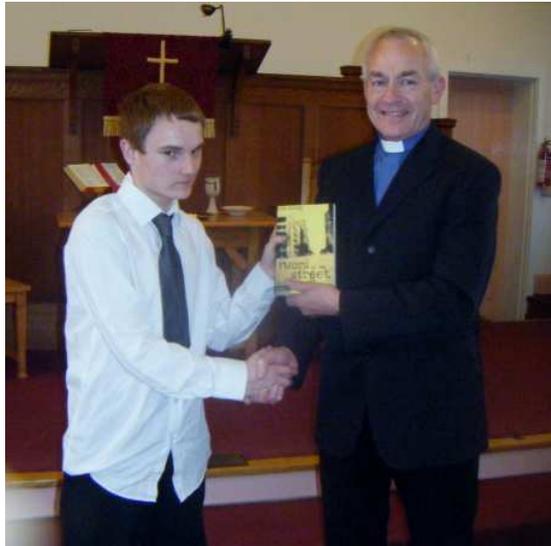


BRIGHTSTAR



APRIL 2012

Brightstar is the newsletter of Seaton Road Methodist Church

Seaton Road, Felixstowe, IP11 9BT.

Contact the minister, Revd David Kemble, on 282023

or email via our website - www.seatonroad.org.uk

FROM THE MANSE....

Dear Friends,

The time has come! Yes its time for my sabbatical, immediately following Easter until early July. I have tried not to get too excited about spending 3 months away from my normal schedule of church and Port duties but I am looking forward to the break and refreshment for myself and my ministry. Of course I shall miss you all, but I know you will be in safe hands with excellent leadership within the church and your willingness to share the load. You may like to know what I will be getting up to and support me with your prayers on such occasions...

My focus, which all ministers taking a sabbatical have to state, is to *look for God in unusual places* so I have planned the following during the course of the 3 months....

I shall be looking for God above me as I ride in a hot air balloon over Suffolk, weather permitting, sometime in April...

I shall be looking for God below me as I snorkel in the clear and hopefully not too chilly waters around the Pembrokeshire Coast...

And **I shall be looking for God beside me** as I walk the 186 miles of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path – this will be during the month of May...

On my return I hope to paint scenes, using watercolours, from my journey as I attend the retreat centre at Sizewell Hall during June.

Before I go, however, I look forward to journeying with your all through Holy Week this year as we explore the question "*Who do you think you are, Jesus?*" at the four services at Kirton, Trinity, Seaton Road and Trimley from Tuesday to Good Friday at 7pm. I do hope you are able to come to as many of these as possible as we prepare ourselves for the events surrounding the pivotal moments of our faith over the Easter weekend.

Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure with words recorded in John 14 and verse 18 “*When I go, you will not be left all alone; I will come back to you.*” My promise is to pray for you all while I’m away and especially that the Holy Spirit of God will continue to keep you safe on your journey through life. Oh and I also promise to come back!

Until then God bless you all and keep you in His safe arms

Yours in Christ,

David

DAVID’S SABBATICAL

In case you haven’t heard, our minister Rev David Kemble starts his three months’ sabbatical on Easter Monday, 9th April.

We think of David, as he spends time in exploring God’s presence in different places. During the three months, some of David’s activities will include hot air ballooning, travelling to Wales, walking, painting and scuba diving. We wish him well and pray that he will return to his ministerial duties in July, renewed and refreshed.

A sabbatical support team has been formed and preparing for this over the past few months so hopefully things will run smoothly during David’s period of absence. If anyone needs a minister during this time, please, firstly consult one of the church stewards (Mary Pattinson, Heather Bentley, Howard Fotherby, Liz Benyon or Shirl Stockley)

Please remember David, and Elizabeth who will be staying at home, in your prayers during this time and we look forward to hearing all about David’s adventures when he returns.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 1st April
9.45am Mr David Welbourn

Sunday 8th April - Easter Day
9.45am Family Worship led by Revd David Kemble

Sunday 15th April
From 9.15am Cafe Worship

Sunday 22nd April
9.45am Mrs Alyson Ellis

Sunday 29th April
9.45am Janet Foster

Sunday 6th May
9.45am Holy Communion led by Revd Barry Middleton

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

For the full list of services during the Easter season please see the church notice board.

The theme for our Mission Area Holy Week meditations this year is 'Who do you think you are, Jesus? Looking at different aspects of Jesus' life each evening the programme will be:-

Tuesday 3rd April – Kirton

Wednesday 4th April – Trinity

Thursday 5th April – Seaton Road

Good Friday 6th April – Trimley.

All evenings will begin at 7pm and on Good Friday will be preceded by a tea at 6pm. Everyone is welcome to any of these services, or tea, and

it is hoped that many will be able to follow the programme through the week as it links events leading up to Jesus' Crucifixion.

On Easter Saturday at 10am we will be decorating Seaton Road with flowers in readiness to celebrate Easter Day. If you could help with this by bringing some flowers it would be much appreciated. You do not have to be a flower arranger to help – daffodils in vases on the window sills are very acceptable.

On Easter Day Rev David Kemble will be leading a Family Communion Service at Seaton Road at 9.45a.m. As usual we will have the cross at the front of the church and everyone is invited to bring a flower to place into this in remembrance of a loved one.

OTHER EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday – Walton Churches joint service at Walton Parish Church. This will be followed by Churches Together in Felixstowe's service at the Triangle 10.45am Setting the Scene, 11.15am service.

Easter Day - CT in F's Sunrise Service on the promenade (by the Town Hall) 6.15 am

Plant Sale

Saturday 5th May

10 a.m. - 12 noon

Plants supplied by Katie's Garden Centre

Our annual plant sale is on Saturday, 5th May.

Katie's Garden Centre will be supplying us with a variety of plants, including perennials, small shrubs and bedding plants. Those of you who came last year will remember what good quality and good value they were, so please come again this year and tell your friends and neighbours about it. There will also be a book stall and a cake stall and we shall be serving refreshments.

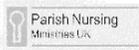
As usual, we shall be needing a lot of help on the day so please speak to Daryl or Malcolm if you are free on May 5th and/or the previous day at around 5 p.m. to carry in plants and get the hall ready. If you can make a cake for the cake stall please let Mary know. We shall also need help to do a leaflet drop in the area during the week beforehand. This event is to raise money for the Church and for the Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Please give your support

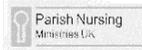
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FELIXSTOWE AGM 2012

Wednesday 3rd May at 7.30pm
St. Felix Church Hall, Gainsborough Road
All welcome.

Walton Parish Nursing, Felixstowe,
a joint ministry of the churches of Walton
wishes to appoint an additional



PARISH NURSE



to work in our established Parish Nursing team.
7.5 hours per week

Pay subject to agreement or on a voluntary basis.

Candidate should be a registered nurse with 5 years post-qualification experience and (preferably) have community experience and be a committed Christian.

Contact Steve Lineham (01393 276107) steve.lineham@btinternet.com

Closing date Friday 13th April 2012

THANKS

A letter has been received by Revd Mark Reid of Maidstone Road Baptist Church from Councillor Jan Garfield, Chairman of the Community Services Group of Felixstowe Town Council.

It reads:

Dear Revd Reid,

I am writing to you as Chairman of the Community Services Group (Health Councillors) to compliment you on the Walton Parish Nurse and the concept of parish nursing in general. We recently had a drop-in session re Community Health and were joined by Lorna Bellamy and her manager who explained the concept to those of us who had not come into contact with the idea before. We were all hugely impressed as were those members of the public who attended and felt this idea should be expanded to include the rest of Felixstowe - funding permitting of course.

My Committee felt that a personal letter of thanks was appropriate so I should be grateful if this could be passed on to all those concerned,

With best wishes,

Cllr. Jan Garfield.

ADDICTED TO 20P PIECES

I have become addicted to 20p pieces. I get excited when they are given in loose change. I hunt through my purse to find them.

Why? Because they fit snugly into a Smartie tube and Smartie tubes are a way of collecting to support Walton Parish Nursing (WPN).

WPN is a ministry of health, healing & wholeness supported by the Walton churches (Maidstone Road Baptist, Seaton Road Methodist & soon to be joined by St Mary's Anglican church). Together we fund a trained nurse, who is a Christian, to work in the community of Walton. This is showing God's love & putting our faith into action. Our parish nurse is Lorna Bellamy RN.

Seaton Road has 40 members. If each member was able to collect 50p in coins per week (in a Smartie tube, of course) that would equate to £1000 per year, which is the amount we have committed to raise as a condition of the grant we received from District.

So hence my mission to hunt for 20p's.

There is no known cure for this addiction. Victims need to be humoured & encouraged to seek other outlets for fund raising!

Keep collecting! It's for a good cause.

Sue Hockenhull

THANKS AGAIN

Thanks go to Kathy Fullick who once again did us proud on Mothering Sunday. The church looked beautiful with the daffodils and cards on the window sills and I'm sure all the ladies appreciated their gifts of sweets.

FROM THE VESTRY

One of my favourite hymns is 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross' written by Isaac Watts in 1707.

When 'Hymns and Psalms' was first published in 1983 I was quite upset that the words to the last verse had been changed and that the word 'present' had been used instead of 'offering'. Having learnt the latter, I still find this the natural word to sing and it is still my preference.

Assuming that someone responsible for the, then, new hymnbook had thought this a more modern replacement I was very surprised, two or three years ago to learn to the contrary. How did I find out you may ask?

I was on holiday, visiting a National Trust Property, where, in one of the bedrooms, a fine example of needlework was on show. The sampler, the amazing, intricate stitching of a young girl aged just nine and completed in the 1800's, was of this very hymn and there in the last verse was the word 'present' and not 'offering'. This disproved my theory of 'present' being the modern word!

I have been unable to find out when the word 'offering' was introduced but to me this is the word which has more impact. I know God has given us the world as a 'present' but somehow by using the word 'offering' it is suggesting that it is up to us how we accept it.

There are various tunes to which this hymn is sung but for me it has to be 'Rockingham'. The sombreness of verse 3 and the crescendo of the last verse fit the tune so well and for me makes this a very powerful, yet reflective, personal statement of my faith.

Apparently, this was one of the first English hymns written using the word 'I', thus making it a more personal religious experience. Other interesting details include the fact that Watts bracketed the fourth verse and this was often left out as being too 'gory', some versions have used the word 'tribute' instead of 'offering' or 'present', and Charles Wesley was reported as saying that he would give up all his other hymns to have written this one.

Whatever version of words, or tune, you prefer I hope you think they are worth looking at this Easter.

1. *When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.*
2. *Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.*
3. *See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down:
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*
4. *His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the tree;
Then am I dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.*
5. *Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering* far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

*a present

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

I'm sure many of you will know these words, better than I do, but if you haven't stopped to study them why not take a few minutes to sit with them, reflecting on God's greatest gift to us and reliving the events of that first Easter. As the highlight of our church year approaches may we all know and feel the presence of Jesus with us as our personal Saviour.

With blessings for a Happy and Joyous Easter celebrating the Risen Lord.

Mary

PRAYERS FOR HOLY WEEK

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have wonderfully created each of us according to your good pleasure, that you made us so unique and distinctive.

Lord, we pray for a closer relationship with you so that we may run the race that you have in mind specifically for us.

Lord, we pray that the eyes of our understanding be enlightened so that we may follow your lead.

Lord, draw us closer to you, so that our commitment is not based on other people's faith but on our own walk with you.

Lord Jesus we give you the glory and the honour, for all things were created by you, through you and for you, including ourselves.

Amen

(Inspired by Luke 17:23 - Reka Musan, Methodist Church House)

How is it that people will recognise us as followers of Jesus? By how we treat one another. Let us confess how we have not loved as Christ loves us.

Creator and Loving God, you kneel to wash our feet, yet we are reluctant for you to see all the places we have gone in our attempts to escape you.

You would bathe us in the warm, living waters of your love, but we splash and play in the puddles of temptation. We have received all the gifts you have to offer, but we are tempted to think they are just for us, rather than sharing them.

Forgive us, Holy One, and have mercy on us.

As you have broken your heart for us, may we open ours in service to others.

As you have given your life for us, may we offer ours to bring healing to the world.

As you have called us to your table, may we go forth to feed a world hungry, not only for food, but for that spirit which brings peace and reconciliation. This we pray as servants of Jesus Christ, who came to serve us in life, in death and in resurrection.

Amen

(Thomas Shuman)

PRAYERS FOR EASTER

Lord Jesus, we greet you, risen from the dead. We thought that your way of love was a dead end, leading only to a cross; now we see that it is the way to life!

We thought your whole life was wasted; now we know that it was gloriously worthwhile!

We thought that death was the end of you; now we know that your life was too great to be ended by death.

Lord Jesus we adore you, risen from the dead! For Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Lord Jesus, we greet you, risen from the dead, victorious over sin and death, over suffering and shame, over all evil and wring.

Lord Jesus, we greet you, risen from the dead, overcoming by the power of love, by patient trust and perseverance, by faith in God alone.

Lord Jesus, we greet you, risen from the dead, proving that nothing can separate us from God's love, showing us how far that love will go, and suffering for the sins of the world.

Lord Jesus, we greet you, risen from the dead, and offer you our thanks and our praise, our prayers and our worship, our devotion and service forever. Alleluia.

Let us pray that through God's word and spirit we may come to know the Risen Lord.

God our Father, by raising Christ your son, you paved the way for all humanity to make a fresh beginning. Instill in us, now Lord, new hearts and open minds that we may hear your word afresh, and respond in obedient Faith, Hope and Love, through Christ our Risen Lord.

Amen

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the festival of our Lord's resurrection. Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FUTURE DATES FORYOUR DIARY

April 1st Sunday – Seaton Road lead worship at Seafarers' Centre
6.30pm

April 3rd – Mission Area Children's Easter Workshop at Trinity 10am
-12.30pm

April 3rd – 6th – Mission Area Holy Week meditations see separate article for details.

April 9th - July 8th – David's Sabbatical.

April 21st Saturday – District Worship Day at Bramford Road, Ipswich
(bookings by 6th April)

April 28th Saturday – Trinity Spring Fair 10am to 4pm

May 1st Tuesday – Kids' Club 6 – 7.15pm

May 5th Saturday - Seaton Road Plant Sale 10am – 12 noon

May 19th Saturday – Kirton Plant Sale 11am – 1pm + Christian Aid
Lunch

May 26th Saturday – Trinity. Coffee morning, heritage exhibition and
silent auction 10am – 4pm.

June 5th Tuesday – Mission Area Queen's Diamond Jubilee event at
Kirton. Cream tea and games 2 – 4 pm.

June 12th Tuesday – Kids' Club 6 – 7.15pm

July 1st Sunday – Church AGM after the morning service.

July 3rd Tuesday – Kids' Club 6 – 7.15pm

July 10th Tuesday – Gift Day 7.30pm

July 14th / 15th – Seaton Road Church Family Weekend at Kirton.

July 23rd – 27th – Seaton Road Holiday Club

August 20th -24th – Trinity Holiday Club

September 2nd Sunday – Circuit welcome service for Rev Kathy Flynn Bramford Road, Ipswich 6.30pm

September 16th Sunday – Harvest Café Worship.

November 24th Saturday – Mission Area concert at Trinity 6.30pm.

Church Family Weekends

A reminder of the dates:

2012 – July 14th and 15th. Church Family Weekend at home at Kirton Methodist Church

2013 – July 12th – 14th. Church Family Weekend away at Belsey Bridge, Ditchingham.

SMILES FOR EASTER

What do you call the rabbits that marched in the hot Easter Day parade?

Hot cross bunnies.

How do Easter bunnies stay healthy?

Eggsercise

What's the difference between the Easter bunny and a lumberjack?

One hops and chews and the other chops and hews

What did the Easter bunny say to the carrot?

It's been nice gnawing you.

Why are people so tired in April?

Because they've just finished a march.

MILES FOR MACMILLAN

On Saturday 14th April I will be attempting a sponsored walk in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. I aim to walk from our office in Debenham, on to our office in Ipswich, and then finish in Felixstowe - this is 25 miles.

I know there are a lot of calls on our fundraising at present, so I will not be specifically approaching anyone for sponsorship, but I will pin a form on the noticeboard in the vestibule in case anyone would like to help.

Meg, our border collie dog, will be walking with me and as is the normal habit of dogs, will presumably walk a lot further than me. However, if you decide to sponsor her and not me, she has generously decided not to count the extra distance!

Heather