



**in**

**Touch**

**The MA**gazine

October 2015

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or email [minister@seatonroad.org.uk](mailto:minister@seatonroad.org.uk)

**Methodist Matters in the Felixstowe Mission Area**

*Dear Friends*

I thought it would be a very good idea to write about “Open the Book” for this edition of “In touch”. We have the Revd. Jo Jacobs to thank for organising an “Open the Book” team and currently we are working in both Fairfield and Colneis Schools. May I also take this opportunity to thank Jane Reed, Head Teacher at both schools, for the warm reception we have received.



Basically the team go in and lead an assembly using the set resources provided which comply with Ofsted standards.

“Open the Book” began in 1999 and since then thousands of school children have discovered Bible stories, many for the first time. Today, so many children could miss out on the great classic stories from the Bible – Noah, Daniel and the life of Jesus could be closed chapters if youngsters don’t get an opportunity to engage with the Bible.

“Open the Book” offers a three year rolling programme of themed and dramatised storytelling at no charge to primary schools. Teams of volunteers throughout the country use drama, mime, props, costume and even the children and staff themselves to present the Bible stories in a lively and informative way.

It is great fun; fun for children and fun for the adults. More team members would be greatly appreciated - do have a chat with Jo or myself if you are interested.

God Bless

*Diane.*

If you have any items for the November 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 18<sup>th</sup> October.

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

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

Kirton - 9.45 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith - Harvest

Seaton Road - 9.45 a.m. - Rev David Keeble

Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith - Harvest

Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Mrs Nichola Glasse

6.00 p.m. – Rev Jane Cassidy

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

Kirton – 9.45 a.m. – Rev Chris Jowett

Seaton Road – 9.45 a.m. – Rev Diane Smith / Miss Janet Souster

World Church service

Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Mr Bryan Nichols

Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Rev Jane Cassidy (Communion)

6.00 p.m. – Rev Mike Cassidy

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

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

Seaton Road – 9.45 a.m. – 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

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

Kirton – 9.45 a.m. – Rev Jane Cassidy

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

Trimley – 11.00 a.m. – Mrs Diana Sawyer

Trinity – 11.00 a.m. – Rev David Kemble

6.00 p.m. – Rev Mike Cassidy

## **Walton Parish Nursing Celebration Service**

At Seaton Road Methodist Church  
3pm on the 18th October.

Speaker: Ros Moore, CEO of Parish Nursing Ministries UK

**Everyone welcome!**



**Thank you all so much.....**

Nigel and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all the love and kindness we have received in recent days following the tragic death of my nephew Lee Robertson.

Many thanks to all who have brought items to the Manse in response to the refugee situation. By the time you read this the items will be on their way to France. Let us hope and pray they can bring some relief in what is an overwhelming situation.

Thank you to the team at Trinity who welcomed both Fairfield and Colneis Schools on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September as part of their annual Harvest Celebrations. I am very grateful to you all.

*Diane*

## TRINITY HOLIDAY CLUB

After a highly successful week at Seaton Road Methodist Church, led by Robin and Mary Pattinson, it was now Trinity's turn to stage this year's Holiday Club entitled 'Cops and Robbers.' What a wonderful time was had by all, children and adults alike.

The Monday morning arrived and after months of preparation by so many people, we were ready to roll. As the children were guided to their tables depending on age, some were highly confident as they bounced in and some a little more apprehensive (with the odd tear). By the end of the week, they were rushing to their Group Leaders and Helpers, who had managed to allay all fears!

The children would learn all about the story of Joseph and how aspects of jealousy, speaking the truth, being falsely accused and learning to forgive were all challenges as relevant today as they were in the times of the Old Testament. Through Bible dramatised narrations, Ratty and Stinky sketches, (I love being Ratty, the aggressive rodent), the Watt Family Drama (probably the most popular and where you were likely to be on the receiving end of Rick's water pistol, alias John Clark), the children absorbed all the facets of Joseph's extraordinary life.

Each morning Police Carpenter No.39 would report for duty and to brief his new recruits. I felt sure that I had managed to convince the children that 39 was also my age, until on Friday, a young lady of ten years of age remarked that I looked nearer eighty!

Our daily programme included games, songs, memory verses and lots of crafts, together with the hugely popular activity of decorating biscuits to depict cops and robbers. How wonderful it was to see our two older age groups (aged 10 and 11 years), fully immerse themselves in the crafts, (always a concern that an activity suitable for a 5 and 6 year old would not be challenging enough for an older child).

Numbers of children ranged from 46 to 56 each morning and every adult helping was impressed with the good behaviour and manners displayed by all the children.

At the close of the Sunday Morning Service, the finale of our Holiday Club week, we were delighted to learn that two of our little girls had downloaded the Watt Family drama theme tune and written their own scripts. The 6 year old proudly announced that she was going to be a Holiday Club presenter, when she was grown up!

Both Holiday Clubs were only made possible by the hard work and dedication of all those people who played a part in its preparation and delivery, two teams of wonderful people, who were up for the challenge! Heartfelt thanks to everyone involved.

*Heather Carpenter and Steve Wyatt*

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## **East Anglia District Synod**

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September Robin and I, along with others from the Ipswich Circuit, set off before 8am to travel to St Ives in the St Neots and Huntingdon Circuit for the East Anglia District Synod. We are two of the Circuit representatives from the Ipswich Circuit and this was our third synod; the others having been in Kings Lynn and Lowestoft.

We had a great venue in the St Ivo Centre in St Ives which came with plenty of parking space and good facilities, as well as room for us to sit around tables of 10 – a bonus which helped with the juggling of the various papers involved in such an event and which with no table inevitably at some point end up dropping to the floor!!

After a period of worship, led by the Chair of the East Anglia District, Rev Julian Pursehouse, we heard reflections from Conference and then, following the theme 'Celebrating Difference', about the ministry amongst the deaf community, about mental health issues and an update from the world church in Latvia.

At 12 noon we stopped proceedings to spend some time in silence and then shared a prayer to support our London Synod representatives who had abandoned their meeting to join those marching for the plight of the refugees and migrants. This was a very poignant few minutes and not only reminded us of the plight of so many at this time but joined us with our fellow Methodists across the Connexion.

In the afternoon, following a discussion on same sex marriage and what we meant by marriage, we shared some experiences of 'Radical Hospitality' which varied considerably across the District from concerts, to songs of praise, barbeques, carnival processions, teas and many more. On our table with representatives from the Ipswich Urban, Ipswich Rural and Woodbridge Mission Areas the

Felixstowe Mission Area was the only Mission Area who had actually held 'Radical Hospitality' events so well done to us!

After a final cup of tea and refreshments we said farewell to our colleagues from near and far across the District and made our way home to our own small part of Methodism.

*Mary Pattinson*

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## **Memories of Chris Woods (Seaton Road)....**

Christopher Robin Woods was born on the 23rd December 1938 in Ipswich to Jane and Fred Woods.

Sadly Chris's mum died when he was only two and half years old. His father remarried Olive who was to become his step mother and mother to twins Gerald and Keith who were born in 1942.

Due to a chest problem as a child Christopher attended Whitton Open Air School. Summer holidays were spent in Framlingham with Grandma and Grandad; they had no electricity and an outside toilet.

Chris was not very fond of school but he did greatly enjoy being a member of St Bartholomew's Choir; in fact all 3 brothers attended, but only Chris was allowed to swing the incense!

Christopher used to like to ride his bike; he had a racing bike and would cycle round Brighton and the south coast.

Chris left school at the age of fifteen; at first he worked in the Gas works in Duke Street but then he signed on for National Service. He signed up for three years, but because he liked it so much he signed up for a further 22 years. When he left the Royal Air Force he was both a sergeant and a Chief Technician.

Ann and Chris first met at "The British Federation of the young Cooperatives" in 1957; Chris came along with his friends who played in the skittle group. Christopher and Ann were married at Walton Parish church on the 14th May 1960. They had three children; Gillian who was born in December 1963, Kevin in April 1968 and Jane in August 1969. During his period in the Air Force, Chris sometimes had to go on unaccompanied tours, for instance to Aden where he was involved in building runways.

When Chris was serving in Kuwait he was required to become a member of the Kuwaiti Army. The head dress that was part of his uniform came in very handy for many a nativity play. Chris was stationed in Kuwait for exactly one year and one day.

In 1970 Ann and Christopher, together with their family, were posted to Germany for three years. The grandparents were able to come and visit them on a few occasions.

Later, the family were to settle for a time in Huntingdonshire as well as a period in Tamer and Walton. In July 1977 the family moved back to Felixstowe, living for some 14 years in Grange Road.

Ann remarked that when they first started moving around they had one large box but on their final move required the largest removal van.

When Chris came out of the Air Force he worked for Ransomes & Rapier then later for Hubbards, working for some time at St Mary's hospital in London. The family are extremely proud of the way Chris dealt with the problem of redundancy.

Ann and Chris lived in their present bungalow since 1991.

Chris took a great interest in life and had a number of hobbies. He loved gardening, and his garden, as well as books and television programmes on the subject. He also liked to buy garden magazines and follow up their suggestions. At one time he was not only caring for his own garden but also his mother-in-law's garden and her neighbour's.

Christopher loved to walk along the prom and visit Woodbridge and Southwold. Chris was a good photographer and liked to paint small model soldiers. He once made a metal detector which provided the family with much amusement; they even managed to find a watch on a beach.

For a time Chris had an allotment but gave it up when the rabbits were eating most of his produce. Ann and Chris have always been early risers and Chris would still set his alarm clock for 6 a.m. because he had so many things he wanted to do.

Just over 2 years ago he was diagnosed with cancer. He was extremely brave and courageous and stood up to the chemotherapy very well indeed.

It was only about three months ago that the cancer took a real hold.

Many people will remember Chris and Ann's work together at the Day Centre in Orwell Road. For some nine years Chris provided much needed transport.

Chris had a wonderful Christian faith which was a comfort to him and helped to sustain him throughout life's ups and downs.

We rejoice that he with his Lord.

Christopher Robin Woods may you rest in peace and rise in glory.

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### **October Harvest Fun Mornings....**

During the October half term both Trimley and Kirton Methodist Churches will be hosting a fun morning; these will run from 10am - 12.30.

Trimley will host on the 26<sup>th</sup> October and Kirton on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October.

These mornings are for children from 5 years and up, children under that age need to be accompanied by an adult but all are welcome.

The format is informal with a game on arrival followed by an interactive Bible story. The children and parents who are present are then invited to choose from a wide range of craft activities.

A short break for a drink and refreshments follows and to finish the morning Clare from Mencap Magic leads the children in a dance and movement session.

We had a very successful fun morning at Kirton during the summer holiday that followed a very similar format.

If you are free on either the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> or the 29<sup>th</sup> and would like to be a helper please do either contact me or Dawn Bone.

Your help would be very much appreciated.

Thank you.

God Bless

*Diane*

**Seaton Road Methodist Church**

## **Knit and Natter**

**Sept 21st 2-4pm**

**Oct 19th 2-4pm**

**Nov 16th 2-4pm**

**Dec 21st 2-4pm.**

**Carols/ Mince Pies/ Knitting**

**Why not join us to share your craft**

**or just drink tea.**

**All are welcome**

A photograph of golden wheat stalks against a clear blue sky, used as a background for the title.

# Autumn Fair

At Seaton Road Methodist Church

Saturday 10th October

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

## **QUIZ NIGHT**

at

Trimley Methodist Church

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 7.30 p.m.

£4.00 per person

Tables of 4

Light refreshments provided

Bookings in advance – call 01394 273290

Proceeds to the local Alzheimer Group

### **Remembering Service**

The Mission Area's annual Remembering Service will be held at Trinity on 1st November at 6 p.m. This service gives people an opportunity to remember loved ones, who are no longer with us, by lighting a candle as their names are read out.

If you would like to have someone remembered please give names to Diane, or one of your church stewards as soon as possible, as an alphabetical list will be drawn up before the day.

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### **Schoolchildren's Harvest**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> September Trinity welcomed along nearly 300 children, together with some parents and teachers, from Colneis and Fairfield schools to celebrate Harvest.

The Head Teacher of both schools, Jane Reed, stood in to take the service as Diane had other commitments. Trinity church members were out in force to help gather in the harvest.

The harvest food collected from the children, and our own church, was shared with the Basic charity and Salvation Army to be given to people in need in the Felixstowe area.

A lovely day of singing, stories, and praise.

A big thank you to all.

*Emma Elwell*

## GOD WE THANK YOU FOR OUR BEAUTIFUL LAND

GOD WE THANK YOU FOR OUR BEAUTIFUL LAND  
GREEN HILLS, MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS THAT FLOW  
WE THANK YOU FOR RAIN AND SUNSHINE  
SO THAT OUR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES WILL GROW

WE THANK YOU FOR OUR OWN COUNTRYSIDE  
OF FORESTS, FIELDS AND OPEN SPACES  
WHERE WE ARE ABLE TO ENJOY OUR FREEDOM  
AND BE SURE OF MEETING FRIENDLY FACES

GOD WE THANK YOU FOR OUR CHURCHES  
WHERE WE CAN PRAISE AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS  
AND OUR SCHOOLS THAT TEACHES BOYS AND GIRLS  
WITH AN EDUCATION THAT HAS NO BOUNDS

WE THANK YOU FOR GIVING US SO MANY THINGS  
THAT BRINGS US LAUGHTER, JOY AND FUN  
FOR THE WONDERS THAT EACH SEASON BRINGS  
GOD WE THANK YOU MOST OF ALL  
FOR SENDING US JESUS, YOUR ONLY SON.

*MAUREEN BROWN. TRIMLEY CHURCH*

Kirton Chapel invite you to our Harvest  
Lunch on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October.  
This is at 12 noon for 12.30pm. Please  
book your £6.50 Lunch with Mary Greening  
on 01394 448590.



Churches Together in Felixstowe  
**FORUM MEETING**  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 p.m.  
St Mary's, Walton  
All welcome – come for refreshments from 7 p.m.

## **A New Beginning.....**

I want to tell you about a woman I know very well; she had no faith, didn't believe in any God or any religion, didn't read the Bible, scriptures, hymns, wasn't involved in any church activities and didn't meet others who could talk about God, church and love.

The burden of everyday life was heavy on her shoulders because, not knowing God, she could not ask for help or pray. She was a non-believer and ignorant to it all.

That woman was me.

My name is Emma, I'm 68 years young and I met God late in my life. Today I look back and feel sad, living life without faith I missed out on a lot.

But today is a new beginning.

Moving to Felixstowe was a new beginning; I feel God had made his move. A new beginning was to walk into part of Trinity church to help out in the day centre, making tea and coffee for the members. While there I would listen to the planned communion once a month given by David and Albert. I enjoyed what was said. I was unaware that my journey with God had began.

A lady gave me a wooden holding cross - I loved the feel of the wood. Today, each morning, I touch this cross which gives me great comfort.

Then I moved onto helping with Kids' clubs, with Elizabeth Kemble, but still in the kitchen helping with drinks etc.

God was pulling me into the church. I didn't understand the emotions I was feeling. One day I just cried, bewildered. Elizabeth knew what was happening. I said I'm too old for all this change but she hugged me and said you are never too old for God.

Another day I was out on a bus with church member Margaret Powell and I asked her a simple question and she gave me a simple answer; this changed my life completely.

I started to attend church and Bible study and I asked many questions. Today I have to laugh because the members are so patient with me. I enjoyed my Emmaus experience and found it overwhelming. Today, at church, the theme was new beginnings. I wrote and read this out and someone said “put it in print”.

I can say everyday is a new beginning for me.

It is amazing how I see things differently; so simple to talk about my past and my journey with God, so simple to pray, to talk to God, so simple to sing and rejoice in the church I love.

And it is so simple to say this once non-believer loves being a Methodist. God did choose this path for me and being a Methodist is part of a jigsaw into which I fit very well and all the pieces fit.

I have no burden to carry. God has taken it from me.

Tomorrow, I know, will be another new beginning for me.

*Emma Elwell*

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## **Out of the mouths of babes .....**

The theme for our September Kids’ Club was the Parable of the Sower. Along with various games, crafts and songs on the theme, Rev Diane Smith brought her Godly Play box of this story to share with the children. The children were enthralled as Diane explained about Godly Play and started to tell the story of the Sower as she revealed items from the box and laid them out in front of her – a piece of brown cloth for the soil, smooth pieces of wood cut into bird shapes, a collection of pebbles stuck onto a piece of wood to represent the rocky soil, a collection of splinters of wood again stuck onto a piece of wood for the thorny ground and little wooden sacks of corn to represent the harvest of 30, 60 or 100 fold.



All the adults were dumbfounded when, after Diane asked what the children thought this story represented, the children joining together with ideas suggested that things were made of wood because Jesus died on a wooden cross, the thorns represented the crown of thorns He wore as He died and the pebbles (rocky soil) told us of when Jesus was on the beach telling stories and cooking the disciples breakfast.

These were new ideas to all of the adults, which certainly did make us all think, and we agreed we would never hear this parable again without remembering the children's thoughts.

Jesus said we must become as children (And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven". Matthew 18:3) Who says we are there to teach the children?!!!!

If you would like to help with the Mission Area Kids' Club on a regular, or one off, basis please have a word with Diane, Heather Carpenter, Emma Elwell, Hazel Rusby, Robin or Mary Pattinson.

Kids' Club is open to all primary school aged children who have completed their first full year at school. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at Seaton Road from 6 - 7.15 p.m and future dates are:-

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

*Mary Pattinson*

**Mission Area Quiz**  
See back page for details

**MISSION AREA QUIZ**  
**TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015**  
**7.30pm**



We will be holding a Quiz at Trinity Church on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November, commencing at 7.30pm. This is a fundraiser for all four Methodist Churches, Trinity, Seaton Road, Trimley and Kirton.

Tickets are priced at £7.00 each and will include refreshments in the form of 'puddings,' with savoury nibbles on the table and tea/coffee. The proceeds of the evening will be used to help with the printing costs of 'In Touch,' the Mission Area Methodist Church magazine, thereby benefitting all four churches.

Tables can comprise of 4 – 8 people, with everyone welcome.

To book your ticket, please contact Heather Carpenter, tel: 01394 278239 or email [heatherdavecarpenter@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:heatherdavecarpenter@hotmail.co.uk).

Our Quizmaster for the evening is Phil Hadwen, so we are assured of a fun and competitive evening!

We do hope that all four churches will be represented, so don't delay and book your tickets today.

*Heather Carpenter*