



in

Touch

The MAgazine

December 2015 / January 2016

Contact our Minister, Rev Diane Smith, on 01394 282023
or email minister@seatonroad.org.uk

Methodist Matters in the Felixstowe Mission Area

Dear Friends

Nigel and I would like to wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas.

I should also like to thank all the churches in the Felixstowe Mission Area for their love, care and support.

During the Christmas season I hope you have time to reflect deeply upon the meaning of incarnation.

Many of you will be reading the daily reflections of Stephen Cherry in his book "Barefoot Ways". I still have some copies left - if you would like to pray through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany using this material please let me know.

Each day we are given a poem to reflect upon. Inspired by this, I have attempted to write something about incarnation.

For this I have drawn upon Genesis 1, the prologue to Saint John's Gospel and the letter to the Hebrews in which Christ is called "The Pioneer and Perfecter of Faith". This poem is printed in this addition of our magazine and is entitled "Incarnation" (see page 5).

In these difficult days in which we live, with so many lives traumatised by violence, we need more than ever the incoming reign of "The Prince of Peace".

Love and God Bless always

Diane



If you have any items for the February edition of "In Touch" please send them to magazine@seatonroad.org.uk or give them to one of your Church Stewards by Sunday 24th January.

Services at our Churches.....

Sunday 6th December

Kirton - 2.45 p.m. – Rev Diane Smith – Parade Service

Seaton Road - 9.45 a.m. – Mrs Heather Bentley

Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Mr Roger Theobald

Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Michael Allen
6.00 p.m. – Local Arrangement

Sunday 13th December

Kirton – 9.45 a.m. – Mr Roger Fern

Seaton Road – 9.45 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith (Communion)

Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Prof David Welbourn

Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith (Communion)
6.00 p.m. – Local Arrangement

Sunday 20th December

Kirton – 9.45 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith (Communion)

Seaton Road – 9.45 a.m. – Christmas Café Worship!

Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith (Communion)

Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Café Worship
6.00 p.m. – Rev Diane Smith

Christmas Day

Seaton Road – 9.45 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith – Family Celebration

Sunday 27th December

Mission Area Service at Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith
(no services at the other Methodist churches this morning)

Sunday 3rd January 2016

Kirton – 9.45 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith (Covenant Service)

Seaton Road – 9.45 a.m. – Mr Mike Stock

Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith (Covenant Service)

Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Mr Harry Chicken

6.00 p.m. – Local Arrangement

Sunday 10th January

Kirton – 9.45 a.m. – Mrs Jane Paterson

Seaton Road – 9.45 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith (Communion)

Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Mr Raymond Wilson

Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith (Communion)

6.00 p.m. – Local Arrangement

Sunday 17th January

Kirton – 9.45 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith

Seaton Road – 9.45 a.m. – Rev David Keeble – All-age Worship

Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith

Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Café Worship

6.00 p.m. – Rev Diane Smith

Sunday 24th January

Kirton – 9.45 a.m. – Rev Derek Grimshaw

Seaton Road – 9.45 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith

Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Derek Grimshaw

Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith

6.00 p.m. – Local Arrangement

Sunday 31st January

Kirton – 9.45 a.m. – Mr Roger Theobald

Seaton Road – 9.45 a.m. – Rev Jane Cassidy

Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Mrs Marilyn Watsham

Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Martin Dawes

6.00 p.m. – Local Arrangement

INCARNATION:

First gift, first light
First morning
First word, first song
First dawning
Time given before time
Chaos moulded into rhyme

In the beginning at the start
At the core, at the heart
Word of God
Only Son
Love in essence
Permanent one

See the grace stacked on grace
See the Son take His place
Surrender all
Bend so low
Provide a space for you to know.....

Incarnation drawing near
Babe in arms, Pioneer
Incarnation has begun
God the Father
Sends the Son.

Diane Smith

Seaton Road Christmas Services.....

Sunday 20th December – Christmas Café Worship!

“The Stars of Christmas”

Breakfast from 9.15 a.m. – Worship from 9.45 a.m.

Tuesday 22nd December – Carols by Candlelight

“Christingle” – 7 p.m.

Christmas Day

Christmas Family Celebration – Rev Diane Smith – 9.45 a.m.

Breakfast!

Come and enjoy a cooked breakfast at Seaton Road on Saturday 12th December between 8.30 and 11 a.m. This is to raise money for an outside area for the SSC (Specialist Support Centre, which supports children with special educational needs) at Gorseland School. Tickets are only £3.50 (£2 for children) but it is advisable to book your slot so that the food can be freshly prepared for you. Please contact Rachel on 766357 (email wallaces01@tiscali.co.uk) or Daryl on 271861 (email daryl10@tiscali.co.uk). There will also be side stalls and a raffle.

The parents of children in the SSC have already raised most of the money needed and this is a final fundraising effort.

Orwell Connection Choir Charity Concert in aid of Walton Parish Nursing



**at Maidstone Road Baptist Church,
Walton**

on Tuesday 8th December at 7.30 p.m.

**Varied music and readings for everyone
(with some carols to join in with)**

Refreshments served after the concert

**Admission is free; however collection baskets will
be around the venue to accept your donations**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18th – 25th January 2016

Look out for the programme of events in various churches during this time and try to get to a church you haven't been to before.

Saturday 23rd January morning we are planning a PILGRIMAGE around the churches ending in one venue for a time of prayer. This is being organised by Barbara Lamberton and details will follow.

Seaton Road Methodist Church

Knit-and-Natter

Monday 21st December, 2 - 4 p.m.

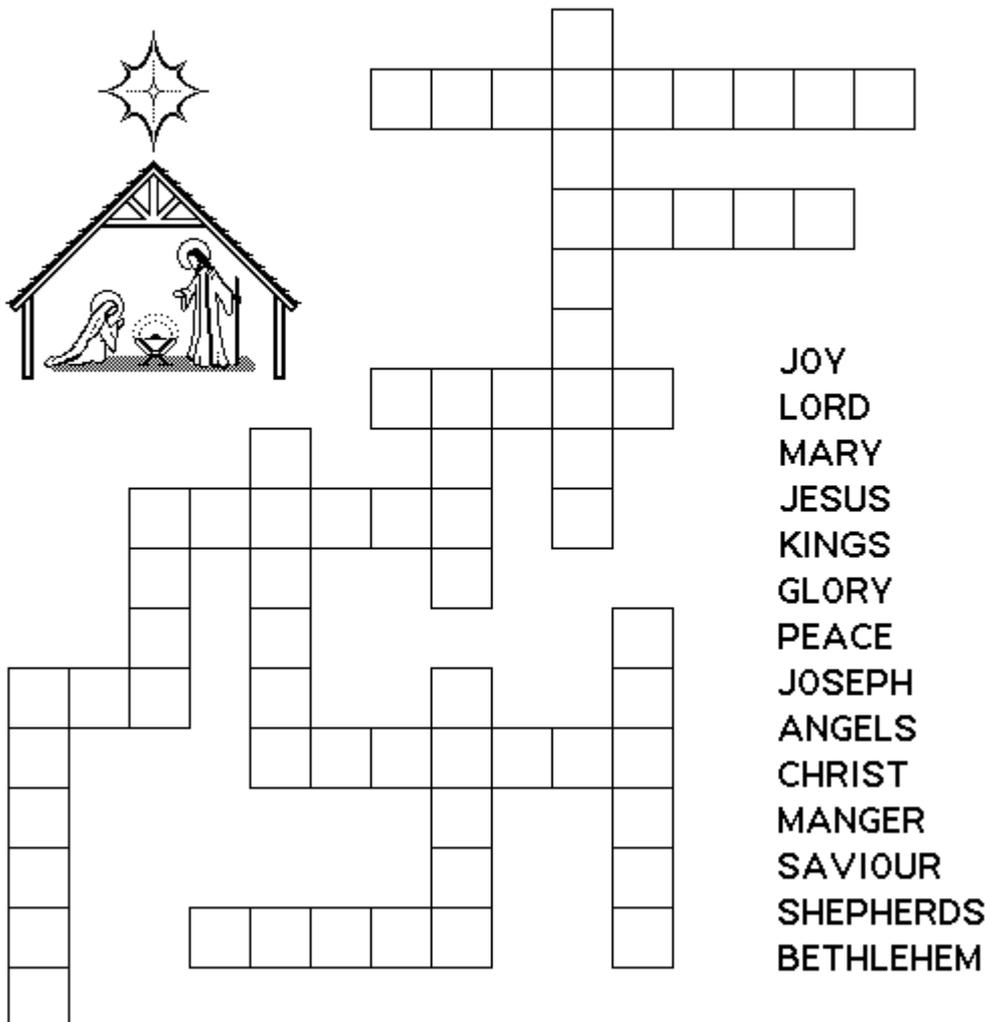
Carols / Mince Pies / Knitting

Why not join us to share your craft or to just drink tea!

Everyone welcome!

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.



Seaton Road News.....

We are extremely grateful to Malcolm Bentley who has for a number of years taken on two important roles at Seaton Road as treasurer and property steward. Understandably Malcolm now wishes to cut down on his work load and is to retire as property steward from February 2016. We are indebted to Malcolm for all his dedication and hard work to keep our buildings in good working order and for securing regular lettings that help to keep the finances sound.

So we are seeking someone to take on this important job in the life of the church. If you feel you could take on this role, or have skills to offer us, or are able to help with some of the tasks regarding property, then we'd love to hear from you. Please do speak to Malcolm to find out what is involved or speak to a steward.



You are invited to join carol singing around Kirton Village.

Meeting at Kirton Methodist Chapel on
Sunday 13th December at 5pm and on Monday 14th
December at 7pm.

Donations collected will be shared between Suffolk
Accident Rescue Service (SARS) and Chapel.

Stop press! Some more dates for your diaries:

Sunday 20th December – Mission Area Carol Service – Trinity, 3 p.m.

Monday 21st – Christmas Buffet & Mince Pies at the Manse

Thursday 24th – services at Kirton (7 p.m.), Trimley (7 p.m.)
and Trinity (11 p.m.)

Christmas Day – Trinity at URC

Brief notes from the Churches Together in Felixstowe Forum meeting held on 4th November 2015 at Walton Parish Church.

- The meeting opened with prayer led by Rev. Caroline Allen (Chair)
- Margaret Condick informed the meeting of the death of Eddie Colvill, an active member of Kirton Parish Church and CTF representative.

- **Everlasting Light**

Andrew Rayner gave a presentation on this Schools' Christian Music Project planned for December 2016 in aid of Tearfund. Since 1993 there had been 7 schools' projects involving 10,000 children with £150,000 raised for Tearfund. "Everlasting Light", the 8th project, will be held at the Spa Pavilion, Felixstowe early December over a 10 day period and will be open to schools covering most of Suffolk involving Key Stage 2 children. Churches can also be involved.

Churches were asked for prayer support plus practical support from autumn 2016. This was an opportunity to share the Christian message and was a good fund raising opportunity for Tearfund.

- **Financial Report**

Margaret Condick (treasurer) reported that currently there is £846 in hand.

- Website:** A new website had been created 15 months ago to be more interactive and useful to members. The cost for subscription was £215 which needs to be renewed end of November 2015. It was agreed to renew the subscription for a further year but to research better alternatives for future years.
- Subscriptions:** Income from subscriptions was going down due to falling church membership whilst costs were going up. The meeting agreed to an increase in subscriptions.

Church membership	Subscription	Proposed new subscription	Number of churches
Up to 50	£25	£35	5
51-100	£50	£65	7
101-150	£75	£90	2
Over 150	£90	£110	3

- **Christmas 2015**

- CTF would no longer supply Christmas posters to churches.
- The Christmas Crib would be displayed in town.

c) The URC carol singing at Great Eastern Square 12th December 2-5pm in aid of Shelter.

- **Unity Week 18th-25th January 2016**

Same format as previous years - put on events in churches and open up to all CTF members. The Week could be used to promote local organisations. CTBI have produced a booklet for the week ("Salt of the Earth")

- **United Service Sunday 24th January 2016 6.30pm at Felixstowe Academy**

Speaker - new Bishop of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, Rev. Martin Seeley. There will be a United Choir.

- **Other Forthcoming Events**

a) **Good Friday:** The Triangle is booked for 2016 for a service with similar format to last year

b) **Praise on the Prom:** Andrew Rayner to invite the Ipswich Gospel Choir. Provisional date July 17th 2016.

- **Credit Union**

Julie Mansfield, County Ecumenical Officer Churches Together in Suffolk, spoke about Credit Union. This started 11 years ago as "Ipswich Credit Union" and has now become "Eastern Savings and Loans" covering Suffolk, Norfolk & Cambridgeshire. It is a not-for-profit / cooperative organisation. Its aim is to stop loan sharks and door step lenders leading people into money problems and unsustainable debt. Currently Felixstowe has one access point at The Salvation Army, Thursday mornings. Churches were asked to "spread the word" of this facility.

- **Any Other Business**

Reports received from Walton Parish Nursing, BOOST, Hope Trust, Felixstowe Listening Service and Town Pastors, which showed the amazing work being done in Felixstowe but which all required volunteers. Churches were encouraged to become involved and give support.

Prayers were asked for the Felixstowe Seafarers' Centre currently in transition as Rev. Simon Davies had moved on and they were waiting for a new appointment.

If you would like to know more about Churches Together in Felixstowe please look at the website www.ctif.org.uk or ask your MA church's CTF representative.

Sue Hockenhull

Seaton Road Christmas Cards and Post Box

This year we will again be offering two options for sending Christmas cards to friends at Seaton Road.

Option 1: To send a single card to everyone at Seaton Road. This will be displayed on the noticeboard at the back of the church for everyone to read, with a small donation to JMA.



Option 2: To use the 'post box' provided at the back of the church. Just put your pile of cards in the box – these will then be sorted and given to the right people. **Please only use this box for people who actually attend Seaton Road and please include the recipient's surname** to avoid any confusion. The post box is now in service and will be **available until 20th December**. Again, for using this service, we ask for a small donation to JMA.

Please put your donations, for either option, in the JMA box located on top of the 'post box'.

Churches Together in Felixstowe

ANNUAL UNITED SERVICE

Sunday January 24th 2016

Felixstowe Academy 6.30pm

**Speaker: Rev. Martin Seeley,
new Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.**

Theme: 'Salt and Light'

There will be a United Choir for the service. If you would like to join this please see the CTF website www.ctif.org.uk or ask your local church's CTF representative for more details.

MISSION AREA QUIZ

Our Mission Area Quiz took place on Friday 6th November at Trinity. Before I report on the evening, I feel called upon to offer our most sincere condolences to Mrs Gill Hadwen and her family. Six days after our event, Mr Phil Hadwen, our Quiz Master for the evening suddenly died. Phil was such a vibrant person, who gave so much to the town of Felixstowe as a local historian and a stalwart fundraiser for so many charities. He will be sorely missed by all who admired, loved and respected him.

It was a fun and competitive evening, with 92 people attending. The fifteen tables were comprised of teams from Seaton Road Methodist, Kirton, Trimley and Trinity, together with U3A, Magpie and teams, who regularly supported Phil's quizzes. One thing soon became clear, there are some amazingly clever people living in our town. Although the results were relatively close, many congratulations go to one of the U3A teams, who were victorious on the night.

One of the highlights of the evening proved to be the 'puddings' and what a fantastic selection awaited us. Crumbles, pies, treacle sponge, pavlova, apricot slices/surprise, chocolate roulade, Bakewell tarts, trifle, Christmas pudding, bread and butter pudding, white chocolate cheesecake, lemon meringue pie, coulis and a Snow Queen. We were all spoilt for choice and despite my misgivings earlier in the week, that there wouldn't be enough to go around, some people even managed 'seconds!' My heartfelt thanks go to all the Trinity cooks and my husband Dave, who provided these desserts (not forgetting Debbie's Mum).

Phil and Gill (who did a brilliant job in collating all the scores) were paramount in helping us raise £750, which we intend to use towards printing costs for the Mission Area Church magazine. By using the proceeds of the evening in this manner, all four churches will benefit.

Enormous thanks are extended to everyone involved in helping to make this evening so successful.

Rest in peace, Phil.

Heather Carpenter

Nativity Festival

Trinity
Methodist
Church
Orwell Rd.



Saturday December 19th 2015

10am-4pm

Refreshments and Activities

to include Carols, instrumentalists

Featuring, at 3pm, a performance by

1st Walton Brownies, 2nd Walton

Rainbows & 1st Old Fx Guides

Admission free, donations welcome