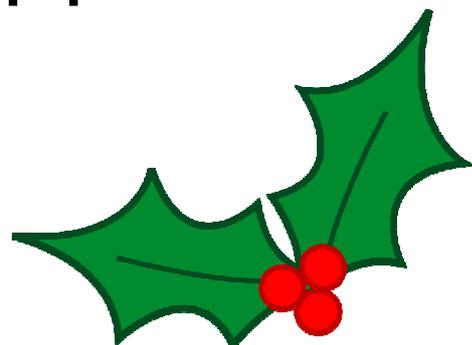




*Felixstowe Methodist
Mission Area
Magazine*

December 2014



Dear Friends,

Congratulations on this the first edition of the new Mission Area Magazine.



A huge thank you to all who have worked so hard to make this possible.

In this first edition I wish to reflect on “Our Vision”.

It is most encouraging to see a real desire across the four Churches to work more closely together, and to hopefully develop further - our work alongside other Christians from different traditions. It would also be a good thing to develop further our relationships with people of other faiths and none.

I do earnestly believe that God coming to earth in Jesus is the best news ever and is the greatest love story of all. I am also aware that the vision God had in sending His Son into our world just grew and grew. It begun with the children of Israel but now has unlimited possibilities and potential.

You will be reading this letter in the run up to Christmas and the New Year; this is a very unique time, a time when people do seem to be more open to the astounding reality of God’s love.

It is my prayer that we can really make the best of what this wonderful season brings.

God bless you in all that you seek to do in His name and the many individuals whose lives are touched by your outreach work and pastoral care.

As we once again prepare to welcome the Christ Child in, may we see Him in expected and unexpected places - may the vision given to us in incarnation be one that we feel able to share with more and more people.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Love and God Bless

Diane.

What's in a name?

Being the first edition of the new Mission Area Magazine we are going to print without a name for the publication. So we are inviting you all to put your thinking caps on and come up with a suitable name. Please send us your ideas. You can do this in one of two ways:

via email to magazine@seatonroad.org.uk

or give your suggestion to your Church Stewards

Christmas Services at our Churches.....

Sunday 21st December

Café Worship! – Seaton Road
Breakfast from 9.15 a.m., Worship at 9.45 a.m.

Carol Service - Trinity
11.00 a.m. led by Rev Diane Smith

Tuesday 23rd December

Carols by Candlelight – Seaton Road
7.00 p.m. Followed by Coffee and Mince Pies

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24th December

Carol Service – Kirton
7.00 p.m. Followed by refreshments

Candlelit Carol Service – Trimley
7.00 p.m. Led by Peter Crick

Christmas Eve Service – Trinity
11.30 p.m. Preceded by coffee and shortbread

Christmas Day – Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day Family Celebration – Seaton Road
9.45 a.m.

Christmas Day Service – Trinity
11.00 a.m. – joined by members of the URC

Sunday 28th December

Mission Area United Service – Kirton
9.45 a.m.

Christmas Cracker

It was a very wet day on Saturday 22nd November when the Christmas Cracker Children's Activity sessions were held at Kirton Methodist Church. Nine children attended in the morning and they took part in a number of different activities such as "Pass the Parcel", telling the Christmas Story and decorating a Jesse Tree. Nine children also joined us again in the afternoon and some of the children like Charlotte and Olivia returned for a second session.

My experience of the first Christmas Cracker was that it brought out the true meaning of Christmas for me and I enjoyed helping.

Written by Denise Mayes.



From Kirton's point of view.....

On 22nd of November, Kirton was the venue for a Pre-Christmas workshop, for children aged from 5 to 12 years old. These were overseen by Diane Smith, Dawn Bone, and their team. There were 2 sessions from 10 till 12 and from 1 till 3pm. These were attended by some 18 children over the two sessions, and were enjoyed by children and adults alike. They included families new to us. So from acorns, oak trees grow. Kirton is available for future workshops, quiet days and the like. Where else has a Church got a garden!

NATIVITY WORD SEARCH



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DAVID
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BETHLEHEM
JOURNEY
ANGEL
WISE
FRANKINCENSE
MYRRH
SHEEP
CAMEL

Reflections on Advent and Christmas in poetry and prayer

Homelessness at Christmas time - a reflection
by Janice Clark

Sheltering God,
your protection for us
is made known
in images of rock and mountain,
wings and arms,
tent and fold.

A protection that makes us
feel safe, secure, and confident -
with knowledge and assurance that removes
our vulnerability, and our loneliness,
our fears and our doubts.

You have promised to be a constant presence,
light, warmth and comfort,
never failing, always near.

And yet, within your world
thousands of people lack shelter
and cannot really call where they live
a home.

Their lives are impoverished,
living in a space put together
from whatever scraps they can gather.

The rain leaks through,
the heat of the sun is brutal,
the dust irritates
and water and airborne diseases flourish.

Yet for many this is their home
where new life is conceived,
where love is shown,
where characters are formed,
where faith is passed on
and where an understanding of your protection
is experienced.

God, fully human, yet fully divine,
you know what it is like
to have no real home -
born into a stable,
no vacancies in the places of hospitality,
forced to flee as a refugee
with life threatening attempts on your life.

In the seasons of Advent and Christmas
your frailty is remembered,
your vulnerability acknowledged,
your purpose for the world revered.

Come again, to give protection
and shelter.
Come again to strengthen the weak
and to subdue the proud.
Come to our own vulnerability
and enable all to offer
hope to a world in need.

Janice Clark is a Methodist local preacher. She is a member of the Scottish Churches Housing Action board and Regional Development Officer, Scotland, for Habitat for Humanity.

Thinking of you!!!

At this time of year our thoughts are with those in our churches for whom this Christmas will be a difficult time. We particularly remember Audrey Laing from Trinity who is in Felixstowe hospital and Rosemary Wellfare and Alison Harvey, also from Trinity, who have now returned home after stays in Ipswich hospital.

Emily Banham, from Trimley, celebrated her 96th birthday on 5th December. Our best wishes go to her.

Alison and Ian Davies have a new grandson, Warwick, a sister for Georgia and our congratulations go to them and the proud parents Max and Bry.

Beryl and John Merrett recently moved to Harvest Court. We wish them health and happiness in their new home.

Congratulations go to Eric Cook from Seaton Road who celebrated his 95th birthday on 4th December.

Congratulations also to Emily Rusby (Seaton Road) and Chris Fuller who have recently announced their engagement. They are now busy planning the wedding!

Winifred Beryl Davis

1926 – 2014

Wyn was born on 3rd April 1926 in Stoke on Trent and she was always very proud of her Staffordshire roots. Wyn grew up in the church and together with her younger sister Edna, they belonged to the Guides and later to a range of Christian Fellowship organisations. In one of these, linked to Longton Methodist Central Hall, she was to meet the young Stan Davis.

Wyn's chosen career was nursing and she excelled in her training to become both a State Registered Nurse and a State Certified Midwife. Marrying Stan in Chennai, India, Wyn's skills were to prove invaluable when supporting Stan in Missionary work in Southern India in the early 1950's. Her roles ranged from Theatre Nurse in mobile eye hospitals to Health Visitor and Midwife.

Returning to Stoke in 1956, their son Paul was born and over the years, Wyn became adept at moving house every few years, following Stan's ministries in Birmingham, Upminster and Clacton.

Some of the happiest times in later life for Stan and Wyn were when they went off for the day to collect material and take photographs for Stan's 'Under Suffolk Skies' slideshow series. These presentations proved enormously popular in many venues around the area and gave so much pleasure to so many people, with all proceeds going to 'Overseas Mission.' Sadly Stan died in May 2009.

So the words that summarise Wyn are probably:

FAITH – she loved her Lord.

FAMILY – she loved her many families

FOOD – she loved her food

And FELIXSTOWE where she spent her retirement with Stan, and played on the beach with her adored grandchildren.

After a major stroke two years ago, Wyn was cared for by the staff of Highcliffe Nursing Home in Felixstowe. She died peacefully, holding her beloved Paul's hand on Monday 6th October. A 'Service of Thanksgiving for Wyn's Life' was held at Trinity Methodist Church on 15th November 2014.

Rest in peace 'lovely lady.'



Give As You Live is a company which has made agreements with a large number of retailers who allow shopping online. Companies give between 0.5% and 5% to a wide range of charities and it costs the shopper nothing, just a click on the computer! Companies include Amazon, Marks & Spencer, John Lewis, Debenhams, Mothercare, Argos and loads more. It is very easy to register - just put Give As You Live into your search engine and follow the instructions when you get to their website. There are quite a number of charities to choose from but you can also opt for one not in the list e.g. Action for Children. Each transaction may only raise pennies but they soon mount up - I have been shopping this way for about 18 months and have raised about £85.

Alison Davies, Trinity.

Fiona Simpson and Brian Adams Concert at Trinity

On Saturday 29th November Fiona Simpson and Brian Adams performed at Trinity in a hugely enjoyable concert to raise funds for



Christian Aid. Fiona and Brian are Christian musicians from Altrincham Methodist Church in Cheshire whose approach to Outreach Ministry is to tell people of the love of Jesus in a non-confrontational way in a concert designed to entertain and engage. Their music is contemporary and their songs encompass a range of styles, are thoughtful, humorous and some are well known. Their version of Neil Diamond's "Pretty Amazing Grace" was a particular success. They also performed in the Café Worship at Trinity the following day.

Fiona initially sang on the folk scene as part of the popular duo "Therapy". After they disbanded in 1982 she began a solo career playing a variety of venues at home and abroad. She appeared regularly on "Pebble Mill At One" and was a favourite with British troops abroad entertaining them in Germany, Norway and the Falklands. She was brought up as a Methodist but neglected her faith until 1992 when she joined the Altrincham Methodist Church. It was whilst singing there that she met Brian and other Christian musicians who formed the Fiona Simpson Band. Brian's work had involved a lot of travel abroad and as with Fiona, he

experienced wilderness years but all that changed when he joined the worship group at Altrincham Methodist Church which rekindled his faith and allowed him to express it through music.

The CD “Grateful” was available for sale and sold out at the event. Further copies can be obtained by contacting Brian and Fiona on 0161 928 6672 or 07979 932671.

The concert was organized by the Felixstowe & District Christian Aid Group in support of its project to raise funds for “Empowering Afghan Women”. The group has pledged to raise £2,500 towards this project and the European Union will provide match funding so that for every £1 raised it will contribute a further £3. Happily the group’s target is close to being achieved.



Mission In Britain



As needs are changing we are finding that our response to Mission in Britain is having to change too. We still support the Whitechapel Mission in London but we are finding that there are also urgent needs to meet locally. This year Trinity's Harvest goods and collections went to the local Charity 'Basic' which has set up a food bank for local families.

In November, Tony Miller, the Director of the Whitechapel Mission came to speak to us about the work done there. The Mission has been helping the homeless in London since 1876 meeting the specific needs of each man and woman who walks through its doors. It is a volunteer led charity with very few staff that sees as many as 300 people a day. It helps the homeless by meeting immediate needs for food, shelter, clothing and medical care and runs recovery programs addressing deeper needs for life skills and job skills training, and addiction recovery. Tony was asked if the current economic situation has made any difference to the number in need and he replied that this year the need at Whitechapel has increased by 25% but miraculously, so have the donations and offers of help.

The Mission Area has agreed to adopt the Whitechapel Mission as its Christmas charity this year and it is hoped that everyone will feel able to make a contribution towards this worthy cause which has been close to our hearts for many years.

Margaret Powell

Historical find....

Earlier in the year Seaton Road received an email from Mr Chris Foster who lives in north London. Following the passing of his mother, Chris had discovered a commemorative mallet amongst her personal possessions and then started on the path of trying to find its origin. The trail eventually found its way to the Church at Seaton Road.

The mallet was used when the commemorative stone was laid in December 1910 by Chris' ancestor, Miss Doris Thurman. The mallet and the stone, which is still in place in the church hall wall, commemorated the building of an extension to the church.

Chris and his wife, Stephanie, travelled up from London and presented the church with the mallet. Chris also brought along his family tree and various other connections with the Thurman family were discovered.



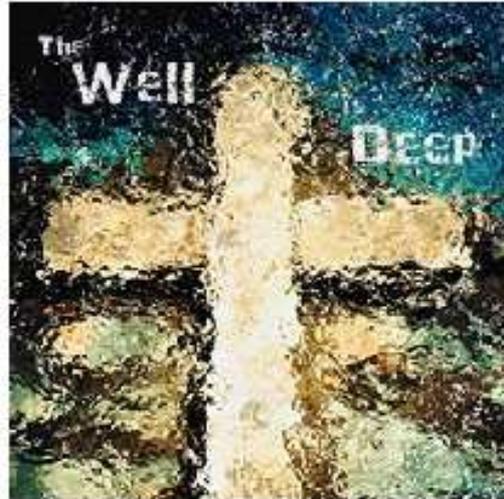
If you have any items for the next edition of the Felixstowe Mission Area Magazine then please send them to magazine@seatonroad.org.uk or give them to one of your Church Stewards.



Together Sharing Christ Beyond Ourselves

You are invited to the
Churches Together in
Felixstowe

Annual United Service



Theme:
The Well is Deep

Sunday 25th January 2015
6.30pm

at **Felixstowe Academy**

Preacher: Major David Jackson,
Divisional Commander Salvation Army

United Choir from the churches

Please stay for refreshments after the service