

Brightstar



December 2014
January 2015

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

Services for December/January:



December 7th Rev Diane Smith
9.45 a.m. This service includes Holy Communion
Coffee will be served after this service

4.00 p.m. Circuit Service at Bramford Road

December 14th Prof David Welbourn
9.45 a.m.

December 21st Café Worship! – Rev Diane Smith
Breakfast from 9.15 a.m.
Worship at 9.45 a.m.

December 23rd Carols by Candlelight
7.00 p.m.

December 25th Christmas Day Family Worship
9.45 a.m.

December 28th Mission Area Service at Kirton Methodist Church
9.45 a.m.

January 4th Rev Michael Allen
9.45 a.m. This service includes Holy Communion
Coffee will be served after this service

January 11th Rev Diane Smith
9.45 a.m.

January 18th Mr Roger Fern
9.45 a.m.

January 25th Rev Derek Grimshaw
9.45 a.m.

Dear Friends,

I would like to reflect on “Our Vision”.

I do earnestly believe that God coming to earth in Jesus is the best news ever and is the greatest love story of all. I am also aware that the vision God had in sending his son into our world just grew and grew. It begun with the children of Israel but now has unlimited possibilities and potential.

You will be reading this letter in the run up to Christmas and the New Year, this is a very unique time, a time when people do seem to be more open to the astounding reality of God’s love.

It is my prayer that we can really make the best of what this wonderful season brings.

God bless you in all that you seek to do in his name and the many individuals whose lives are touched by your outreach work and pastoral care.

As we once again prepare to welcome the Christ child in, may we see him in expected and unexpected places - may the vision given to us in incarnation be one that we feel able to share with more and more people.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Love and God Bless

Diane.

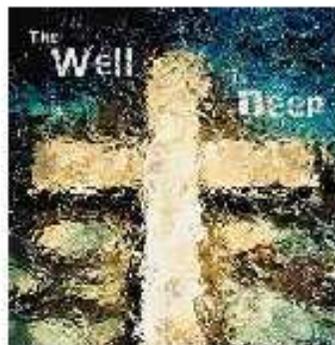


**Churches
Together in
Felixstowe**

You are invited to the
Churches Together in
Felixstowe

Together Sharing Christ Beyond Ourselves

Annual United Service



Theme:
The Well is Deep

**Sunday 25th January 2015
6.30pm**

at Felixstowe Academy

**Preacher: Major David Jackson,
Divisional Commander Salvation Army**

United Choir from the churches

Word Puzzle

T	A	M
S	C	S
I	R	H

No plurals please

4 letters or more (adults)

3 letters or more (children)

Send your list to Robin or Mary

Result of the November word puzzle.....

The nine-letter word in the
November puzzle was
"FIREWORKS"

Orwell Connection Choir Charity Concert in aid of Walton Parish Nursing



**At Maidstone Road Baptist Church,
Walton**

On Tuesday 16th December at 7.30pm

Varied music and readings for everyone

Refreshments served after the concert

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

Kids' Club

The Mission Area Kids' Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month at Seaton Road from 6 – 7.15pm for any Primary School aged children. This term we are looking at the life of Joseph through games, songs, stories and crafts.



The last session this year will take place on 2nd December. We will shortly be planning for the spring term (January to March)

We do have a small team of helpers who are responsible for organising and running Kids' Club on a regular basis, however there are times when we find ourselves short of adult help if one or two of these people cannot make a session. We would like to have a list of people who we could call on occasionally when we are short of help. If you would be willing to add your name to this list and lend a hand now and again, when necessary, please speak to Robin or Mary Pattinson or Heather Carpenter.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas is approaching rapidly so now is the time to think about your options for sending greetings to your Seaton Road church family and friends.

This year there are going to be two options for sending Christmas Cards to friends at Seaton Road.



1. The usual system of posting cards via the post box to be delivered to friends, with a small donation to JMA.
2. Or the option to send a single card to everyone at Seaton Road which can be displayed on a noticeboard at the back of the church for everyone to read, with a small donation to JMA.

JMA (Junior Mission for All) was created so that children would not be excluded from supporting and learning about the mission of the Methodist Church. It is also about sharing the insights of God's people all over the world with children in our churches

The JMA Promise is to:

Learn, pray and serve with the world-wide Church of Jesus Christ

JMA raised **£89,000 in 2012/13**. One-fifth of money collected is donated to **Mission in Britain**.

As we no longer have children collecting for JMA we feel this is a way in which Seaton Road can still make a small contribution to this work.

For those who do not know, and a reminder for others, the usual system as referred to in (1) above is a Christmas card "sorting & delivery service" for members of our church sending cards to those who actually attend Seaton Road. Just put your pile of cards in the post box provided – they will then be sorted and given to the right people (please include surnames to avoid any confusion). This year the postbox will be available on 7th, 14th and 21st December. Remember to post early for Christmas!

VISION for Seaton Road Methodist Church

On 17th November 22 people gathered together to discuss a vision for SRMC. Here are some of the sentiments shared & from the questionnaires.

STRENGTHS: What do you like about SRMC? What do we do well?

- A happy church that welcomes anyone who comes, warm atmosphere, friendly community, social interaction, a good pastoral feel. Children made welcome.
- Visitors are welcomed warmly & spoken to.
- A safe & relaxed place to meet.
- "It's my extended family – we all care for each other".
- A variety of worship styles
- Café Worship (caters for whole family, don't feel anxious if children make a noise). "The best café worship I've ever been to."
- Talented people who share their gifts (talented musicians & singers, talented catering staff).
- A congregation willing to learn new hymns & enter into different approaches & context of worship.
- A tolerant congregation who are willing to try new ideas.
- Thursday Prayers
- Monthly Lunches ("brilliant") ("Would like peas sometimes!")
- Holiday Club / Kids Club / Carols by Candlelight /Christmas Bazaar / Beetle Nights
- Children's Services at Christmas
- Home group is a real treat & where spiritual growth takes place.
- Parish Nursing is a success & doing well.
- Versatile buildings
- "Makes me happy by doing fun things like Holiday Club"
- "You are all wonderful."

WEAKNESSES: What could we do better?

- The 9.45am start on Sundays (too early for some, put back to 11am).
- Café Worship (Reflective group needs a rethink to allow more involvement & discussion. Religion light? Are we reaching the right people?)
- No café worship in August breaks continuity perhaps leading to a drop-off in numbers in autumn & then less atmosphere.
- Too few people doing too much, leading to a feeling of weariness by those "holding the fort", leaving little energy for new initiatives. So activities &

events stay in existence without change because it takes drive to act on new inspiration.

Hence focus on internal roles.

- No thriving youth church (FUNKY not every Sunday).
- Too small a church to fulfil all the roles needed to allow the church to grow. "Little church with big ideas!"
- Pastoral Visiting
- Is Tea & Chat still viable?
- Lack of car lifts.
- "Christmas Lunch is on a school day – I'd like to go."

OPPORTUNITIES: What new areas / work should we be involved in?

- Do we advertise ourselves enough?
- Work in partnership with other churches (do we need 4 Methodist churches in Felixstowe?). More meetings for Walton church folk.
- Monthly Coffee Morning (2 offers to organise) with Parish Nurse drop-in
- Knit & Natter group?
- Daytime House Group or Bible Study?
- Ask community what they want from us.
- Engage with Cage Lane at back of church.
- More get-togethers, social events (outings, holidays, monthly meal).
- Explore different styles of worship (Celtic, Taize, singing session to introduce new hymns) on occasional evening or mid-week.
- Try an afternoon service with faith tea.
- After school club. A Kids Club for older children.
- Build on contacts with children & families.
- More involvement with Brownies & their families (role in café worship, Messy Brownies).
- Refreshments after Sunday services (Every week?)
- Reduce responsibilities on rota to ease workload.
- Church Contact Booklet (like other churches do).
- Circulation of events/news by email to church contact group.
- Pastoral Phone Calls to keep in touch during the week.
- Prayer Tree
- One -off major event for all church to get involved in.
- Find a way for people to develop their faith.
- Setting-up team to help move tables & chairs.
- Encourage people to go on rota for Little Fishes to give a SRMC presence (once a term?)
- Ongoing prayerful overview to look at everything together.

From the discussion during the evening it was agreed that the following areas would be explored further:

Fellowship meals (Jo)

Contact directory, including emailing for events

Messy Brownies

Little Fishes extended rota

Coffee cups

Costing catering suggestions in church

Afternoon worship

Faith tea

Different worship styles

Knit and natter

Stella & Pat coffee morning

Rota of furniture movers

Prayer tree and phone conversations

Slim down rota

Buffet to ask community what it wants

Something to hold our children when about age 10 onwards



Please continue to pray about our “vision”.

What is a live Church?

A live church has parking problems;
a dying church doesn't.

A live church has lots of noisy children around;
a dying church enjoys quiet and peace.

A live church often changes the way things are done to do things better;
a dying church doesn't need to change a thing.

A live church dreams greater dreams for God's kingdom;
a dying church has nightmares.

A live church invites people to risk involvement and new ideas;
a dying church plays safe and never risks anything.

A live church supports world mission;
a dying church says, "Charity begins at home."

A live church uses its traditions and buildings to serve God and people;
a dying church uses people to serve its traditions and buildings.

A live church worships;
a dying church worries.

A live church is filled with tithers;
a dying church is filled with tippers.

A live church forgives and seeks forgiveness;
a dying church never makes mistakes.

A live church looks for challenges and opportunities;
a dying church looks out for problems and dangers.

A live church evangelises;
a dying church fossilises.

*Author: Unknown
Published in various Church magazines*

**A prayer compiled by Charlotte and Megan for
Café Worship!**



Dear God,
Bless the generations:
The tiny babies, fresh from Heaven above;
The grown-ups, travelling life's dusty road;
The growing children, exploring the bright new world;
The older people, enjoying the colours of the setting sun;.
Father of all mankind, make the roof of my house wide
enough for all.
Amen

Churches Together in Felixstowe

Brief minutes from the CTiF Forum Meeting held at the United Reformed Church, Felixstowe on 3rd November 2014.

1. Rev. Ivor Smith (Chair) opened the meeting with a reflection by Nick Fawcett, "Thanks for all God has yet to teach us".

2. Welcome.

Since the last meeting there had been several ministerial changes.

- Rev. Diane Smith was welcomed as the new minister for the four Methodist churches.
- Rev. Caroline Allen had become the vicar at St Mary's, Walton.
- Father David Hennessy had retired to Ipswich and was replaced by Father John Barnes at St Felix.
- At St John's Rev. Robert Hinsley had left and moved to a post in Ipswich.
- Rev. Geoffrey Grant had retired as vicar of Kirton & Falkenham.

3. Financial Report

Margaret Condick (Hon. Treasurer) reported that subscriptions due in Jan/Feb gave an annual total of £920 from 17 organisations contributing from £25 (small churches) up to £95 (big churches).

Payments so far had been £808 which included printing costs of service leaflets and annual fee for new website.

There was a small concern that with costs going up and subscriptions held at the same level that choices may have to be made in the future, including a rise in subscriptions.

The money remaining from LIFT was £133 (with a little more still to come) and the meeting agreed unanimously to donate this to The Laydens Project.

(Rev. Ivor Smith reported on progress at The Laydens project, open since April 2014, opening every day for use by community groups with the intention of serving hot food once the kitchen was complete. The project's areas of focus were education and health.)

4. Website

Rev. David White reported that a new website had been set up using the existing address of ctif.org.uk. The hope was to have a website that was useful, be aimed at visitors, a place to volunteer for initiatives and used by churches to advertise their events by submitting onto a calendar. The cost is £215/year for a properly managed site.

5. Service Leaflets

Rev. David White was thanked for designing a new leaflet that detailed Sunday church services aimed at visitors to Felixstowe. The Quakers had distributed to hotels, guest houses, caravan parks, TIC, BASIC, etc.

6. Update on Felixstowe Academy Chaplaincy

Josh Hunt (Boost) reported that since September 2014 he had become Chaplain at Felixstowe Academy, becoming one of the first non-faith schools in the country to have this provision. There had been much positive feedback from the staff, students and parents for this exciting new initiative which was a “work in progress” and was funded entirely by Boost.

7. Christmas

a) Christmas Posters

“Christmas Starts With Christ” posters to be displayed by churches. The hope is to give a consistent talking message for Christmas across Felixstowe.

b) Christmas Crib

This will be displayed in an available empty shop window in a central town location.

c) Other Christmas Events

i) The URC would be carol singing at Great Eastern Square 13th December fundraising for Shelter.

ii) Carol singing in Kirton village 14th & 15th December.

iii) Christmas Cracker Event at Kirton Methodist Church 22nd November for primary school children.

iv) Diversity Service

Special Advent service at The Salvation Army on 30th November at 3.30pm. This will be an informal, signed service which welcomes everyone to join in celebrating the diversity of the worshipping community.

8. Unity Week 18th - 25th January 2015

CTiF will be calling this “Unity Week” rather than “Week of Prayer” to emphasis Christians coming together. This was an opportunity to inform CTF about the exciting outreach projects happening in Felixstowe which could be held in prayer. (*See church notices and noticeboard for events nearer the time*)

9. United Service 25th January

This is to be held at the new Felixstowe Academy. There will be a United Choir.

10. Forthcoming Events

a) Good Friday at The Triangle is booked for 3rd April 2015.

b) Hustings for General Election 7th May 2015

As with previous elections it was hoped to arrange a Hustings Meeting of prospective candidates.

c) Sunrise Service Easter Sunday 5th April 2015 at 6am

d) Praise on the Prom Sunday 5th July 2015 (subject to building work)

11. Any Other Business

Felixstowe Christian Aid campaign to raise £2500 to “empower Afghan women” which would then be augmented to £10,000 with EU funding. So

far £2000 had been raised. Concert 29th November at Trinity Methodist to raise the final amount.

12. The next AGM and Forum Meeting will be Wednesday 13th May 2015 at Trinity Methodist Church.

Sue Hockenhull and Mary Pattinson

Circuit Arts and Crafts Festival 2015

Next year's Circuit Arts and Crafts Festival will take place at Museum Street Methodist Church Ipswich on Saturday 14th March.

Schedules will be out very shortly and a copy will be displayed on the noticeboard at the back of the church but please do not remove this copy. If you have access to the internet you can download it, shortly, from the church website www.seatonroad.org.uk. or if you have a problem with this please have a word with Rose or Mary.

Please book the date now and once the schedule is available please have a look at it to see what you can be working on during the darker evenings. There is something on the schedule for everyone so please see what YOU could enter. Although actual entries won't be needed until the festival, names and classes people would like to enter will be needed by sometime in February so please don't leave it until the last minute to decide what you would like to enter.

As a church we will again be hoping to enter the singing group class. If you would like to join us please have a word with Heather Farthing.

Rosemary Cross and Mary Pattinson.

Carol Singing

There will be an opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit by joining the Kirton Methodist Church Carol Singing group on Sunday 14th December meeting 4pm at Kirton Church and Monday 15th December meeting 6.30pm at Kirton Church. This is a Mission Area event and support from anyone who can come will be very much appreciated.



There is also an opportunity to join our friends from URC who will be carol singing at Great Eastern Square on Saturday 13th December from 2 – 4pm in aid of Shelter.

Mallet.....

Earlier in the year we received an email from Mr Chris Foster who lives in north London. Following the passing of his mother, Chris had discovered a commemorative mallet amongst her personal possessions and then started on the path of trying to find its origin. The trail eventually found its way to us here at Seaton Road. The mallet was used when the commemorative stone was laid in December 1910 by Chris' ancestor, Miss Doris Thurman. The mallet and the stone, which is still in place in the church hall wall, commemorated the building of an extension to the church.

Chris and his wife, Stephanie, travelled up from London and presented the church with the mallet. Chris also brought along his family tree and various other connections with the Thurman family were discovered.

