyful privilege to remember lovely Christian folk whom we have known over the years and I'm

sure many of us could name and remember with thanks such people who have impacted our lives.

Michael

Prayer

Je ne sais pas prier

Je ne sais que dire

Je n'ai pas beaucoup de temps

Alors,

La lumière que j'offre est un peu de mon bien

un peu de mon temps

un peu de moi-même

que je laisse devant le Seigneur

devant la Sainte Vierge

devant un Saint.

*Cette lumière qui brille symbolise ma prière
que je continue, tout en m'en allant.*

Vera

Editor's note: this prayer is sometimes found in French cathedrals and churches, alongside prayer candles, and is sometimes used when people are struggling to pray. Loosely translated, it means "I do not know how to pray. I do not know what to say. I do not have much time. And, so: the light I offer is a little of my goodness, a little of my time, a little of myself, which I leave before God, before the Virgin Mary, before the Saints. The light which shines symbolises my prayer as I continue on my way".