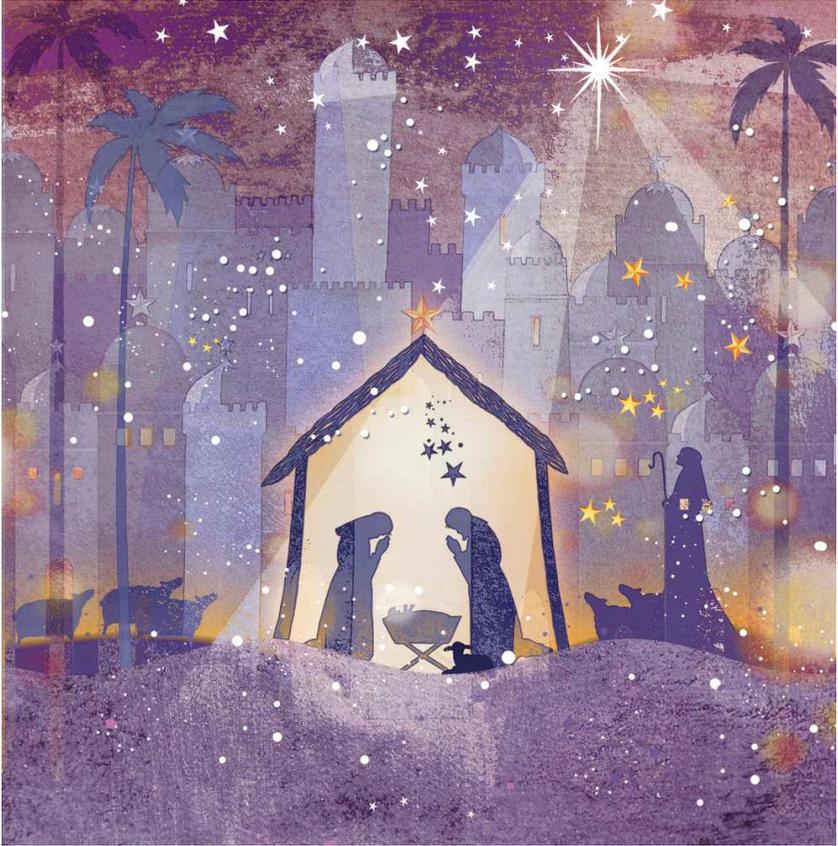


Brightstar



*December 2013 /
January 2014*

Brightstar is the newsletter of Seaton Road Methodist Church
Felixstowe, IP11 9BT
Contact our minister, Rev David Kemble on 01394 282023
or email through our website at www.seatonroad.org.uk

Services for December and January:

- December 1st
9.45 a.m. Mrs Jane Paterson
Coffee will be served following this service
- December 8th
9.45 a.m. Rev David Kemble
*Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion
Coffee will be served following this service*
- December 15th Christmas Café Worship!
Breakfast from 9.15 a.m.
Worship from 9.45 a.m.
- December 17th
7 p.m. Carols by Candlelight
Coffee and mince pies to follow this service
- December 22nd Mr Raymond Wilson
- Christmas Day
9.45 a.m. Family worship led by Rev David Kemble
- December 29th
9.45 a.m. Mission Area service here at Seaton Road
- January 5th 2014
9.45 a.m. Rev Barry Middleton
Coffee will be served following this service
- January 12th
9.45 a.m. Rev David Kemble
*Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion
This will be our MHA (Methodist Homes) Sunday
– Alicia Holmes (Chaplain for Norwood in
Ipswich) will be helping David with the service.
MHA envelopes will be given out on the 12th to
return on 19th.*
- January 19th
Breakfast from 9.15 a.m.
Worship from 9.45 a.m. Café Worship! – Rev David Kemble
- January 26th Rev Derek Grimshaw

Dear Friends,

This year the build up towards and the actual holiday season will be no doubt as busy for us all as any other! So much to plan, get ready for and do! Elizabeth and I will be entertaining the whole family this year which will mean trying to find beds for the tribe let alone feeding so many hungry mouths! What are your plans?

This season of great busyness and excitement, I hope, also carries a message of peace which can be in danger of being swamped in a world where it seems there is always conflict – between nations and sometimes in the home. Very rarely do we hear angels singing let alone the voice of God speaking! How can we hear Him in this world of ours?

One suggestion is to try and find a few minutes at some time over the festive period to sit in your favourite chair and read one or more of the lines below from well-known carols. Repeat them often in your heart as a prayer... and listen....



How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given.

Where meek souls still receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

He was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew.

Christ the babe was born for you!

Light and life to all he brings.

What I can I give him – give my heart.

You might like to add your own lines to the above as we remember before God ourselves, our homes and family, our friends and neighbours and those in the world who will struggle to find peace in their lives this Christmas. The project we are supporting as a Mission Area over Christmas and the New Year is to help Young People receive psychosocial support for the traumas they face every day after watching the horrors of conflict in Syria.

May the Peace of God reign in all our hearts over Christmas and into the New Year.

David & Elizabeth



Synod Spring 2014

The East Anglia District Synod meets twice a year in various parts of the District. Next Spring this will be held on Saturday 5th April in Ipswich at the Waterfront Building of UCS.

Sylvia Maclean, from Holbrook, and I have been asked to head up a team of people to make and serve drinks to the people attending Synod at various times during the day.

The challenge is there is no kitchen and water would have to be fetched from a drinking water tap. If anyone is skilled in carrying water containers on their head please let me know!!! We have been told the good news is that there will be no washing up!!

Seriously, we will probably need a team of more than 25 people split into smaller groups for the different serving times. I know it is a long way off but PLEASE consider if you can help and put the date in your diaries now.

Mary Pattinson

Carol Singing

If you would like the opportunity to go carol singing we have invitations to join the following groups:-

The URC will be Carol Singing at Great Eastern Square on Saturday 14th December 10.00 to Noon - collecting for Shelter. All are very welcome to join in.

Kirton Methodist Church are Carol Singing around the village on 2 evenings this year.

Please help continue this tradition and join us meeting at the Chapel on Sunday the 15th of December at 3.30pm and Monday the 16th at 7.30pm. All are welcome to join.

UNITED CHOIR for Unity Service

19th January 2014

It is again planned that a united choir, led by Rev David White, is formed for this service. If you are interested in being a part of this please see full details on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18th – 25th January 2014

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.

Churches Together in Felixstowe

Brief notes from the CTiF Forum Meeting held at Salvation Army Citadel on 4th November.

Captain Richard Waters chaired the meeting and opened with prayer.

Financial

Margaret Condick (Treasurer) presented a statement of accounts. Subscriptions will be requested in January & based on a sliding scale according to size of congregation. The amount to be unchanged at present. Currently £1600 in hand..

Events & services 2013/14

- **Praise on the Prom** took place 21st July 2013 & was blessed with good weather, positive feedback & professional quality of musicians (although not as well attended as previous years).
- **Christmas Posters:** A contemporary, thought-provoking design had been selected by the steering group. David Dyer to order & distribute (A3 size) to churches & for displays in other public places.
- **Joint Carol Singing:** This is not organised by CTF but individual churches could advertise their carol singing event & invite members of CTF to join them.
- **Nativity Display:** Barbara Lamberton & Nina Davis to display the crib figures in an empty shop window, as last year, starting from the lighting-up ceremony (30th November).
- **Good Friday Service 2014:** Due to work commitments Andy Piper would not be able to coordinate this event. Churches were asked to consider who could volunteer as coordinator.
- Andrew Marfleet suggested "Get in the Picture", where the public can dress up in a nativity scene & then appear on a website.
- The monthly town prayer group continue to meet 2nd Monday of each month, led by Pam Hewitt at BOOST.

- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Saturday 18th – Saturday 25th January 2014**

This year each church to arrange own publicity if wish to invite CTF to their gathering during the week. CTF will circulate.

- **Unity Service Sunday 19th January 2014 6.30pm at St John's Church**

A small planning team to meet to organise the service. The Churches Choir will feature again, led by Rev. David White. The speaker will be Alan Hopes, (new) Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia.

Serving/Evangelising our Local Community

- **Life in Felixstowe Together LIFT: Soup Kitchen**
Food banks operate locally at Salvation Army and BASIC. Soup kitchen trial in Felixstowe from 1st November for 3 months from 7.30pm -8.30pm each evening, operating from the rear of Great Eastern Square serving soup & sandwiches. 160 volunteers had come forward from the churches. There are 14 teams running over a fortnight.
- **Synergy Café** now meet at URC run by Sue Ryder for people with dementia and their carers.
- **Christian Aid Project** backed by the local Christian Aid group to support Women in Afghanistan (enabling to read & start up small businesses). The aim is to raise £2500 which with EU subsidies would amount to £10,000 for the project. Churches were encouraged to each do one fund raising event towards this project.
- **BOOST.** The lease soon runs out on HQ premises. Josh Hunt (Youth Worker) is to move into the new Felixstowe Academy to start up an "Academy Chaplaincy".
- **List of Church Services** to be distributed to hotels, guesthouses & Tourist Information.

Communications

- Margaret Condict has stood down from editing the "Together" newsletter. Dee Balshaw (Christ Church) volunteered to take on this role.

Date of Next Forum Meeting

- Thursday 8th May 2014 at Kirton Methodist Church.

Other Matters

- Churches invited to sign a petition for “Freedom to Choose Your Own Religion”, a campaign by CSW, Churches Solidarity Worldwide. Details at www.csw.org.uk
- An invitation was extended to anyone who wished to become Moderator of CTF.

The evening closed in prayer.

Sue Hockenhull and Mary Pattinson

Brightstar

The next Brightstar will be the February 2014 edition. Heather Farthing will be taking back the reigns of editor for the next 6 months.

Heather has asked that, as she is will be unavailable to work on the magazine at the end of January, all contributions need to be with her by **Sunday 12th January** at the very latest (please note this is earlier than the normal copy deadline).

Rev Diane Smith

Over recent weeks and months the process for finding David's replacement from next September has been going on. As a result, we had a visit in November from the Rev Diane Smith and, following the various conversations, an invitation was extended to Diane to become our Minister from September 2014. Diane was delighted to accept this invitation and we look forward to welcoming her and her husband, Nigel, to Felixstowe.



Christmas Bells

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The Carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
'There is no peace on earth,' I said;
'For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!'

Stella Gray

Eulogy from Stella's funeral service held at Seaton Road on 8th November.

Stella will be commended to God this day with our most grateful thanks for many reasons including her determined, committed and enthusiastic manner in many of the tasks she undertook. She was also an extremely kind, considerate, caring and sensitive person who possessed a good sense of humour and infectious smile, which many of you can probably see now?

A loyal, supportive and loving wife, Godmother, friend and Christian who was able to relate to people of all ages and who used her God given talents throughout her life.

Born in Felixstowe in 1925, the daughter of Mr & Mrs Jim Moyes who were active members of this church and who provided Stella with her Methodist upbringing that she was so proud of during her lifetime. Stella was in fact an avid reader of the Methodist recorder and often sent in her views on a range of subjects some of which were published. She probably also expressed her forthright views to the East Anglian Daily Times which she also read with keen interest to keep abreast of local affairs.

Ian and Trudi recall Stella telling them that she learnt to play the piano as a child and later she was taken under the wing of the then organist of this church, Olive Grayling, who groomed Stella to take over from her and a position she relished for the next 60 years playing not only on Sundays but at weddings and funerals. She was very proud of the certificate that noted this significant achievement which adorned her wall certainly at Highcliffe in the latter years of her life.

Stella lived in Garrison Lane with her parents and attended Felixstowe Grammar school. Her working career developed as secretary for the Urban District Council located at the Town Hall in Felixstowe. This gave her a keen interest and understanding of finance, property and legal matters which she put to good use for the church. In particular she was our property secretary for many

years and had the foresight to suggest the purchase of a piece of land which led to the building of the kitchen and storeroom attached to the adjacent church hall. During the war years she was evacuated to Needham Market but on resuming her work at the Town Hall she met Leslie Gray and they were married in 1972 upon which Stella moved to Falkenham. They loved their home to which they hosted many mini garden parties for members of Seaton Road following a walk from Walton, sponsored of course and suggested by Stella to raise money towards the church. She was very devoted to Leslie and they enjoyed being part of the Ipswich Bach Choir and many holidays in Europe until his death in 1986. Beryl Merritt also recalled a holiday she and Stella enjoyed later in life during which she and Stella ate cornetto ice creams in the grounds of Sidholme, even though Stella was diabetic, and then like naughty children they were unable to eat their lunch!

Stella's love of children and young people is illustrated in her care and support of Kathy Fullick when she was 8 years of age and chosen to be Seaton Road's representative at the Festival of Queens in Ipswich. Stella helped to calm her nerves as she added a train to her dress made from a silk parachute belonging to her relative Nell Rutterford. Kathy enjoyed her night, the highlight of which was the star turn of Harry Corbett with Sooty and Sweep. Stella also helped to run the Youth Club at Seaton Road. Liz Benyon recalls Stella accompanying her and Paul to view organs around many churches. Stella recalled that day for many years that followed as being a very happy one especially as she chatted and played with Sarah their one year old daughter in the car. Denise also cherishes a photograph of Stella cradling her on the occasion of her christening where Stella was her proud Godmother.

And so the memories flow of her loyal service playing the piano for the Ladies Evening Fellowship group, helping with church lunches, taking part in church family weekends, hosting bible study groups and in her spare time she loved reading, gardening and puzzles which leads me to her devoted service as a local preacher which began in 1952 and continued for over 50 active years. She cycled to many appointments including to Newbourn. On one such occasion with a young Margaret Crawford who still recalls a most

memorable service. Another sermon brought in her love of the puzzle which requires words to be made up from given letters but which must include the central letter. Stella likened this to our lives being a bit of a puzzle and which can be made sense of if in all our actions we should include God at the centre which worshippers found particularly helpful.

Stella's faith was strong and evident which helped her through a number of difficult times in particular the sudden death of Leslie in 1986. With the support of family, friends, neighbours and church friends she was able to live in the house she loved for many more years before moving into Highcliffe nursing home where she was again cared for extremely well.

I would like to return to Stella's smile to finish which came across as one of confidence. Confidence that nothing could or would separate her from the love of God through Jesus Christ as we heard in the reading from Paul's letter to the Romans. A message that gave Stella every hope for this day when she would inherit her place in God's kingdom. I'm sure she would love you, her family and friends, to join her there one day and therefore would especially challenge any who doubt to believe in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Stella lived her life with this smile on her face and we can rejoice with her this day that she is beaming in heaven. Amen.

David Kemble.



Ethel Wedlake

Eulogy from Ethel's funeral service held at Seaton Road on 20th November.

Tribute from Edward Wedlake

Ethel Mary Wedlake (née Mayes) – 10 February 1919 to 13 November 2013

2013 has proven to be a very sad year. Just over 7 months ago many of us here today were gathered together in this church for the memorial service for her last surviving brother, Archie Mayes. Today marks the passing of the last member of the family from their generation.

Early Days

Ethel was the last but one of the 11 children born to Gertrude and George Mayes on 10 February 1919 at 66 Queens Street (the 'old' Queens Street) just around the corner from Seaton Road.

Ethel has, I think you will agree, always created strong first impressions on those who met her! Her birth was no exception! Of the 11 children, Ethel was the only one that required the attendance of a doctor. This was because she was such a large baby. At over 16 pounds, the midwife had to send out for some more weights for her scales!

Life was not easy for her parents as George could not always find work and Gertrude had to resort to taking in laundry on top of her family's not insignificant demands. Ethel greatly admired and respected her parents who she referred to as "Pops" and "Mother". She particularly remembered her father's strict approach to parental control and later adopted a similar no-nonsense attitude to her own son!

Ethel did well at school and at 14 she had the opportunity to go on the Grammar School in Garrison Lane. She turned this opportunity down in order to start work as a trainee seamstress. A shortage of money probably also influenced the decision. If it had been 20 years later, she may well have followed a different educational path altogether.

As a young woman, Ethel enjoyed cycling, playing tennis and socialising with a group of her contemporaries. She also loved reading books from the library and could get through two novels a week.

A Changing World

In 1939 the world changed for so many people on the outbreak of World War 2. Many men were called up and Ethel was one of the women who took their place. She started working in the main Felixstowe Co-operative grocery shop in Hamilton Road which at that time was opposite the railway station. She really enjoyed the work and her ability to lead people and to handle cash reliably allowed her to become responsible by 1945 for the team of shop assistants and for making up their pay packets.

The randomness of events often creates circumstances that change our lives for ever. One very dark winter's evening in the black-out of 1941 was one such occasion. On her way back from the Library, Ethel heard a young man's voice call out to her from the gloom. The couple fell into conversation and he walked home with Ethel to Queens Street. Lance Corporal Edward (Ted) Wedlake of the Gloucestershire Regiment then on duty in Felixstowe would, of course, become her husband and Edward's father.

With only two weeks of special leave available, Ted and Ethel were married in this church on 15 August 1942. They had a brief honeymoon in Bristol, Ted's home city, before he had to return to duty. Shortly after the wedding Ted was posted to India and then to Burma to join the XIV (fourteenth) Army fighting the Japanese.

Ethel continued to work at the Co-op. Just last year, a lady in her late 80s who now lives in Australia, happened to be at the Cotman House Christmas Fair. She recognised Ethel (once met, never forgotten!) and passed on her war-time recollections to Edward and Kathy. She had been one of the junior shop assistants at the Co-op during the War. She clearly remembered how Ethel kept a very close eye on her staff and didn't stand any nonsense! But one late summer's day in 1945, someone looked out of the shop window and drew Ethel's attention to a soldier coming across the road from the railway station carrying his kit. Ethel's business manner suddenly evaporated and she ran out of the shop to greet Ted on his demob from the Army.

Post War

Ted had been a master butcher before the War so he and Ethel moved to Bristol and quickly opened their own butcher's shop in the city. They must have had great plans for their future together but

their happiness was to be very brief. In Burma Ted had contracted malaria and had apparently been kicked by one of the mules that were used for jungle transport. His health deteriorated quickly and he died a few months later in July 1946. Ethel's life was in turmoil as only a few weeks later she gave birth to her son in October 1946 in Bristol. She was a War Widow at 27 years old.

She gave the baby the same names as his father and returned to live with her parents once more in Queens Street, Felixstowe.

With a small child to look after and aging parents, Ethel's employment options were limited to a variety of part-time jobs. As men returned from the War, even the opportunity to return to the Co-op faded.

Later Life

She continued to live in the family home after her parents died until Queens Street housing was condemned and demolished in 1971. By then in her early 50s, somehow Ethel managed to persuade the Council to let her rent one of the new, one-bedroomed bungalows in Plymouth Road that were earmarked for the over-60s!

Ethel was a great one for keeping to a regular daily life pattern; she was a stickler for being on time and for having 3 meals a day with plain wholesome food. She hated change.

May I just give you one example of her antipathy to change? Ethel was a life time member of this Church congregation at Seaton Road. She was an active member of many groups and key holder for several years. She attended Sunday services at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. like clockwork. Then it was decided to move the morning service time forward from 11:00 to 09:30. She was very put out by this change and decided to defect to the Maidstone Road Baptist Church in protest! This she did for several months but eventually she returned to the fold and her familiar surroundings!

Ethel loved to be doing things rather than sitting still. She liked walking really for the exercise and did not have time to stop and take in the view! On holiday at her sister's home in Malvern, Worcestershire, she loved to walk over the Malvern Hills. A Sunday afternoon walk from Walton along the sea front and back home was a regular event with Edward struggling to keep up! She liked games such as whist drives and beetle drives in the Church Hall. She was very competitive and Denise is convinced that Ethel cheated sometimes to complete her beetle first!

Ethel rarely took the bus as she either walked or rode her bicycle. She carried on riding her bike well into her 70s but didn't seem to think that give way signs applied to her at junctions! Our roads have become safer now.

She remained in good health until requiring a hip operation in her 80s. From that period onwards, she needed increasing support to continue to live in her home. Many people helped her including carers towards the end but Joan and Denis Daldry, her neighbour Paul and her niece Molly and her husband John were particularly supportive.

After a series of falls, it became clear that Ethel required 24-hour support – but she did not think so of course! “Nothing wrong with me” was her constant cry. After a final crisis at Christmas 2007 and a short spell in hospital, we were very fortunate to find her a place at Cotman Lodge Residential Home in May 2008. The family wishes to thank everyone at Cotman Lodge for looking after Ethel in such an exemplary manner over the last 5 ½ years. It has not been easy for them to cope with her demands but there have been many lighter moments as well.

Ethel has also had life-long support from the Seaton Road Church family and we must thank all those who continued to support her and visit her while she was at Cotman Lodge. Many thanks also to the church members for arranging refreshments for those who wish to stay behind after this service.

Ethel was a widow for over 67 years but, due to her care and support to Edward, her direct family has grown to three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. We will remember her strong will, her inflexibility, her desire to be at the front of any queue, her good timekeeping and her hard work. But also her wicked sense of humour, her love of jovial banter and her devotion to Seaton Road Methodist Church.

Seaton Road Memories...

From a church member's point of view Ethel was a doer and organiser and as Edward intimated was not afraid of letting others know of her views. Such as when she was a member of the Christian Endeavour and a regular carol singer she would always choose to be a collector going from door to door but woe betide any carol singer who didn't move position up the road quick enough. She was a member of the annual church concerts up until the

1960s and with a strong soprano voice sang in the church choir and regularly performed solos or duets, often with Joan Woodward. One of their favourite pieces sung at most Easters was 'All in the April Evening'. As our church caretaker she would be the first at church to open up both in the morning and evening to ensure everything was ready for the services and as flower rota organiser she ensured fresh blooms were seen every week. She also organised a group to scrub the church hall floor twice a year, it was really hard work and her workers were not allowed to slack but the floor looked fantastic after they'd finished. She enjoyed social occasions at church especially the beetle drives which she thought were great fun.

My first encounter with Ethel was in Dec 2009 shortly after coming to Felixstowe. I was due to take Ethel Communion at Cotman Lodge. Ethel had arranged the time via Heather Bentley, but on arrival she was having her hair done. Unphased it was the new minister she retorted, "Tell him to come back another day." I did come back on several days over the next 4 years and on most occasions I would be greeted with comments such as "who are you". Having said who I was Ethel would keep up the banter with "Never heard of you, where did you say you'd come from?" Eventually after she'd reeled me in a smile crept over her face. And it was this kind of humour that she and Edna Scrivener a member of Kirton Methodist Church enjoyed for the past two years – they were the Morecambe and Wise of Cotman Lodge and once started they were irrepressible as they kept the banter up much to the amusement of residents and staff alike!

A couple of weeks ago I visited Ethel in her room having been told her health was fading fast. I asked her if I could read something out of the bible for her - perhaps a favourite passage. "I've never read that in my life before so I'm not starting now" she blurted out in a strong voice. Then the smile appeared which I took to be a yes! Ethel had a strong will but I also believe she had a strong faith which we can believe gave her the assurance that today she is with her Lord in heaven and no doubt it is a whole lot livelier as a result. God bless you Ethel, we will miss you greatly. Amen.

David Kemble

Churches Together in Felixstowe

ANNUAL UNITED SERVICE

Sunday January 19th 2014

St. John's Church, Felixstowe 6.30pm

**Speaker: Alan Hopes,
Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia.**



CHRISTMAS CRIB FESTIVAL
Nativity Sets from around the World

at

**Trinity Methodist Church,
Felixstowe**

Saturday 21st December 10am - 4pm

Sunday 22nd December 2pm - 4pm

**Refreshments: Tea/Coffee
(lunches on Saturday)**

Donations to MRDF Syria Appeal

Daily Bible Reading Notes – Are you getting your spiritual vitamins ??

Why Bible Notes?

We, as a church, are often called the Body Of Christ. We decided that if the body is to be fitter then each part needs to be fitter too. As a society we are obsessed with physical fitness and healthy eating.

As Christian's shouldn't we also make Spiritual fitness a priority?? I have been ordering Daily Bible notes of different sorts, for Seaton Road people month by month during 2014.(I know others get their own too.)

Daily Bible notes can be a source of inspiration, even if you cannot do them every day.

When and How ?

Please let me now if you would like to join those of us who already order Bible notes through St. Andrews Book shop by Sunday December 8th

Thank you,

Howard Fotherby (01394 286089)

Postscript for those already part of the scheme.

It is much easier to convert the orders to annual ones, where people are settled on their choice, although payment would be as you receive them, as before.

Please could those already receiving orders let me know if they are:

- Happy to order for the year
- Wish to continue on a month by month basis
- Wish to change or stop their order.

Seaton Road Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 7th December 2-4pm

**Christmas is coming and once again
we are holding a Christmas
bazaar.....**

There will be lots to enjoy -

the *Chocolate Tombola* –

Stalls – Competitions –

Cakes – Toys – Jigsaws –

CDs – DVDs – Books –

Christmas Gifts – toiletries – and lots more!



Please come along and add your support!

Tell all your friends and neighbours!



You are invited to a
**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**
of Songs & Carols by the
**ORWELL
CONNECTION
CHOIR**

with readings by Janet Dann

Tuesday 10th December
7.30pm
at Maidstone Road Baptist Church
(additional parking at Felixstowe Academy, Maidstone Campus)

Free entrance
Light Refreshments
Retiring collection in aid of
Walton Parish Nursing



All Welcome



You are warmly invited to
Mince Pies at the Manse!
Tower Rd Felixstowe



Wednesday 18th December
10am onwards

David & Elizabeth

Wishing you peace and joy this Christmas