

# THE LINK

Includes the Circuit Plan Issue 51 September / November 2021



## CELEBRATING GOD



## IN OUR GARDENS See page 4



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See page 3 for deadlines and Editor's contact information

# MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Wow! These are interesting times to be a Christian and to be a Methodist. In general terms, moving forward in ministry and mission after all the restrictions of the lockdowns (and the changes that have taken place) is a major challenge for all the churches and Christian workers in our country. Commentators talk now of 'Hybrid Church' as many congregations work out what it means to integrate physical 'in presence' services with online worship. Personally, I prefer the phrase 'Multi-platform Church' because it includes the participative worship at home using Worship at Home sheets (and other resources) that have been so important for many people in our own circuit during the pandemic. Our first 'Big Sunday' (see separate write-up) at the end of July was an attempt to bring together the whole circuit in worship and unity, around a common theme, whilst using a variety of settings and platforms. It seems to have worked very well and our next one will be at the end of October.



In a Methodist context, the Methodist Conference in June made some major decisions that affect all Methodists. These include an increase in the minimum size of churches (operating on their own) to 12, a request for all churches and circuits to give generously to the reserve pension fund for ministers and lay workers, and the provision of an alternative liturgy for the marriage of same-sex couples in Methodist Churches. We will be discussing all these matters during the course of the Autumn. As far as the last is concerned, there will be no pressure on any church to accept the new provision – if there are at least 2 or 3 circuit churches and 2 or 3 ministers who are happy to conduct same sex marriages, then we will be able to refer couples to those churches and to those ministers. There will be a simple vote by secret ballot at each Church Council in the Autumn and then we will know what is available across the Circuit.

Then there are the financial challenges that were present in churches and circuits before the pandemic but which have come very much to the fore in the last 2 years. The Central Norfolk Circuit is currently losing around £35,000 every year and our reserves have been rapidly decreasing. The Circuit Leadership Team had a hard-working, and valuable, Away Day in July and have formulated a plan for a way forward. This is being communicated separately. We also are suggesting a plan for churches struggling with paying their assessment, do get in touch if this applies to your own situation.

And finally, and most importantly, the world is facing the biggest challenge of all – the very existence (in manageable ways) of the human race. With the UN Climate Change Conference taking place in the UK in November, there is a challenge to all of us to pray, to raise awareness, to change our own lifestyle and behaviours. If you would like to contribute to a working group on our Circuit response, please let me know.

*[Continued on next page]*

# THE LINK

Isn't it great to be back, meeting each other and worshipping together in our churches. This edition of *The Link* is full of exciting things that are planned for the coming months and if not yet quite back up to full speed, we are well on the way. I find it encouraging that there are also a number of reports about things that have been happening in recent months as well. We worship a great God and he never stands still!

This is also the first edition to be printed again for some time. (I do hope you were able to keep up with the online editions

that continued to be published every three months as usual). It is intended not just for you to read yourself but to circulate it round your friends and neighbours to show them what a lively and interesting lot we Methodist Christians are!

And also a reminder—and I make no apology for repeating this—that *The Link* gives us plenty of food for prayer. Do share your thanksgivings and your concerns with our wonderful Lord.

Enjoy your read!

Tony Hey

## MINISTER'S LETTER

[Continued from the previous page]

So, these are interesting, challenging but rewarding times as we continue to seek God's will and as we seek to act in accordance with God's purposes. Two verses of a hymn come to mind:

*Through all the changing scenes of life,  
in trouble and in joy,  
the praises of my God shall still  
my heart and tongue employ.*

*Fear him, you saints, and you will then  
have nothing else to fear;  
make you his service your delight,  
your wants shall be his care.*

*Nahum Tate (1652 – 1715) and Nicholas Brady (1659 – 1726)*

Rev Jacqui

# DEADLINE

**FOR THE  
DECEMBER—FEBRUARY  
EDITION**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER  
30th**

*Please include details of activities  
up to the end of February 2022*

## CONTACT DETAILS

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# INAUGURAL 'BIG SUNDAY'

From Rev Jacqui: Our first 'Big Sunday' on July 25<sup>th</sup> worked very well. We received lots of positive comments – about the worship material, the PowerPoint presentation of circuit gardens, the YouTube recording, and the live Zoom service. Churches were able to utilize all of these resources as was appropriate for each one



Toftwood

ranging from 3 churches joining in with the online service in real-time, several churches using the recording (or the gardens PowerPoint), and others using the paper material in creative ways. The 'Spirituality of Gardens' theme went down well, especially as over 55 people across the Circuit had contributed photos to our Virtual Open Gardens (see the photo album on our website [www.centralnorfolkmethodistcircuit.org.uk/photos](http://www.centralnorfolkmethodistcircuit.org.uk/photos)) and, as those on the Zoom could see the very new Blakeney Community Garden in real-time. It was



Saham Hills

also providential that Chair of District, Rev Julian, was free of a commitment that morning and was able to join us. The Zoom service can be watched on catch-up by going to the 'Worship' section of the Circuit website.

One of the several comments received will suffice:

*"I so enjoyed the Service which I watched (on catch-up) on zoom. Very meaningful and when showing the gardens accompanied with the calming music, meditative. I shall watch again!"*

Our next Big Sunday will be on October 31<sup>st</sup>, it is being looked forward to already...

# “THEY WERE QUITE GOOD, WEREN'T THEY!”



*From Colin Garwood:* Rather like old soldiers that never die, but only fade away, so the Hindringham Guild Male Voice Choir members have not all died -- they've just faded away! In truth, a lot of the old members have died, but enough remain to tell the tale. With the demise of the Hindringham Guild, its Male Voice choir has also come to an end, but it has never been given a proper farewell. It is time to make amends because, as was often said with some surprise by those who heard them sing, *“they were good, weren't they!”*

There was a tradition in the Guild for the male members to sing together on special occasions. This was done impromptu without any kind of practice and almost invariably included the hymn: *“Sweet is the work, my God and King...”* Sometimes they would sing at events in other churches; it was after such an occasion at Briston that the choir was born in 2005. I was already the conductor of the newly formed Circuit Choir and I was still recovering from a serious operation; to avoid the strain of meeting many folk, I arrived after the start and left just at the end. I reached my car and was about to depart when the late Ron (“big Ron”) Lamsdell rushed up to me, tapped my car window and said: *“Colin, will you take us over and make us into a proper choir, please?”* The rest, as they say, is history.

With numbers around a dozen or so, these lovely men with an average age of 80 plus, responded with enthusiasm. Regular practices were held and everyone did their best, working hard to get things right. Requests began to come in from other churches and from the Circuit Choir who regularly gave them a spot in their programmes. Apart from contributing to meetings of the Guild, they performed annually at our big Thursford Songs of Praise, and they regularly visited West Raynham Methodist Church for their Christmas Carol Service. Fakenham and Wells and other local churches were pleased to welcome them, and they took part in a concert by various choirs in Hindringham Parish Church and surprised everyone by their quality and professionalism, comparing favourably with the other choirs!

All the members would want to say that much of their success was due to their excellent accompanists, without whom it would have been impossible. The “permanent” accompanist was Jean Benson, and the other two musicians were Hazel Yarham and the late Edna Greves. The choir remains indebted to all three.

For me, the privilege of leading this choir was God-given. Their response to my leadership was total loyalty. Sometimes I had to be firm (as must all choirmasters) but they never reacted or resented correction. Practices were a joy, the fellowship was rich, and the results were amazing. I know that everyone who has sung in this choir would acknowledge that prayer and worship has been at the heart of it and that we sang our hearts out to the glory of God!



## Summer Series at The Hive

Creativity, spirituality and well-being are the three touchstones of The Hive and they have been the building blocks for our first Summer series which has included outdoor activities with Wild Church, two creative music sessions, an eye-opening walk-about in Great Cressingham and a day to discover the health and well-being benefits of yoga.



We have recently acquired a 5\* hotel – for bugs!



And we have the perfect location for a firepit where plenty of marshmallow-toasting has been happening.



The Hive's first music performance.

Music for Body, Mind and Soul, presented by Geraldine and Sarah, was an occasion to delve into how to listen to music and discover how it can touch us and resonate at a deeper level if we learn to listen with our whole person. Many different styles of music were used in performance, including some dissonant contemporary music alongside more familiar tunes. If you missed this one, the theme will be developed later in the year.

Susan Jones is a highly-trained and skilled yoga teacher and has been holding classes at Swaffham church and also at the leisure centre in Dereham. Her day at The Hive gave people of every ability, the opportunity to relax and reflect, once again exercising and emphasising the importance of engaging the whole person: we found this a very prayerful activity.



Susan Jones



1835 map of Great Cressingham – not much has changed since then!

David Jones is a seasoned walker and his 'Hidden Histories' talk and walk introduced the participants to all sorts of features of local landscape and buildings. This opened up local history and made us more aware of our surroundings as we enjoyed the architecture of church and houses at the heart of Great Cressingham and as we observed the workings of wind and weather on the natural environment.

Through all these many and varied activities, The Hive is beginning to find its identity. We are constantly asking the question: so what exactly is The Hive? Well, we don't exactly know, but we find ourselves called to help to bring to life a project which has inclusion as its touchstone – inclusivity of people, of ideas, of activities and of aspiration. The blank canvas is beginning to be coloured by the talented, questioning, energetic and thoughtful brush strokes people are making upon it and as they do, connections to the Creator are sparking and pathways to God are opening up.

## LOCAL PREACHERS' MEETING SECRETARY

After three years Judith Semmons has resigned from being Local Preachers' Meeting Secretary as she and her husband are moving to Terrington St. Clement. At July's meeting we were able to express our thanks for all she has done and Jacqui presented her with some flowers as a mark of our appreciation.





# THANKYOU

Stephen

## Part Three: The Message spreads

If you read the last Link, you will recall that I recounted the beginnings of the Messengers as part of my personal faith journey and the part music has played in it.

Due to daytime commitments, we were limited to the distance we could travel, as the majority of our bookings were mid-week 'specials'. None the less we travelled considerable distances ranging from Wisbech in the West to Melton Constable in the East, Wymondham in the South, and virtually all of the coast from Lynn to Wells. One of the most memorable evenings we had was when we were invited to Terrington St. Clement and shared an evening with the group that shaped our journey, the Skirmishers.

I also remember with particular affection the regular Good Friday evenings we played at Grimston chapel. One particular evening that stands out is when we visited the old Railway Mission at Melton Constable. The place was absolutely packed, and, having a low ceiling, it just got hotter and hotter. Writing this I can almost feel the sweat trickling down my back.

Because of the size of the group and all the equipment involved, transportation was quite a problem, not least because of the number of cars that had to be parked at the venues.

Aubrey Blower came up with a very practical and popular solution. During his time in the army he had been trained as a lorry driver, and he continued to do this in 'Civvy Street' after his demob. He extended this skill by taking his PSV (bus) license, and did part time weekend driving for Peelings coaches of Tittleshall. He suggested that we hire a coach so that we could all travel together, and by sharing the cost it would work out cheaper, especially as he was able to negotiate 'mates rates' with Peelings, and of course there was no driver to pay. We were also able to invite friends and family along as well, and it sometimes looked as though most of the congregation consisted of our 'groupies'. I remember that we all used to pay a shilling into the pot, two bob if it was a long journey!

On a personal level this was a very significant time in my life, as it was through the group that Sheila and I met, and in 1972 became married. In those days the papers would feature a page of weddings in the local area, but we were given a space in the editorial part of the paper, complete with our own headline, 'GOSPEL SINGERS WED'.

This was also the time that I began dipping my toe into hymn writing. I was never great academically, but the thing I could do was creative writing. Inspired by my English teacher, Roger Dixon, who some in the Fakenham area will remember (he went on to become an Anglican Canon). I had begun writing poetry, and found writing hymn lyrics to existing tunes something that I really enjoyed and received a great blessing from. At this stage I wasn't quite brave enough to write my own music. That would come later, and you'll read more about that in the next instalment.

# FOR THE MUSIC

Lynn



Looking at the map, I have calculated that we performed in excess of eighty towns and villages. We visited Methodist, Anglican, Baptist, Congregationalist, Salvation Army and various Free churches. I don't think we ever visited a Roman Catholic church, although my ageing memory may be letting me down.

One of the notable things was the ages of the congregations we played to. A large proportion of them were teenagers and young adults. One occasion I will never forget was when we played at Shipdham West End chapel. What made it so memorable was that it was the first time some young girls turned up with autograph books for us to sign. I wonder if those same ladies are hanging on for us to all be called home to Glory so they can sell them for hundreds of pounds!

As with all things, when you get a group of people together, there will invariably be times when differences of opinion raise their heads, and so it was that in 1974 Sheila and I left the group, which then continued for around another year before breaking up completely. I look back at the good times we had together, and the number of lives we touched, if only briefly. Even today, someone will bring up the subject of the Messengers, perhaps remembering where they saw us play.

After leaving the group, Sheila and I did odds and ends of concerts, but never on a regular basis. Little did we know that God had a real adventure in store for us, but you will have to wait for the next edition to read about that.

## MHA DIGITAL COMMUNITIES

*From Deacon Jen:* As I have been taking a few MHA (Methodist Homes) services recently I thought I would find out about MHA Digital communities. I was a Chaplain at Cromwell House, MHA Care home, in Norwich for over 7 years but the digital community work has only recently started so I knew little about it. Having done some research, the concept looks really good to me. So, I am writing this to recommend it. It is designed for those over 55 who need support and are feeling isolated or lonely. There are many people who often feel in need of support but, I believe, that this has become greatly increased and intensified in

the last year. As we come out of restrictions this could well continue as people feel fearful of going out. MHA Digital Communities offers a wide variety of live and on-demand activities which can be easily accessed to help in some way. This includes such things as: craft, baking, quizzes, exercises, services and sing-a-longs. It also includes dementia friendly activities. I hope this gives you an idea of what it is and hope that it will be of help. To find out further details, go to [www.mha.org.uk/communities/digital](http://www.mha.org.uk/communities/digital). I would be interested to hear about what you find out in your explorations.

# GOD HAS A

Anna



When I began thinking of what to write, many dark life events and how God spoke to me became apparent. But have I always listened? Probably not, I always considered myself to be a Christian after all I believed in God. But did I believe that Jesus was God on earth and came to save us from a life of sin, he actually died for me! I can't say hand on my heart that I did.

So did I have the sudden bolt of lightning moment where the Holy Spirit encompasses you? No, perhaps as I have always been a little scared of such events. I have always been fascinated by happy clappy churches. What is this talking in tongues? Why do they have 'seizures' on the floor with uncontrollable laughing? In my student days I tried this unique form of worship. I was terrified of having a fit so I prayed to not let it happen. He answered my prayers but much to the dismay of the church leaders who tried to make me fall to the floor with the laying on of hands. During these moments did I feel the spirit? I wondered about many things like - If the big explosion happened would it change me? Would others like me if I was a Christian? Would I still be able to have fun? So God listened and changed me from the inside out slowly at my pace until I now wonder why haven't I done it sooner?

The journey has always been slow and the pivotal moment came after I had a nervous breakdown, I hit rock bottom. You couldn't get any lower without dying, I was hospitalised for 2 months. I began to wonder – why had God spared me when I so wanted to die? What was my purpose? What should I do with my life? The answers came slowly through the support of my family, friends and Methodist church. My mum was a Methodist and I came to chapel with her as my Dad played the accordion. I thought I was always a Christian, after all I believed in God! But was I? I began to wonder how these 'Christians' had such a glow about them, always seeing the sunshine and good in others when all I saw was blackness. What made them different? I needed this light. I needed to know about God and Jesus. Who made me? Who knew me when I didn't even know myself? Who saved me? What was my purpose?

I prayed for enlightenment, and slowly believed I could make a real difference within the church. I had the counselling and people skills from my nursing; dealing with birth and death and everything in between. I wanted to bring people into the church, those who felt lost like I had. I wanted to share his good news and proclaim the gospel for everyone to hear. How could I do this when I knew so little about God? The answers were in the Bible, but for me the Bible is like Shakespeare, written in a foreign language which I can't understand. I needed a way to interpret it. My mum will tell you how lazy I am, and she is right if I don't have to do

# PURPOSE!

## Hall

something I won't do it. So how would I ever get around to reading the Bible? I love to learn but need deadlines to work to or I lose my way. Then I heard about the Local Preachers, a way of knowing the Bible where I could learn the craft of preaching and see if I actually had the skills to be able to tell of God's glories and inspire others to commit their lives to him and seek forgiveness.

The Rev Andrew King came and interviewed me to see if my motives were true, did I have a calling? I wondered what a calling was? Was it the same as nursing? A desire to help others, to heal and when this was not possible to ease suffering? The big question, was I doing it for the right reasons? Many of my so-called friends believed it was for a house, good pension and working only one day a week. I talked to Andrew and as the conversation flowed, I realised I wanted to make a difference through proclaiming the gospel, to share the good news, to learn more about God. Who was Jesus? Why did he matter? What did the Bible say? Why was it still relevant today? I wanted to give back to the Methodist chapel community who had helped me and my family through many dark times.

But did I have the skills? I have an uncanny ability to waffle, always going over the word limits on assignments to such a degree that I end up removing all the 'and, the, therefore and hence' words so that it doesn't make sense anymore! So I embarked on my big adventure with Rev Betty as a mentor and Rev Andrew as my tutor. First, the sermons weren't long enough, too waffly like I feared, not enough biblical content and I chose hymns I liked that did fit with the topic but we persevered and finally a satisfactory result occurred. But the biggest problem then and still now is I am not loud enough!!

So the courses and my mentor (Dee Moden) and Tutor (Rev Anne) have changed but I look forward to many new exciting challenges, and I pray that this is my calling. That I can make a difference, be interesting, and find my path whilst signposting others to enlightenment with Jesus.

I have had many amazing moments when I preach, from people I do not know sending me letters, cards and good wishes saying my words have had an impact on their lives. I don't feel it is my doing but God speaking through me to touch the heart of others, and if I make one person stop and think and come to the Lord, then my purpose is complete.

As I work my way around the circuit please come and introduce yourself to me and give me feedback, as this is how I learn and develop. If you can't hear me please say, I will not be offended but grateful. I now know this is my true path on the road to a relationship with Jesus and proclaiming his word and I want to do it justice, after all you have given up your time to come and hear me speak and I pray my words sing to your soul.

As I say again may my words inspire all those who feel lost and alone, remember it is just a pit stop in the journey of life and the destination is always worth it, even if we get lost on the way. It just makes the adventure more worthwhile. I say to everyone on this crazy little planet never stop journeying with Jesus, he is the only map we need!

# LIFE AT HINGHAM

*From Heather Parle:* The community of Hingham are used to an active Methodist Church. Due to Covid and its lockdown conditions, we at Hingham, like every other Church have been inactive as far as 'events' are concerned. It has been good to join in the Zoom services and other social events on Zoom, meeting with Circuit friends old and new. Now it is time to get started again with 'face to face' activities, to show our community that we are still around !



To this effect, we decided to hold two small events in July as precursors to the reopening of our Coffee Shop in August. Firstly, ..... A collection of tools etc for TWAM (Tools with a Mission) on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July. People turned up in 'droves' with tools of all descriptions! We filled the School Room with so many tools, mechanical, carpentry and gardening tools as well as 13 sewing machines, including

2 treadles! There were also haberdashery items that TWAM had specifically asked for. Lengths of material, tins of buttons and knitting needles. All were collected by TWAM and were gratefully received.

Secondly..... An illustrated talk given by Rev Jacqui, on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July, 'Propriety and Scandal in a Victorian Primitive Methodist Family', with afternoon tea to follow. This again was very successful, a 'sell out' audience ! Rev Jacqui's talk/presentation was so interesting and held our attention that we failed to notice the hardness of the pews ! Afternoon tea was supplied and enjoyed by us all. Ticket sales raised money for our Chapel funds, but most importantly was the outreach to our community.



Several people have been asking us 'when are you starting your Coffee Shop again'? They have the answer now, as we were able to advertise it at our latest event ! The Grand



Reopening of our Coffee Shop and Market, will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August, 10am – 12noon. Always the first Saturday in the month. The support we get for Coffee Shop and Market is amazing, it seems people really look forward to it as a meeting place, somewhere to catch up with friends and browse the stalls.

Hingham Methodist Church is 'up and running' again. Watch this space for further events we might have up our sleeves!!

# THA'S A RUM OLE JOB

*Leslie Cowling writes:* From time to time over the last eighteen months I have wondered idly what my father would have made of the Covid situation and what he would have said about it. For sure he would have said *something*, probably quite a lot, because that was his way, but as an overall view I think he would have described it as 'A rum ole job' and I reckon that just about sums it up.

For many this has been a torrid, horrible time, uncertain, painful, sad and lonely as people tried to understand the destruction of this uncontrollable monster romping across the globe leaving so much devastation in its wake. It was hard not to be frightened and despairing, wondering whatever would happen next, and when. I think it's fair to say that the folk at Watton were no different from others.

However, from the beginning we have had many initiatives to support us – largely emanating from a Circuit Leadership Team which was willing to 'Think outside the Box' and come up with different ways of being church. This inspired others to do likewise – with far-reaching effects. The weekly service sheets have been so much appreciated and used and gradually these have extended to services on YouTube and via Zoom, thus maintaining the core elements of worship in a very real way. Church festivals have been marked, encouraging us to think prayerfully and creatively about Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and with time to do so.

Pastoral work was hard as visits were more or less impossible except in an emergency. At first it seemed that, when we needed it most, contact with others was denied. Then, came 'Phone a friend' – a plan for an extended pastoral team to phone regularly a small group of people, just for a chat and to keep in touch. This has been amazingly successful and those involved have, in many cases, got to know each other – and support each other – in very meaningful ways. And this has extended well into the community. The prayer wheels too, have been a great help.

Searching for other means of support and connection a couple of ladies who enjoy baking decided that a cake or two might lift the spirits a bit and thus the 'Hug in a Munch Bag' initiative was rolled out during some of the darkest (in more ways than one) days of the winter. Mothering Sunday 2021 was marked with the delivery of a cup cake in a decorated box instead of the posies which are normally distributed. Talking

of deliveries, highlights of this period have to be the bags of goodies put together so thoughtfully by Rev. Jacqui and Deacon Jen and given to well over 100 people in this section of the Circuit for Christmas and Easter and handmade cards on other occasions. As chinks appeared in the Lockdown situation 'Coffee on the Car Park' became a possibility and to date four have been held – and connections with the community renewed and extended. The July Coffee morning coincided with the 94<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the 'new' church – an event already celebrated on the previous Sunday with a service, the Annual Church meeting and a Ploughmans' Lunch.

Watton has also been represented at the Circuit lockdown events: the services of course, but also Coffee and chat mornings, 'Circuit at 7' on Tuesday evenings with a rolling programme of learning about new things, meeting new people, and quizzes and more. Thus have names become faces, and faces have become personalities with their own stories to tell.

It has been so good to hear about developments at Walsingham, Blakeney and Great Cressingham and to share in some very special services – farewell to Rev. Betty Trinder and reception into membership of Edward from New Holkham. And to meet the District Chair, Rev Julian Pursehouse, participating in and contributing to our worship. Thank you to our Ministers for their vision and determination, to Elsie and Martin (at Watton) for their expertise and hard work in helping to turn so much negativity into positive possibility – it has been a tough, tough time, no one will deny, but out of that opportunities have arisen for us to see our future in a different light,

All this activity was celebrated on Big Sunday when the whole circuit came together in so many different ways – Zoom, YouTube, open Church and with the 'Worship at Home' material, to worship a God who is always with us and who guides us in ways which we would never have thought possible. The theme 'The spirituality of Gardens' -which included a second virtual tour of gardens around the circuit – gave much food for thought, challenging us to take the best from this 'unprecedented pandemic experience' and use it in mission and service.

'A rum ole job'? Yes, but one which has left us challenged to consider our priorities, adapting to a different future and moving forward in faith to 'serve the present age' – and beyond.



# The Pilgrim Methodist Church

Blakeney  Walsingham

**From Sam:** It has been an exciting quarter for the Pilgrim Methodist Church, as restrictions have eased and both Blakeney and Walsingham buildings have re-opened, embracing the new as they have done so.

At Walsingham it was my pleasure in June to welcome the first school visit since 2019. Our school visits are for students who have chosen to study religion as one of their GCSE subjects, a component of which is to compare different expressions of Christianity. Walsingham offers them the opportunity to visit an Anglican Parish church, a Catholic Parish church, a Russian Orthodox church and the Methodist church, all within a short distance of each other. Students

explore aspects of each place of worship, from the architecture of the building to how Eucharist is celebrated. I really enjoy welcoming bus-loads of students and having the opportunity to share the important aspects of Methodism with them. They also ask some amazing questions - from Creation Theory to the history of the ordination of women, they keep me very much on my toes!! These visits are just part of the legacy of Tommy Seaman's years of service as Chapel Steward and it is a privilege and a blessing to carry on with them.



At Walsingham we have also begun opening the church every Friday afternoon from 1.00 – 3.00 p.m. and have had various people visiting us - some holidaymakers, some pilgrims, some locals popping in for a chat. Reaffirming our presence in the community has been wonderful and I've been thoroughly enjoying getting to know some of the fabulous people who live and work here.

On July 11th we held our first in person service at Walsingham with 18 people joining us for worship, followed by sandwiches, cake and tea. It was great to see everyone and there was a very upbeat and loving atmosphere. Our next gathering is on Sunday 8th at 4.30 p.m., you are very welcome to come and join us. On September 11th and 12th we're holding our annual Heritage Open weekend at Walsingham, which coincides with the Churches Trust sponsored bike ride. A full weekend, culminating with a special service on Sunday 12th, dedicating the new ramp at which our Chair of District, Rev. Julian Pursehouse will be preaching.

Blakeney has also seen a return to in-person services, with a new pattern of services including; traditional worship, Cafe Church, Garden Church and, when there is a fifth Sunday something different - where we're open to thought and ideas of things we can try together. We're a month in now and like at Walsingham, it's been great to gather together once more, keeping those folk as yet unable to join us in our prayers and thoughts.



In June we held a drop in prayer morning to pray for the beginning of all of our new ventures, along with reflective spaces for personal prayer followed by coffee. Following on from this we held a Pray, Coffee, Chat morning in July, inviting people to come along for whichever bit(s) they wanted to. We enjoyed coffee sitting in the garden and were able to sample the first ever

harvest from the Community Garden of peas fresh from the pod. We'll be holding another Pray, Coffee, Chat morning in August, with the aim of building these mornings into a more regular part of our calendar.

Lastly I'm excited to share news and updates about the Community Garden at Blakeney Methodist Church, which is now an actual garden! So far, we've installed four large planters in the courtyard which have been filled with just over 1.5 tons of raised bed mix and are now planted with a mixture of wildflowers, grasses, bedding plants and some veg. Our future plans include providing more bench seating and some creative thinking about the grey pebble dash exterior of the shed. To date, we have raised just over £400 - thanks to the generosity of many people we have been able to get to this point and plan for the future.

On the third Sunday in July we held our first Garden Church under a tarpaulin sun shelter, sipping on elderflower cordial whilst reflecting on Psalm 23 through poetry, meditation and craft. Based on connecting with the Creator through nature, Garden Church offers a space that aims to be earthing, grounding and helpful.

People are continuing to visit the garden, new people are regularly popping by and enjoying resting there and regulars to the garden have been pleased and excited to see the area develop. Support from our community has been really encouraging and people have been pleased to see and be part of something after seeing the building dormant during lockdown.

So, lots of exciting ventures, none of which would be possible without the fabulous volunteers - from welcoming visitors at Walsingham to watering plants at Blakeney (not to mention moving a lot of soil by hand!!) I feel really blessed to be surrounded by such awesome folk. We give thanks for the ongoing support we receive in prayer, person power and financial contributions, all of which are helping to equip us as we continue this project together.

**From Glyn:** As lockdown and restrictions end for at least the present churches are opening up and visitors and pilgrims are returning to Walsingham again.

With the help of Rev Jacqui we have been moving things forward. With additional funding from the District we will be able to open with Sam being in Walsingham for more hours on another day of the week. Our aim is to show that Methodists are not extinct as a species (as some seem to think!!) but more seriously to share something of our own faith and the history of the chapel as well as letting people use it as a quiet space.



We have also had a Zoom brainstorming session with various District and National Methodist participants looking at the various ways we can promote use of the chapel for differing pilgrimage groups and visitors.

The building works are now complete apart from replacement noticeboards and tarmacking in front of the chapel, which has to tie in with our neighbours. We were in fact able to use the ramp and new toilet "in anger" so as to speak at our service in July when people really found them helpful.

Our services in the chapel, including the dedication of the new ramp, are listed in the diary section at the back of The Link. **Do please come along.** We continue with our programme of a monthly Thursday Zoom service at 7.15 p.m. Do contact us for joining details or to be put on the email list.

Just to finish by thanking everyone in the circuit for their support in so many ways.

# 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY AT BEETLEY



We spent the early part of 2020 planning for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year in 2021 at Beetley. Obviously this could not be celebrated as we had hoped but we were pleased to have Rev. Andrew King preach for us on Zoom in March.

On 11<sup>th</sup> July, the actual Anniversary, we had Rev. Julian Pursehouse, Chair of the District, take the morning service in person. It was thanks to Julian, his mother Christine and father Gerald, that we were able to start our Morning Fellowships many years ago and we were delighted to have both Julian and Christine with us to celebrate.

In the evening we have a lovely service with our own Minister, Rev. Anne Richardson. Our next Anniversary year service will be at 10.30 a.m. on September 26<sup>th</sup> with Rev. Betty Trinder, our former Minister.

Even in these difficult times our Preachers have found ways to celebrate our past, rejoice in the present and look confidently to the future.



# AVIAN DETERRENT

By David Yarham

Atop my poplar tree an early thrush  
carols the new-born day. Still yawning, we  
rise from our beds, turn on the radio  
and listen of the catalogue of woes  
that vex our world.

That happy bird is free from all such cares.  
He nothing knows of poverty or war,  
of genocide, recession or the threat  
of global warming.

Two snails for breakfast will for him suffice.  
No greed or jealousy disturb his breast  
save when potential rivals for his mate  
come near my garden.

Then to deter his feathered enemy  
he'll choose the merriest of weaponry,  
and those who he suspects would do him  
wrong  
are warned to keep their distance with a  
song.

\*\*\*\*\*

Poor thrush, he's less intelligent than we  
who've higher climbed up evolution's tree  
and learned for our deterrents to rely  
on ranks of missiles pointing to the sky  
and bombs and minefields... Though it  
seems absurd,  
I sometimes think I'd rather be a bird!



**CREAM TEAS**  
at  
**HOLT**

2.00—4.00 p.m.  
September 17th  
October 15th  
November 26th

**VERY TEMPTING!**

# THE SOUND OF HEAVEN TOUCHING EARTH



A few little things led to this story. The first one was one evening sitting quietly in the garden watching the young swifts flying and I thought of all the prayers of appreciation I have said in my quiet times. We hear so much now about mindfulness and meditation but quiet times and simple prayers have been part of my life, especially after I was very ill some years ago.

The second thing that brought another simple prayer was watching the red legged partridge bring eleven tiny chicks into our garden last Monday morning so I found this Bible reading about praying. It is Matthew 6 vv5 -6:

‘And whenever you prayer do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray in the synagogue and at street corners so they may be seen by others. But whenever you

pray go into your room and shut the door and pray to the Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you’.

I don’t think we look for rewards but a few words I heard from a church service on TV during lockdown sums up what I feel and I think of them often. ‘Can you hear the sound of heaven touching Earth?’ I am sure you will remember that next time you have a quiet time.



*Dot McIlroy  
Saham Hills*

## WORK IN MELAYAKUDI, TAMIL NADU, SOUTH INDIA

Over the years since Rev. Dr. Gnana worked in our Circuit, members and friends at Beetley have supported the work carried out in Gnana’s native village, Melayakudi. We have sent contributions towards the church building, the provision of water, the school and the ‘Bible Woman’. More recently, especially in view of the COVID crisis in India, we have sent a donation which has been used to help a girl of

17 from a very poor family. The schools are still closed, she could not access her education and became ill with the worry. Our donation has been used to pay her medical bill and to provide her with a cellphone to help her in her studies.

Gnana has recently retired and we wish him and his wife Kiruba well at this time of change in their lives.

## DEREHAM

A number of our regular meetings will be about to start again as this edition of *The Link* is published. Women's Own meets every Tuesday afternoon at 2.45 p.m. though at the time of writing we have no set date. Our mid-week Communion takes place monthly on the first Thursday of the month at 10.30 a.m. Cards & Chatter group have already started and meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 10.00 a.m. (please note new time). We are hoping to start Lunch Club up again but have no fixed date as yet – it should be on the second Thursday each month but this will need confirmation. There is no longer any Wednesday Club as we have decided to close this for good.

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## WELLS

Wells church are hoping to be able to restart their weekly Prayer and Praise meeting from September. Details will be on the notice board outside the church.

On Sunday 26th September at 11 o'clock we will be having our Harvest Festival. All fresh produce will be distributed locally after the service and the dry goods will be given to the local food bank. Please do join us if you can.

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## FULMODESTON

From September we will be having a planned service on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

On September 5th at 2.30 p.m. we will be celebrating Harvest Festival led by Mrs. April Temple. There will not be a weeknight service this year.

## HOLT

Like everyone else we are enjoying being back to be able to worship God together and enjoy fellowship with one another. Some weekday activities are beginning again and we are also starting to welcome others to use our premises.

Understandably during the pandemic the preparation for our developments slowed to a crawl but we are beginning to move forward again and have had some very encouraging feedback from the Connexional Heritage Officer, Joanne Balmforth. Needless to say various ideas are going to have to be looked at again (and again, and again!).

One thing which are having to do is having a surprising consequence. We have to produce an audit of all that we have been doing in recent years to support our application. Our first reaction was 'more paperwork', our second was 'what on earth can we say?' but when we sat down to work out how many people we have been in contact with in one way or another and how we have been involved with and supportive of the local community the result was both surprising and encouraging. We recommend trying it during the autumn on a wet weekend!

Our ever popular Cream Teas (thank you, Joselyn and Team!) have restarted, normally on the third Friday of the month. The November one will be a week later since the third Friday coincides with the Holt Lights Switch-on (when we offer seasonal refreshments) and we are also having thoughts about possibly combining it with a Christmas Fayre.

# CHURCHES

## LITCHAM

Like the rest of the world we are slowly adjusting to the 'New Normal', along with all it's consequences.

We are offering optional social distancing and mask wearing, although everyone seems to prefer the safer option of continuing to wear masks. We are leaving the Social Distancing tape on the floor for the time being as no-one can predict what lies around the corner with the approach of Autumn and Winter.

Much to our surprise our congregation has not only returned to pre-covid levels, but in some weeks exceeded them. We have actually embraced the shorter format services, and are taking responsibility for the majority of services ourselves, which hopefully eases the pressure on Jacqui as she works with depleted worship leaders, and also enables us to be more flexible in our worship style, while still holding on to the values we hold dear.

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival on September 19<sup>th</sup>. And hope to be able to decorate to some extent, albeit in a rather less exuberant way than we might like.

We are hoping, if all goes well, to resume our Thursday Coffee Mornings in October, again conditional to prevailing circumstances.

Looking further ahead beyond this Plan, we are holding a concert on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. At 7.00 p.m. to celebrate Advent. The evening will comprise a programme of completely new Christmas songs and carols, many of which will be receiving their first ever public airing. The reason for mentioning it now is that it will be a ticketed event, although there is no charge, so that we can safely monitor numbers. Seats can be reserved by phone (01328700978) or email ([stephenlynn73@outlook.com](mailto:stephenlynn73@outlook.com)).

We look forward to the time when we can all join together safely without restriction, but in the meantime, do stay safe.

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## WATTON

Weekly services are going well and we have been holding our Wednesday coffee morning once a month on the Car Park, but will move indoors from September, when we hope to be open on the first Wednesday in every month, with an extra one in December.

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## TITTLESHALL

Our weekly Coffee Mornings returned at the beginning of August and are greatly enjoyed and appreciated by members of our local community.

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## WENDLING

We are enjoying worshipping together. We are giving thought to re-starting our Coffee Mornings but are rather short of help.

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## SPORLE

During the autumn we shall be having a monthly service on the first Sunday in the month with a planned preacher. Also on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday we shall be welcoming members of the congregation from St. Mary's, the Parish Church, to the chapel for a united service as they do not have a service on the third Sunday.

## GREAT ELLINGHAM

As the Virus is beginning to ease, we still feel an element of uncertainty, we therefore have decided not to have Coffee or Fellowship meetings until the new year. Our Congregation numbers are quite low.

Our Services continue mostly on a fortnightly basis. On September 19th at 11.00 a.m. Rev Jan May, an Anglican Minister, will lead our Harvest Festival Service. Rev Jan will occasionally take a Service during the year and it is always very thought provoking.

We are sad that Carey Moore, our Organist, has recently retired after playing at our Chapel for 28 years. We thank him for his loyal and dedicated service to our Chapel for all this time and wish him and his wife, Wyn, a happy retirement.

We have been blessed with extremely generous donations from some Chapel members, which has allowed us to purchase the complete collection of Singing the Faith CDs. We feel very grateful to those concerned.

Hopefully a new year will bring new wisdom and guidance as we as we move into 2022.

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## GRESSENHALL

We are looking forward to our Harvest Festival at 2.30 p.m. on September 5th. It will be led by Rev. Anne Richardson and Jams and marmalades will be on sale either at the chapel or 12 Chequers Lane.



## GARVESTONE

We give thanks, firstly, that apart from two compulsory breaks in gathering for worship, we have safely and carefully met on all Sundays in our chapel (or in the Parish Church) throughout the long and difficult past months and we rejoice that on the evening of July 25th we were able to *sing* our hymns aloud (albeit still through our masks at two metre distances!).

Our village United Harvest Festival will this year be held in our Anglican Parish Church, but we will, of course, hope to contribute fully in the thanksgiving worship and its preparation, and the donation of goods which will afterwards be taken to the Mid-Norfolk Foodbank and the Dereham Community Larder. The service will be at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday, September 19th.

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## SWAFFHAM

September brings a resumption of many of our activities. The twice weekly Meeting Place drop-in resumes on Tuesdays and Thursdays providing a friendly atmosphere to relax, meet old and new friends, and enjoy a tea or coffee. On Thursday November 11th we shall observe the two minutes silence at 11.00 a.m. All are welcome. On Fridays our Power of Prayer group resumes. We have a new Swaffham Friendship Group which will meet twice a month on Thursdays and replaces the previous Thursday Group.

Like everybody else in the Circuit we shall only have a planned preacher once a fortnight so our Worship Leaders will be kept busy preparing and leading the intervening services.

# CHURCHES

## MATTISHALL

As restrictions have eased we are hoping to commence our monthly Charity Coffee Mornings again soon. However, as we are likely to change the Saturday so have no dates to publish yet.

In September the chapel will be open as usual for those visiting on the annual Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride. Later that month Candy Rogers will be returning to our chapel to lead our Harvest Festival service. Candy was a member and local preacher in this circuit before moving to Yorkshire for some time but in recent years has retired to Norfolk to live.

At the moment there is some uncertainty as to if and when the Dementia Support Group (The Link) will return to meeting again. This is partly due to the unavailability of the previous main organisers although there are several willing volunteers to help with other roles.

## STIBBARD

We are now open for worship every Sunday at 11.00 a.m. and are pleased that the Ecumenical Prayer meeting that was formerly held once a month has become a weekly meeting when we share with others from the Baptist Church, All Saints', Stibbard, and from across the Heart of Norfolk Benefice.

Although we cannot visit Romania, we continue to support the work of the Feeding Centre in Santana and have been able to send some money towards the rebuilding of a house following a fire, and to contribute towards a youth camp by sponsoring some of the young people.

Following our flood we have less storage for books so have a set of Hymns and Psalms which need a new home if any church or individual would like them.

## SAHAM HILLS

The Chapel reopened on Easter Sunday and we have been pleased to hold services every Sunday since then. We have plenty of room for friends to visit and join in with our fellowship. The Harvest Service will take place on September 26<sup>th</sup> and will be taken by Dee Moden, format still to be arranged. We are looking forward to this celebration as Dee's first service at Saham Hills had to be cancelled.

We have decided not to hold Coffee Mornings for a while longer BUT whilst we have been in various lockdowns, we have accumulated a huge number of books. They are currently stacked up in the School Room

and each time we look, a few more have been added to the heap. Weather and Covid restrictions permitting, we will be holding a **Book Sale** outside the chapel on Saturday September 11th 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. If wet, this will be held inside.

We joined our friends from the Circuit to celebrate the Big Sunday. We have neither the technical know-how nor the technology to 'Zoom' in the chapel or watch You Tube but we still joined in celebrating The Spirituality of Gardens.

*[See photo on page 4, Ed.]*

# AROUND THE CIRCUIT

*For your information, prayer and support*

## DEREHAM

Trinity

**Services:** every Sunday at 10.45 a.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 10.45 a.m. September 19th  
led by Rev Anne Richardson.

**Mid-week Communion:** 10.30 a.m.  
September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th.

**Cards and Chatter:** 10.00 a.m. September  
23rd, October 28th, November 25th.

**Lunch Club:** tbc

## HINGHAM

**Services:** every Sunday at 10.30 a.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 10.30 a.m. September 26th,  
led by Nelson Tubby

**Coffee Shop with stalls:** 10.00 a.m. – 12.00  
noon September 4th, October 2nd, November  
6th.

## LITCHAM

**Services:** every Sunday at 10.30 a.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 10.30 a.m. September 19th.

**Remembrance Service:** 10.50 a.m.  
November 14th, at the Parish Church

**Coffee Mornings:** 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon  
every Thursday beginning in October (tbc).

## THURSFORD

**Services:** fortnightly at 6.30 p.m.

## SWAFFHAM

**Services:** every Sunday at 10.45 a.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 10.45 a.m. September 19th,  
led by Deacon Jen.

**Power of Prayer Group:** Every Friday 9.30  
a.m. Praying for our world.

**The Meeting Place drop-in:** 10.00 a.m. –  
12.00 noon every Tuesday and Thursday.

**Swaffham Friendship Group** (formerly  
Thursday Group): 2.30 – 4.00 p.m.  
Sept 9th Sharing our ups and downs during  
lockdown

Sept 23rd Talk on 'Gliding' by David Mansel

Oct 14th Quiz

Oct 28th Beetle Drive

Nov 11th Favourite remembrance poems

Nov 25th Speaker tbc

## TOFTWOOD

**Services:** every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 11.00 a.m. October 3rd, led  
by Rev Anne Richardson

**Weekly Lace Group:** Mondays 9.30 a.m. –  
12.00 noon. Restarting October 4th.

**Guides:** Mondays 7.00 – 8.30 p.m.

**Carpet Bowls:** Thursdays 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

**Craft Group:** 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. September 1st,  
October 6th, November 3rd.

**Lunch & Linger:** 12.00 noon – 2.30 p.m.  
September 8th, October 13th, November  
10th.

**Film Club:** 2.00 p.m. October 8th, November  
12th.

## BEETLEY

**Services:** 10.30 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays.

6.00 p.m. on the first and third Sundays.

5th Sundays: August 29th, 10.30 a.m.

October 31st, 6.00 p.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 10.30 a.m. September 12th with Rev. Rosemary Wakelin

**Prayer Meeting:** 1st Wednesday of the month, 9.30 a.m.

## GARVESTONE

**Services:** every Sunday at 6.00 p.m. until 24th October and thereafter at 2.30 p.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 11.00 a.m. September 19th, united service at the Parish Church.

**Prayer Meetings:** 2.00 p.m. September 17th, October 15th, November 19th.

**Knit and Natter:** 10.30 – 12.00 noon  
September 14th, October 12th, November 9th.

## WATTON

**Services:** every Sunday at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. September 19th. Morning service led by Rev Jacqui Horton.

**Wednesday Coffee Morning:** 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. September 1st, October 6th, November 3rd.

## GRESSENHALL

**Services:** alternate Sundays at 2.30 p.m.

**Harvest Festival (with high tea):** 2.30 p.m. September 5th, led by Rev Anne Richardson.

## HOLT

**Services:** every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 11.00 a.m. October 3rd, led by Rev Cliff Shanganya.

**Friday Prayer Time:** 9.30 a.m. on Fridays.

**Cream Teas:** 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. September 17th, October 15th, November 26th.

**Holt Lights Switch-on:** 6.30 p.m. November 19th. Seasonal refreshments will be available in the church.

## NEW HOLKHAM

**Services:** 2.30 p.m. last Sunday in the month.

**Harvest Festival:** 2.30 p.m. September 26th, led by Rev Cliff Shanganya.

**Harvest Sale:** 7.00 p.m. September 27th.

## WENDLING

**Services:** alternate Sundays at 10.30 a.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 10.30 a.m. September 19th, led by Judith Semmons.

**Coffee Mornings:** tbc

## MATTISHALL

**Services:** every Sunday at 2.30 p.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 2.30 p.m. September 26th, led by Candy Rogers.

**Monthly Charity Coffee Mornings:** 10.00 – 11.30 a.m. September 4th, October 2nd, November 6th.

**Mattishall Dementia Support Group – “The Link”:** 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon. first and third Tuesdays in the month tbc.

## WELLS

with Churches Together in Wells

**Services:** every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

**Prayer and Praise:** Every Wednesday at 10.30 a.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 11.00 a.m. September 26th, led by Rev Cliff Shanganya.

## FULMODESTON

**Services:** alternate Sundays at 2.30 p.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 2.30 p.m. September 5th led by Avril Temple.

## STIBBARD

**Services;** every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

**Harvest Thanksgiving:** 11.00 a.m. September 19th, led by Rev Cliff Shanganya.

**Harvest Supper:** 7.00 p.m. September 21st.

**Ecumenical Prayers and Coffee:** 10.30 a.m. every Tuesday.

**Lunch @ The Centre:** 12.30 p.m. September 8th, October 13th, November 10th.

**Railway Film Afternoons with Tea and Cake:** 2.30 p.m. September 4th, October 2nd, November 6th.

**Jam and Chutney Day:** 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. November 20th.

**Quiz Night @ The Centre:** 7.30 p.m. August 27th, November 26th.

## TITTLESHALL

**Services:** every Sunday at 9.30 a.m.

**Coffee Mornings:** 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon every Wednesday.

## THE PILGRIM CHURCH

### Blakeney

**Community Garden:** open daily.

### Walsingham

**Services:** 4.30 p.m. October 10th, November 14th, followed by tea.

**Zoom services:** 7.15 p.m. Thursdays September 23rd, October 21st, November 25th.

**Chapel open to visitors:** every Friday 1.00 – 3.00 p.m.

**Heritage Open Weekend:** 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. September 11th – 12th.

**Dedication of the new ramp:** 4.30 p.m. September 12th led by Rev Julian Pursehouse and Rev Jacqui Horton followed by tea.

**Heritage Open Day:** 1.00 – 4.00 p.m. September 17th.

## SAHAM HILLS

**Services:** every Sunday at 10.30 a.m.

**Book Sale:** 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. September 11th.

**Harvest Festival:** 10.30 a.m. September 26th, led by Dee Moden.

## SPORLE

**Services:** 11.00 a.m. first Sunday in the month.

**United service** with St Mary's (in the chapel) on the third Sunday in the month

**Harvest Festival:** 11.00 a.m. October 3rd, led by Alan Warby.

## SCULTHORPE AND FAKENHAM

**Services:** alternate Sundays at 11.00 a.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 11.00 a.m. September 12th,  
led by Rev Cliff Shanganya.

## GREAT ELLINGHAM

**Services:** alternate Sundays at 2.30 p.m.

**Harvest Festival:** 11.00 a.m. September 19th,  
led by Rev Jan May.

## CIRCUIT MEETINGS

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at Toftwood  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 on Zoom  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at Swaffham

All meetings begin at 7.15 p.m.

## NORTHERN PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

**Bible Study and Prayer:** 7.15 p.m. alternate  
Monday evenings via Zoom  
September 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>,  
November 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Contact Glyn Constantine: glynandang@gmail.com

**REGULAR Weekly dates for prayer** Further details elsewhere in *The Link*.

Daily	All day	Community Garden	Blakeney MC
Mon	9.30-12.00	Weekly Lace Group (from October 4th)	Toftwood MC
Mon	7.00-8.30	Guides	Toftwood MC
Tues	10.00-12.00	The Meeting Place Drop-in	Swaffham MC
Tues	10.30 am	Ecumenical Prayers and Coffee	Stibbard
Wed	10.30-12.00	Coffee Morning	Tittleshall MC
Wed	10.30 am	Prayer and Praise	Wells MC
Thurs	10.00-12.00	The Meeting Place Drop-in	Swaffham MC
Thurs	10.30-12.00	Coffee Morning from October (tbc)	Litcham MC
Thurs	2.00-4.00	Bowls Club	Toftwood MC
Fri	9.30 am	Friday Prayer Time	Holt MC
Fri	9.30 am	Power of Prayer Group	Swaffham MC
Fri	1.00-3.00	Chapel open to visitors	Walsingham MC

**LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS,  
THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTOR  
OF OUR FAITH.**

**Hebrews ch. 12 v. 2**

## **DATES FOR PRAYER AND SUPPORT**

*Continued from page 27*

Oct 3	11.00 am	Harvest Festival	Holt MC
Oct 3	11.00 am	Harvest Festival	Sporle MC
Oct 3	11.00 am	Harvest Festival	Toftwood MC
Oct 6	9.30 am	Prayer Meeting	Beetley MC
Oct 6	9.30 am	Coffee Morning	Watton MC
Oct 6	2.00-4.00	Craft Group	Toftwood MC
Oct 7	10.30 am	Mid-week Communion	Dereham Trinity MC
Oct 8	2.00 pm	Film Club	Toftwood MC
Oct 10	4.30 pm	Service followed by tea	Walsingham MC
Oct 11	7.15 pm	Bible Study and Prayer (Northern Prayer Fellowship)	Zoom
Oct 12	10.30-12.00	Knit and Natter	Garvestone MC
Oct 13	12.00-2.30	Lunch & Linger	Toftwood MC
Oct 13	12.30 pm	Lunch @ The Centre	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Oct 14	2.30-4.00	Swaffham Friendship Group	Swaffham MC
Oct 15	2.00 pm	Prayer Meeting	Garvestone MC
Oct 15	2.00-4.00	Cream Teas	Holt MC
Oct 21	7.15 pm	'Walsingham Service'	Zoom
Oct 25	7.15 pm	Bible Study and Prayer (Northern Prayer Fellowship)	Zoom
Oct 28	10.00 am	Cards and Chatter	Dereham Trinity MC
Oct 28	2.30-4.00	Swaffham Friendship Group	Swaffham MC
Nov 3	9.30 am	Prayer Meeting	Beetley MC
Nov 3	9.30 am	Coffee Morning	Watton MC
Nov 3	2.00-4.00	Craft Group	Toftwood MC
Nov 4	10.30 am	Mid-week Communion	Dereham Trinity MC
Nov 6	10.00-11.30	Charity Coffee Morning	Mattishall MC
Nov 6	10.00-12.00	Coffee Shop with stalls	Hingham MC
Nov 6	2.30 pm	Railway Film Afternoon	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Nov 8	7.15 pm	Bible Study and Prayer (Northern Prayer Fellowship)	Zoom
Nov 9	10.30-12.00	Knit and Natter	Garvestone MC
Nov 10	12.00-2.30	Lunch & Linger	Toftwood MC
Nov 10	12.30 pm	Lunch @ The Centre	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Nov 11	2.30-4.00	Swaffham Friendship Group	Swaffham MC
Nov 12	2.00 pm	Film Club	Toftwood MC
Nov 14	10.50 am	Remembrance Service	Litcham Parish Church
Nov 14	4.30 pm	Service followed by tea	Walsingham MC
Nov 19	2.00 pm	Prayer Meeting	Garvestone MC
Nov 19	6.30 pm	Holt Lights Switch-on—refreshments available	Holt MC
Nov 20	10.30-4.00	Jam and Chutney Day	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Nov 22	7.15 pm	Bible Study and Prayer (Northern Prayer Fellowship)	Zoom
Nov 25	10.00 am	Cards and Chatter	Dereham Trinity MC
Nov 25	2.30-4.00	Swaffham Friendship Group	Swaffham MC
Nov 25	7.15 pm	'Walsingham Service'	Zoom
Nov 26	2.00-4.00	Cream Teas	Holt MC
Nov 26	7.30 pm	Quiz Night @ The Centre	Stibbard M Ch Centre

# **DATES FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT**

**Further details on pages 25-26**

Sept 1	9.30 am	Prayer Meeting	Beetley MC
Sept 1	9.30 am	Coffee Morning	Watton MC
Sept 1	2.00-4.00	Craft Group	Toftwood MC
Sept 2	10.30 am	Mid-week Communion	Dereham Trinity MC
Sept 4	10.00-11.30	Charity Coffee Morning	Mattishall MC
Sept 4	10.00-12.00	Coffee Shop with stalls	Hingham MC
Sept 4	2.30 pm	Railway Film Afternoon	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Sept 5	2.30 pm	Harvest Festival	Fulmodeston MC
Sept 5	2.30 pm	Harvest Festival with High Tea	Gressenhall MC
Sept 8	12.00-2.30	Lunch & Linger	Toftwood MC
Sept 8	12.30 pm	Lunch @ The Centre	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Sept 9	2.30-4.00	Swaffham Friendship Group	Swaffham MC
Sept 11	10.00-2.00	Book Sale	Saham Hills MC
Sept 11-12	10.00-4.00	Heritage Open Weekend	Walsingham MC
Sept 12	10.30 am	Harvest Festival	Beetley MC
Sept 12	11.00 am	Harvest Festival	Sculthorpe & Fakenham MC
Sept 12	4.30 pm	dedication of new ramp	Walsingham MC
Sept 13	7.15 pm	Bible Study and Prayer (Northern Prayer Fellowship)	Zoom
Sept 14	10.30-12.00	Knit and Natter	Garvestone MC
Sept 15	7.15 pm	CIRCUIT MEETING	Toftwood MC
Sept 17	1.00-4.00	Heritage Open Day	Walsingham MC
Sept 17	2.00 pm	Prayer Meeting	Garvestone MC
Sept 17	2.00-4.00	Cream Teas	Holt MC
Sept 19	10.30 am	Harvest Festival	Litcham MC
Sept 19	10.30 & 6.30	Harvest Festival	Watton MC
Sept 19	10.30	Harvest Festival	Wendling MC
Sept 19	10.45 am	Harvest Festival	Dereham Trinity MC
Sept 19	10.45 am	Harvest Festival	Swaffham MC
Sept 19	11.00 am	Harvest Festival	Garvestone Parish Ch
Sept 19	11.00 am	Harvest Festival	Great Ellingham MC
Sept 19	11.00 am	Harvest Thanksgiving	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Sept 21	7.00 pm	Harvest Supper	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Sept 23	10.00 am	Cards and Chatter	Dereham Trinity MC
Sept 23	2.30-4.00	Swaffham Friendship Group	Swaffham MC
Sept 23	7.15 pm	'Walsingham Service'	Zoom
Sept 26	10.30 am	Harvest Festival	Saham Hills MC
Sept 26	10.30 am	Harvest Festival	Hingham MC
Sept 26	11.00 am	Harvest Festival	Wells MC
Sept 26	2.30 pm	Harvest Festival	Mattishall MC
Sept 26	2.30 pm	Harvest Festival	New Holkham MC
Sept 27	7.00 pm	Harvest Sale	New Holkham MC
Sept 27	7.15 pm	Bible Study and Prayer (Northern Prayer Fellowship)	Zoom
Oct 2	10.00-11.30	Charity Coffee Morning	Mattishall MC
Oct 2	10.00-12.00	Coffee Shop with stalls	Hingham MC
Oct 2	2.30 pm	Railway Film Afternoon	Stibbard M Ch Centre

# JUST A THOUGHT

From Dee Moden

As I was searching for something, I came across something completely different which I thought would make a good thought for the day and also, for those unable to access this, our quarterly 'The Link' magazine!

A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

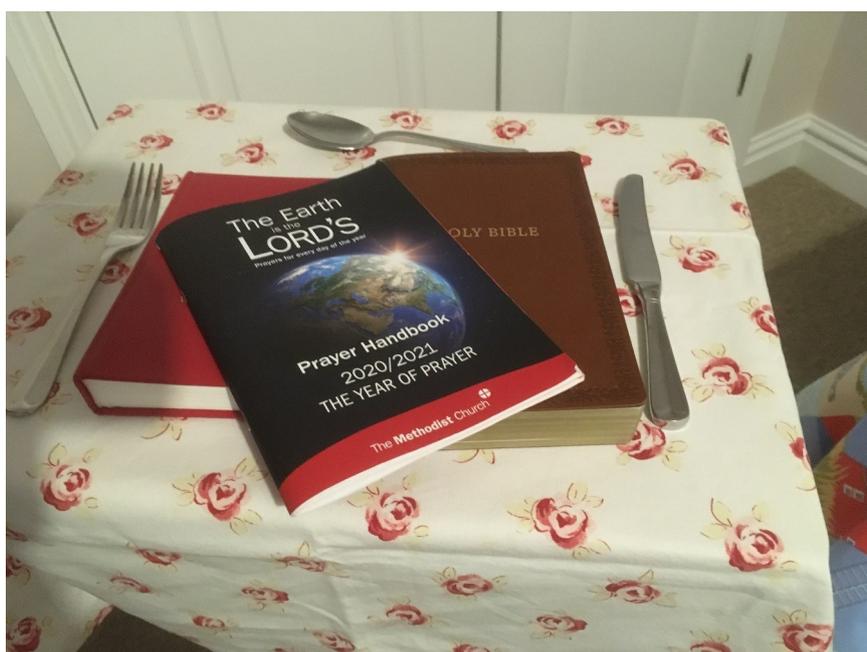
He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all." This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

**IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL!**



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