



**in**

**Touch**

**The MA**gazine

February 2016

Contact our Minister, Rev Diane Smith, on 01394 282023  
or email [minister@seatonroad.org.uk](mailto:minister@seatonroad.org.uk)

**Methodist Matters in the Felixstowe Mission Area**

*Dear Friends*

As Easter comes so early this year, it is vital I say something now about this the pinnacle of our Christian faith and belief. I believe that out of an overwhelming love for the whole world, God sends Jesus to live amongst us and to die for our sins and restore our relationship with God.

Through resurrection comes both reconciliation and transformation. When asked about the meaning of your faith; how would you answer?

We are all, no doubt, learning from each other all the time, but I suspect we would perhaps maybe use different language in different contents.

On the recent Compass Course we have considered the four “Alls of Methodism”:

- All need to be saved.
- All may be saved.
- All may know themselves saved.
- All may be saved to the uttermost.

Sensitive evangelism will hold these truths dear; but understand that providing a space in which trust and friendships grow is also paramount. Thanks to all who throughout the Mission Area seek to share their faith, adapt their language and provide space for those who have not yet heard.

*Diane*

If you have any items for the March edition of “In Touch” please send them to [magazine@seatonroad.org.uk](mailto:magazine@seatonroad.org.uk) or give them to one of your Church Stewards by Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

## **Services at our Churches.....**

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Kirton – 9.45 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith (Communion)  
Seaton Road - 9.45 a.m. – Rev Jo Jacobs (Communion)  
Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith (Communion)  
Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Rev David Keeble  
6.00 p.m. – Local Arrangement

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Kirton – 9.45 a.m. – Mrs Flint-Johnson  
Seaton Road – 9.45 a.m. – Mrs Jenny Archer  
Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Mrs Diana Sawyer  
Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Mike Cassidy  
6.00 p.m. – Local Arrangement

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

Kirton – 9.45 a.m. – Mr Richard Brooks  
Seaton Road – 9.45 a.m. – Café Worship!  
Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Mr Richard Brooks  
Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Café Worship  
6.00 p.m. – Rev Diane Smith

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

Kirton – 9.45 a.m. – Mr Harry Chicken  
Seaton Road – 9.45 a.m. – Mr Richard Brooks  
Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Mr Raymond Wilson  
Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Chris Jowett (Communion)  
6.00 p.m. – Local Arrangement

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## Count Your Blessings during Lent

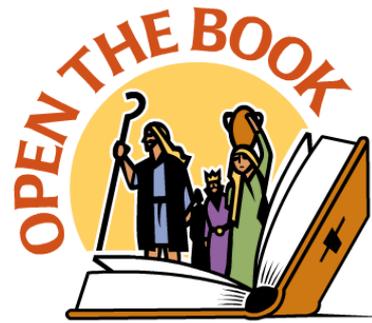
Christian Aid invites us to count our blessings this Lent. They have again produced a 'Count Your Blessings' calendar, a daily calendar which takes you through Lent using thought-provoking reflections and engaging actions that will encourage and challenge you, not only in your own life but in praying for those living in poverty around the world. This year the leaflet features stories from Bangladesh, the focus country for Christian Aid Week 2016.

It is suggested small amounts of money are donated to Christian Aid but even if you were unable to do this the leaflet could act as a useful daily prayer resource for Lent (starting on Ash Wednesday 10th February). A copy of the leaflet is on Seaton Road's church noticeboard. If you would like your own copy please ask Robin or Mary or download it yourself from [www.christianaid.org.uk/lent](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/lent) There is a separate children's version.



## NEW VENTURE – ‘OPEN THE BOOK’

‘Open the Book’ is an inspirational and innovative way of telling Bible stories to children in schools, and in the Methodist Mission Area we have a Team of storytellers who have been ‘opening the book’ in Fairfield and Colneis schools every three weeks since the beginning of the school year in September 2015.



Wearing the official ‘Open the Book’ navy T shirt, and sometimes additional ‘headresses’, the team of up to 7 members acts out the story whilst the Narrator reads from the Lion Storyteller Bible. We use simple, but effective props, and each story is introduced to set the scene, and ends with a short prayer, which the children are invited to respond to, with Amen. The whole assembly is scripted, and as a national organisation, is supported by the Bible Society.

Beginning with the story of Creation, complete with draught-excluder snake, we have progressed through Genesis with stories of Noah, with a dove on the end of a fishing line coming out of the Ark, and we told the story of Abraham through the medium of puppets. The first Christmas was not forgotten, with the special story coming at the end of the Autumn Term. We are currently telling the story of Joseph, complete with his 11 brothers, 10 of which are volunteer pupils. We encourage the children to join in with repeated phrases or actions, which engages them and makes the story memorable.

The response to ‘Open the Book’ has been amazing – from pupils of all ages, teachers, Governors and indeed, the team. Some children have been heard to say that Open the Book is their favourite assembly! Because the themes and stories are closely linked to the National Curriculum, the teachers have been able to use material introduced by Open the Book for follow-on work in R.E. lessons. If you would like to know more about ‘Open the Book’, or would like to join the team – the more team members we have, the more we can allow for ‘days-off’, illness or holidays – then please contact Jo Jacobs on 01394 278904 or email [joanna.jacobs222@btinternet.com](mailto:joanna.jacobs222@btinternet.com)

## ***Singing Our Faith***

Monday 8 February 7 to 9 pm at Trinity - we will be looking at some new hymns and one or two old favourites. There will be a chance for a chat and tea/coffee half way through! Everyone welcome. Please let me know if you have any favourites or would like to learn a particular new one. Look forward to seeing you.



Anne - 01394 285305 or [anne@ian-clarke.co.uk](mailto:anne@ian-clarke.co.uk).

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### *LORD HEAR THE VOICES OF YOUR PEOPLE*

LORD HEAR THE VOICES OF YOUR PEOPLE  
THE HEARTY SINGING OF THE CHOIR  
DOORS FLING OPEN TO WELCOME PRAISERS  
LORD YOUR WORDS SET HEARTS ON FIRE

HEAR THE TRUMPETS SOUNDING MUSIC  
LISTEN TO THEIR RAPTUROUS SOUND  
LORD WE SING WITH LOVE AND PLEASURE  
BECAUSE YOU SPREAD HOPE ALL AROUND

HOPE FOR PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD  
SO BROKEN HEARTS CAN BE MENDED  
LORD WE LOOK TO YOU TO GUIDE US  
SO WARS AND HATRED WILL BE ENDED

WE SING LOUDLY FOR ALL THE CHILDREN  
THAT THE WORLD BE KEPT SAFE FOR THEM  
WE APPLAUD YOU LORD IN ALL YOUR GLORY  
AND PRAY THAT ENEMIES WILL BE CONDEMNED

*Maureen Brown Trimley*

## **Prayer Chain...**

Most of you will know about the Prayer Chain, but Trinity has an ever changing congregation and, therefore, there is bound to be some of you who have never heard of it.

Trinity has had a 'Prayer Chain' for over thirty years. It was based on an idea brought back from a holiday taken by Sue and Jerry Barr, Trinity church members at that time.

The idea was simple and such a good one, that we decided to adopt it. We made out a list of church members who were prepared to pray for anyone requesting our support.

The idea is to pray daily (each in our own way) for our Church, church family, meetings of the day and special requests for prayer.

Special requests are notified to me and I put into motion the 'Chain' by ringing the named person immediately below my name. This continues with each person contacted telephoning the next until eventually it returns to me, thus closing the Link.

Prayers are not confined to our church, we often find ourselves praying for people we do not know or cannot put a face to - but this does not matter - God knows us all.

This is a wonderful way of supporting each other, often during times of great need, AND best of all it is freely open to anyone and everyone in need of our prayers.

The Chain in its nature can be extended, so if anyone in our congregation feels drawn towards joining us, please have a word with me and I will add your name. We are in need of a few more names.

*Hazel Smith*

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## ***Thank You***

Many thanks to Diane, all my Seaton Road friends and those from across the Mission Area who have sent good wishes while I have been under the weather with shingles since the new year. I really have appreciated the prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers, and visits from everyone and although still not fully recovered am hopefully on the road to recovery.

*Mary Pattinson*

## **Kath Powell (previously Twidale) – a tribute**

Kath was born in Lincoln, the only child of Sidney and Edith Johnson. After school certificate, Kath went to London and trained with Dr Barnardo's in child care with a view to working in one of their children's homes. However, her mother was taken ill and she had to return to Lincoln to look after her, and her Dad. This experience made her change her choice of career and she began training to become a nurse at The County Hospital in Lincoln. Nursing was her vocation. She loved every minute of her time at The County, and later, at St George's hospital. It was amazing to find her nursing registration document in her keepsake box – dated exactly 66 years before the day she died.

While she was at St George's, working as Sister on a male geriatric ward, one of the nursing assistants was Albert, and he had a good looking young cousin called Ray. It wasn't long after Albert had played match-maker that Kath and Ray became engaged. They married in July 1952 after Ray had qualified as a teacher and moved to Felixstowe, where Ray taught at the Grammar School and Kath became a home-maker. They started attending Trinity almost immediately and Ray became organist and Kath joined the choir. They made many friends at the church and Kath joined the tennis club with those people. Trinity and its organisations were a huge part of Kath's life. She was a member of the choir for many years, was a Sunday School teacher as well as being pianist for the Sunday morning sessions. For years she actively supported all the youth work at the church providing refreshments, first aid where necessary and expertise in so many ways when assistance was needed with craft activities. She was one of the founder members of the "Young Wives Group" which matured into the 8 o'clock club and eventually The Wednesday Group.

As Ray was a teacher there was always long summer holidays camping. Kath would pack up the necessary clothes, food and equipment so that on the first day of the holidays the family could set off. Their travels took them all over the country but Wales was a favourite destination. One year Kath caught pneumonia whilst they were on holiday and that heralded the end of the camping days – but nothing daunted, Kath and Ray bought a caravan in which they spent many lovely holidays, especially in the Lake District. For many years Kath hoped to go to visit Scotland but as she said, "You have to go past the Lake District" and that was something they never could do.

Kath and Ray were avid collectors, especially of postcards and were instrumental in the writing of the Postcards of Felixstowe books with Phil Hadwen, Peter White, John Smith and others. They also helped organise the local Postcard club.

In 2004 Kath and Ray both became poorly and eventually went to live in separate care homes. Ray died later that year, Kath settled in to White Gables and in spite of being very frail when she arrived, their care and sustenance soon built her up and she gained a new lease of life.

By early 2006 she had met Russ and at Easter they married. (Not that ministers have much to do on an Easter Sunday – poor Rob had to add a wedding to his five planned services!) Kath and Russ enjoyed three happy years before Russ' death.

Her last few years at White Gables have been very comfortable and her every need – and want!!!- catered for.

Kath was a great befriender and she will be long remembered for countless offers of help and support on many occasions. May she rest in peace and in the love of so many people.

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### ***Advance notice.....***

Seaton Road will be holding their annual Plant Sale on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April. There will be the usual variety of plants – supplied by Katie's Garden Centre and others. Please put the date in your diary.

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### ***Room to let in the Trimley area....***

Room to let (maybe two rooms) with ensuite in Trimley St Martin, sharing a house with a Christian woman in her 50's. The room is furnished with a single bed, desk etc., there is broadband, washing machine, dishwasher. Guests have their own cupboard, use of fridge freezer and we all do our own food. My plan is to have a cleaner who will visit.

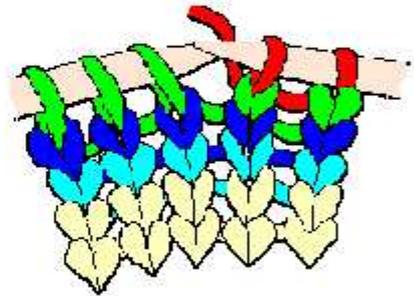
Price: £300 plus bills which including Council Tax might come to another £100 per month.

Contact Sue Livingstone at [susan.m.durling@gmail.com](mailto:susan.m.durling@gmail.com)

Seaton Road Methodist Church

# Knit & Natter

February 15th 2—4



March 21st 2—4

April 18th. 2—4

Please feel free to  
join us and have a  
cup of tea or coffee.

All welcome.

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## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

**Friday March 4th 2016 at 10.30am at St Mary's Church Walton**

Theme: "Receive children. Receive me"  
written by the Christian women of Cuba.

Followed by Christian Aid Hunger Lunch  
All Welcome (women and men)

## Thank You

I used to wake in the mornings  
Grumble and say  
“Oh God, let me sleep this day away,  
I don’t want to go to work today  
I don’t like my boss, I don’t get enough pay.”  
“Ok”, said God, “I’ll grant your wish  
You can go back to sleep and this day you can miss.”  
I was soon fast asleep without a care  
When a child came to me  
He was in a wheelchair  
He said “Can I borrow your legs today?  
I want to run and skip and play  
You don’t need them for you are going to stay  
Fast asleep in your bed all day.”  
Next came a young mother, she couldn’t see. Here’s the question  
she asked of me:  
“Please can I use your eyes for a while?  
I’d love to see my babies’ smile.  
You don’t need them for you’re going to stay  
Fast asleep with them closed all day.”  
Next came a man with a worried frown  
He had no job and his clothes were torn  
His children were hungry, crying and sad  
He desperately wanted to be a good dad  
“Give me your job, just for today  
I can feed my family on one day’s pay  
You don’t need it for you’re going to stay  
Fast asleep in your bed all day.”  
I know God sent me a lesson that day  
When he allowed me to dream it away  
Now when I wake in the mornings I say  
Thank you God, for a lovely day.

*Given To Jill Tempest by her next door neighbour whose friend in  
New Zealand wrote it.*

## Monday Coffee Mornings at Trinity

In 2001, when the Methodist Conference was held in Ipswich, Peter Crick and myself opened the doors to Trinity Church everyday to serve refreshments to the public in the small area behind the pews. Although space was very limited, it was wonderful being able to welcome people into our church and it was also nice that mothers with prams and pushchairs, and people with disability scooters etc, could easily enter and share in the fellowship.

I was therefore delighted when it was agreed that the pews would be replaced by chairs and that the whole church would be available to serve our community. So in 2003, after the refurbishment was complete, I asked for the Church Council's permission to start serving refreshments on Monday mornings, which they gave. I started serving refreshments in the church on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2003 and have done so every week since apart from when there have been special events that require the use of the church, such as the holiday clubs and children's harvest festivals etc - We even open on bank holidays.



When I first started the Monday Coffee Mornings, I used to do it all by myself and also got some opposition from a few church members, but this soon ended and I gained a couple of helpers too, namely Peter Crick and Beryl Trantham. Then eight years ago, my dear friends Jim and Glynis Cadbury started helping. All continue to help me to this day.

The main reason I decided to hold my coffee mornings on a Monday was because it was mid-week from when the Thursday coffee mornings were held in the hall, but as it happens, I believe it was a good choice as it is often a day when not much is going on and when people can feel a bit down. It is also a nice way for me and my small band of helpers to start the week.

My motive for starting Monday coffee mornings in the church was to provide a venue for fellowship and to serve our community, so for this reason I decided not to charge but to ask for donations. The church council agreed that these could be used to aid various charities that I would nominate and they approve each year. We raise an average of around £1,400 each year and have supported many local and national charities, including: EACH, MRDF, Aquabox, Basic, Suffolk Family Carers, Walton Parish Nursing, Action for

Children, Felixstowe Town Pastors, Felixstowe CAB, Woolverstone Wish and several disaster appeals. This current church year we're supporting the work of Level Two and Boost.

We hope to continue serving our community in this way for many more years to come and look forward to seeing you in the near future.

*Graham Thompson*

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When asked to share her beauty tips, Audrey Hepburn wrote the following poem. It was read at her funeral, as a message to her daughter:-

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.  
For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people.  
For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.  
For beautiful hair, let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day.  
For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.

People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone.  
Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms. As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others

Not to live for the day, that would be materialistic - but to treasure the day.

I realize that most of us live on the skin - on the surface - without appreciating just how wonderful it is simply to be alive.

The best thing to hold onto in life is each other.

*Audrey Hepburn – contributed by Graham Thompson*

## Christmas at Seaton Road

It seems rather late to be writing about Christmas in February but as this is the first edition of 'In Touch' of the New Year it is the first opportunity to do so.

Congratulations to the 'Little Fishes' who decorated a Christmas Tree for the Salvation Army Tree Festival at the beginning of December. Covered in polystyrene fish which the children had decorated the tree did look fantastic. For those who were unable to see the tree at the Salvation Army we were pleased to have it re-erected in the church vestibule over the Christmas period for everyone to enjoy. Well done to everyone involved.

All our Christmas services this year were linked by the theme 'Stars and Light'.

We had a good number at the Christmas Café worship where we looked at the 'stars' of Christmas and found out that apart from all the main characters of the Christmas story we too are 'stars' of the story. It was great to have some of our young people taking part with the music and the prayers. Everyone joined in the various activities and hopefully the good family atmosphere and worship helped people to focus on the true meaning of the season.

Our Carols by Candlelight Christingle service this year could easily have been entitled 'No Room at the Inn!' The church was packed with about 160 people attending, and the children having to sit on the floor up the aisle as well as adults in the vestibule. The Poloz majorette group, who use our hall every week, performed at the beginning and end of the service, the Brownies gave a presentation on the meaning of 'Christingle' and the 'Little Fishes', accompanied on the violin by Phoebe and guitar by AJ, sang 'Away in a Manger'. The rest of the service was made up with traditional Christmas readings and meditations, lots of carols and everyone making their own Christingle. The light from the candles on the window sills and all those Christingles was quite something! The retiring collection for Oxfam's solar lanterns raised a fantastic £385 and we thank all those who were so generous.

Thank you also to everyone who participated in the church Christmas card schemes which enabled us to raise £50 for the work of JMA (Junior Mission for All).

**'TRINITY SUNDAY CLUB'**  
**LEADER AND HELPER APPEAL**

The time has come for me to put out a fresh and urgent appeal for Sunday Club Leaders and Helpers. I am quickly approaching the stage where I do not have sufficient volunteers to cover Sunday mornings and the children will have to remain in the church for the duration of the service. This is a sad state of affairs and I need you to be aware of the situation the church finds itself in.



I am incredibly grateful to Steve Wyatt for all his loyal service and commitment. Steve has been offering his services for close on 25 years and now would like to step down as a Leader.

Child Protection legislation demands that the church is required to have two people on duty for any session, irrespective of how many children are present, one or ten!

I normally prepare the rota for an eight week/two month period and start by emailing the volunteers on my list to ask for their availability. This allows me to allocate individuals to specific Sundays.

Helpers generally assist the Leader and are only responsible for making sure the children feel happy, secure and enjoy participating in the session. A Leader prepares stories and activities for the morning (approximately 45 minutes), sometimes using the lectionary for their subject material or a topic of their choosing. A Leader would need to feel confident working with children and will find it tremendously satisfying and fun.

I know that a number of you would be willing to come out of the service on an ad hoc basis in the event of a volunteer shortfall and whilst I am grateful for this, it doesn't help me to create a rota and know that a two month period is fully covered.

Please support me by coming forward. With enough volunteers, I probably would only need to call upon you once every 6 weeks.

I'm afraid this is not just 'another' appeal, as we won't be able to continue much past Easter without additional people coming on board and being willing to be part of the Trinity Sunday Club team.

*Heather Carpenter*

*Tel: 01394 278239    Email: heatherdavecarpenter@hotmail.co.uk*

## **Fairtrade Fortnight 2016**

Fairtrade fortnight takes place from 29<sup>th</sup> February to 13<sup>th</sup> March. It will be launched by the Mayor of Felixstowe, Doreen Savage, at a coffee morning at Seaton Road Methodist Church at 10.30 a.m. on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February**. There will be an optional walk organised in co-operation with Felixstowe Walkers. This year we are excited to be receiving a visit, during Fairtrade Fortnight, from a Fairtrade tea farmer from Kenya, more details of which are given below.

### **Producer Tour of Suffolk**

Suffolk has been chosen to receive a visit from a Fairtrade producer, Patrick Kaberia Muthaura, who works for the Michimikuru Tea Company in Kenya. The Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum has agreed to co-ordinate the tour on behalf of the Fairtrade



Foundation and the tour will be launched at a civic breakfast hosted by the Mayor of Felixstowe at the Town Hall on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Invited guests from the local business community, Local and National Government, media and other organisations will be present at this reception.

As well as Felixstowe, Patrick will be visiting six other Fairtrade towns in Suffolk, details of which are available from a new website for Suffolk Fairtrade towns which can be found at [www.suffolkfairtrade.org.uk](http://www.suffolkfairtrade.org.uk)

On the afternoon of Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March we are planning a 'youth event' at the Level 2 youth centre in Felixstowe town centre (above Tesco's) in conjunction with the town's Youth Forum. Children from local schools will be invited to meet Patrick and also enjoy a range of other activities related to Fairtrade. Schools are preparing material to support the event and there will be an exhibition of this in the library from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

There will be an opportunity for members of the public to meet Patrick on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March** when he returns to Felixstowe to attend a coffee morning at Trinity Methodist Church from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. All are welcome.

**Singing the Faith Day**  
**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016;**  
**Trinity Methodist Church Felixstowe.**  
**2pm -7pm**

You are warmly invited to a day exploring the fantastic new music in 'Singing the Faith'. The session will be led by professional organist and choral director Robin Walker. It will be a day full of music and offers something for people at every musical level.

So, whether you want to enjoy a good sing, encouragement to try the new music in 'Singing the Faith' or practical tips on how to keep your worship music fresh and interesting, there will be something for you. Why not come for the day take in Fish and Chips along the seafront and join us at 2pm?

Comfort breaks and light refreshments provided.

The day concludes with a time of Worship and we close and depart at 7pm.

There is no set fee but a suggested donation of £5 to cover costs.

We hope you can come and join what promises to be a wonderful day of music and fellowship.





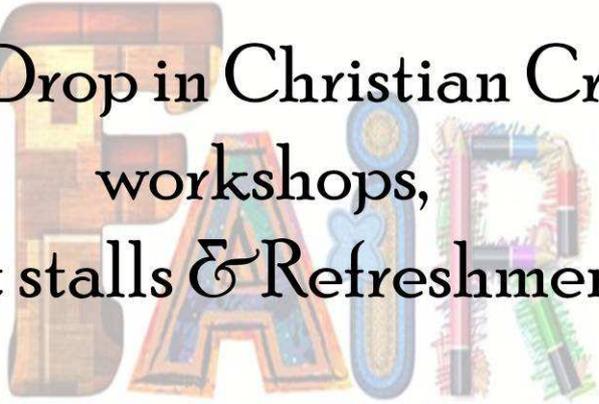
# Spring Fair

At Seaton Road Methodist Church



Saturday 12th March

10am-1pm



Free Drop in Christian Craft  
workshops,  
Craft stalls & Refreshments.

Stall Holders- £10 per 6ft Pitch, Please Bring  
your Own Table.

To Book a Pitch Please Contact Dawn  
On 07580510737