

BRIGHTSTAR



JULY 2010

Brightstar is the newsletter of
Seaton Road Methodist Church
Seaton Road, Felixstowe, IP11 9BT.
Contact Revd David Kemble on 282023
or email via our website - www.seatonroad.org.uk

FROM THE MANSE.....

Dear Friends,

We all love new things!

Five years ago now I bought my very first 'new' car – my previous vehicles have all been second hand! I was so excited and for the first few weeks I regularly washed it, taking great care to clean every inch of its paintwork! How-



ever new things soon lose their 'freshness and novelty', take a look at my car today - thank goodness it's a colour that doesn't easily show the accumulation of dirt over a long period of time!

In our throw away society today's best becomes tomorrow's cast-offs and the sense of newness soon disappears. However, there is one thing that although it's as old as time itself never loses its freshness and newness and in fact is renewed each day, GOD'S LOVE. I was reading the book of Lamentations recently and in chapter 3, verses 22 and 23, I was struck by these words – *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

We are being told by our new government that for some time to come the squeeze will be on as we reduce our debt of borrowing. It will mean sacrifices by many if not all – income frozen or reduced, cost of items rising as VAT is increased. We may not be able to afford new things for ourselves or our homes or to give such things to others, but in our hearts and lives we can all experience the richness of God's presence and freely share him with others.

May this time be especially rich for you and those you love in knowing that God's faithfulness and love never fade, they are renewed every day!

God Bless You!

David

WORSHIP

Sunday 4th July

9.45am Mrs Margaret Woods

Sunday 11th July

9.45am Revd David Kemble - Holy Communion

3.30 - 5.00pm Praise on the Prom - see page

Sunday 18th July

Breakfast from 9.15am

Cafe Worship 9.45am led by Revd David Kemble

Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th

Kirton Chapel Celebrations - see page 4

Saturday 24th July

6.30pm Farewell Service for Revd Frank Aichele at
Woodbridge with buffet tea from 4.30pm

Sunday 25th July

9.45am Mr Grahame Lindsey

Sunday 1st August

9.45am Revd David Kemble - Holy Communion

Thursday 5th August

7.30pm. Service of Local Preacher Accreditation
for Heather Bentley

Sunday 8th August

9.45am Mrs D Ellis

Sunday 15th August

9.45am Songs of Praise

Sunday 22nd August

9.45am Mr Peter Crick

Sunday 29th August

9.45am Revd David Kemble

Sunday 5th September

9.45am Covenant Service

6.30pm Welcome Service at Bramford Road - see page 15

SUMMER DATES

FUNKY

As usual, we will be having a break from the formal meeting of FUNKY for our young people during the school summer holidays. Our last meeting will be Sunday 11th July (Church Family Weekend Café Worship on 18th) and we will start again on Sunday 12th September.

There will be a special Holiday Club service on August 1st to conclude the previous week's children's holiday club – 'Roll up for the Circus'.

As always the young people will be very welcome to join in worship during these summer weeks. There will be a table at the back of the church with some quiet craft activities, colouring, puzzles etc which they can make use of during the services.

KIRTON METHODIST CHAPEL



Come and join us to celebrate the completion
of renovations to the Chapel

Saturday 24th July

Rededication Service 2.00pm and tea

Sunday 25th July

Family Barbeque from 12.30pm

Followed by a Songs of Praise at 2.00pm

Thank you to the people of Kirton for their loyal support and faith

Contact Mary Greening Tel: 448590

HARVEST

This year our Harvest Festival celebrations will take place over the weekend of 25th and 26th September. We will be decorating the church on the Saturday and holding a Barn Dance in the evening.

On the Sunday morning we will have an all age harvest celebration. The Church Council have chosen to support the East Anglia Children's Hospice Treehouse Appeal with monetary gifts this year.

This weekend is also 'Back to Church Weekend' so we will be inviting families of those previously connected to our church through weddings, baptisms etc. More harvest weekend details to follow but in the meantime please book the date.



PRAISE ON THE PROM

Featuring the CTiF big-band
Ipswich Community Gospel Choir
and guest speaker

Sunday 11th July 2010

3:30pm- 5:00pm

Free bouncy castle from 2:00pm

The Spa Gardens

Just along the prom from the Bartlett

Bring a picnic & your friends!

PRAYER DIARY

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath
James Montgomery (1771 - 1854) H&P557

- July 1 Midweek worship/coffee morning meeting today
- July 2 Little Fishes - Mums, baby & toddler group meeting in the hall
- July 3 Rev Alan Taylor, circuit ministers & local preachers
- July 4 Military personnel involved in overseas commitments

- July 5 Mrs Margaret Woods leading us in worship this morning
- July 6 St Elizabeth Hospice
- July 7 East Anglia Children's Hospice
- July 8 Our minister and dock chaplaincy
- July 9 Our chairman of the District, Rev Canon Graham Thompson
- July 10 Felixstowe Town Pastors

- July 11 Rev David Kemble as he leads our worship today
- July 12 Our partner churches in Walton - St Mary's and Maidstone
Road Baptist
- July 13 Gift Day with strawberries and cream
- July 14 Staff at Norwood MHA
- July 15 Church lunch
- July 16 Heather Bentley and Stephen Caley, lay workers in the circuit
- July 17 Church family weekend....

- July 18and Cafe Worship
- July 19 Seamen's Mission at Felixstowe Docks and worldwide
- July 20 Linda Gledhill & staff with pre-school in the hall
- July 21 Nicky Wright & Parish Nursing initiative
- July 22 Midweek worship/coffee morning
- July 23 Groups that regularly use our church hall
- July 24 Thank God for the ministry of Frank & Gabi Aichele saying
farewell to the Woodbridge area churches as they prepare to
return to Germany

- July 25 Graham Lindsey leading us in Worship this morning
- July 26 - 30 Please pray every day for the Seaton Road holiday
Club, in particular for Elizabeth Kemble and the team that will
run this event and that they may experience God's presence
& blessing
- July 31 Those preparing to lead worship in the circuit this weekend

- Aug 1 Rev David Kemble leading worship here, and later on Orford Quay at 6.00pm
- Aug 2 Users of our Church premises
- Aug 3 Churches Together in Felixstowe
- Aug 4 Circuit ministers moving to new spheres of service
- Aug 5 Heather Bentley - her local preacher recognition service today
- Aug 6 Our minister's work as Port Chaplain
- Aug 7 The work of the Town Pastors

- Aug 8 Daphne Ellis leading worship this morning
- Aug 9 Members of the church fellowship who may be unwell or on holiday
- Aug 10 Catriona Bentley as she prepares to work in Uganda for nearly a year
- Aug 11 Ministers relocating to this circuit - Rev Andrew Sankey & Rev Martin Dawes
- Aug 12 The work of the Leprosy Mission
- Aug 13 Our sister churches - Trinity, Trimley and Kirton
- Aug 14 Town Pastors as they seek to help people in the town tonight

- Aug 15 Those leading our worship and praise this morning
- Aug 16 - 20 Please pray every day for the holiday club at Trinity being led by Elizabeth Kemble and team that they may be aware of God's presence & blessing
- Aug 21 Those administering Circuit affairs

- Aug 22 Peter Crick leading our worship today
- Aug 23 Rev Michael Allen & Peter Taylor and their work helping the sick, disabled and lonely in Felixstowe
- Aug 24 Remember the Tea and Chat initiative
- Aug 25 The future of Level 2 that their efforts to find new and affordable premises may be successful
- Aug 26 Midweek worship/coffee morning and those responsible for leading the meetings
- Aug 27 Community and Macmillan nurses and our local doctors
- Aug 28 Patients and staff at St Elizabeth Hospice

- Aug 29 Students and staff preparing to return to school
- Aug 30 Pray that the leaders of our various midweek meetings and activities may be guided by the Holy Spirit as they plan for the months ahead
- Aug 31 This is the last day of the Methodist year and time to thank God for his presence and help when we needed him most and for times of real blessing

FROM THE VESTRY

Keeping in touch

We are now in the holiday season. Some have already had their summer break, others are still looking forward to it coming and some, for various reasons, will not be venturing away from home this year.

I fall into the middle group as, working in education, I have to wait for the school holidays before I can get away. Part of my preparations for holiday, as well as the mad rush of making sure everything we want to take is washed, ironed and ready for packing, is gathering the addresses of those to whom I will send a postcard. Robin doesn't 'do' postcards and doesn't see why we should spend holiday time hunting for the cards themselves, writing them and once they are written searching for a postbox to post them in, all before we return home!!!

I enjoy writing cards and find it a good way of keeping in touch with people who I only manage to write a 'proper' letter to at Christmas, as well as letting family and friends know what we are up to. I particularly like to remember those older people who perhaps are not getting away themselves. One of my parents' well travelled friends, who now because of age, falls into this category, will often write a while after receiving a card to say how it brought back many happy memories of times they had holidayed in the same location. This in turn reminds me of our relaxing time enjoyed, as the letter usually arrives when we are back in the rush of everyday life.

Letter writing, or the lack of it, has been in the news recently as a dying art. I know some of our Seaton Road Church family still regularly write letters but I'm sure for many this has been replaced by text messaging or emails. I use both methods but you definitely put more detail in the hand written message. People have said to me that the correct emphasis was missed in an email and somehow when you have to text a few words of news the excitement of elaborating on it in person falls rather flat or sometimes just gets ignored.

Recently Robin and I visited Chartwell in Kent, the beautiful home of the late Winston Churchill. He was a prolific letter writer and the evidence of such was still obvious from rooms and desks left as they had been in his time. In his day, the letter and postcard dominated communication and telegrams and cables were sent only in emergencies. Apparently he often wrote with his pet budgerigar standing on his desk and the bird would frequently nibble small pieces out of the writing paper. The bird, named Toby, would then get a mention in the letter 'As you can see' wrote Churchill to a friend 'Toby is sending his warm regards'. A snippet

of information you would probably never put in a text message but one which helps you envisage the scene.

Corresponding is a two way thing and if the chain breaks, or loses depth, it is weakened or is easy to lose touch altogether. Corresponding with God can be the same – a short email or text type prayer is often all we have time for to keep in touch but we do sometimes need to spend longer in communication with Him to expand on the details and more importantly be open to receive His message for us.

So if you are fortunate enough to be going away during the next few weeks think of those who cannot leave their homes and perhaps brighten someone's day by dropping them a short line on a postcard and of course don't forget to keep corresponding with God.

Enjoy your summer however you spend it and hopefully the warm, longer days will renew, refresh and recharge us all for the autumn.

Every blessing

Mary

*Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.*

*Ever-listening God
give me the faith to trust in you,
the patience to listen to you
and not tell you what I think you should do.
Help me to pray the words
'Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven';
and having prayed this way
may I accept your will.*

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FELIXSTOWE

A brief report from the Annual General Meeting and Forum meetings which took place on 18th May at the United Reformed Church.

After opening prayers and a reading from Daniel chapter 7 **the retiring Moderator, Andrew Marfleet**, gave his report on the last year. Andrew felt his role had been one of encouraging and enabling the members of the 23 CTF churches to work together as a team. He reflected on past events and groups in Felixstowe that CTF supported, including:

- Last summer's Praise on the Prom
- The January United Service and week of prayer
- The Good Friday Triangle service and the Easter morning Sunrise service.
- The Hustings
- BOOST (Felixstowe Youth worker Trust)
- FTCCOP (Felixstowe Trust for Christian Care of Older People)
- Town Pastors
- Parish Nursing
- Pregnancy Crisis
- Fairtrade Forum

Election of Officers:

Moderator – Margaret Condick
Deputy Moderator – Andy Piper
Secretary – Mandy Thomas
Treasurer – Gordon Cooper

Margaret, the new Moderator, told us a little about herself. She has been a member of Kirton Parish Church for 39 years and when CTF was formed in 1992 became their representative. She was the secretary for 5 years and produced a quarterly CTF newsletter with Albert Chilton. She went on to take up the paid position of County Ecumenical Officer for Churches Together in Suffolk. Since retiring from that post she has organised the Hustings and is now looking forward to looking at the gaps and broadening the emphasis of CTF to help us to work and witness together. Margaret is happy for people to contact her (*details available from Rose or Mary*). *We wish Margaret every blessing for her time spent in this work and know the wealth of experience she brings will be invaluable.*

Updates

□ Rev Michael Allen of FTCCOP spoke of their work to reassure elderly people who sometimes felt unwanted, uncared for or lonely. They were considering a more friendly name.

□ Andrew Marfleet updated us on Parish Nursing. Jane Pears from Maidstone Road Baptist Church has been seconded to Aldeburgh for 6 months and Nicky Wright from Seaton Road has been appointed to replace her during this time. The 'Hospital to Home' scheme is now up and running with volunteers from CTF. More volunteers are needed for that and also for the 'chair based exercises'

□ Town wide prayers take place on the 2nd Monday of the month at the River of Life Coffee Shop in Hamilton Road, starting at 10am. Everyone is welcome.

□ Rev David Kemble gave a resume of the work of Felixstowe Town Pastors. Since they started on 10th April good reports had been received from the police, shopkeepers, night time economy and general public.

□ Rev Robert Hinsley spoke of the work of Adrian Wolton (FYWT) and BOOST. The BOOST bus is up and running and out 3 evenings a week visiting the Skate Park, the Leisure Centre and Deben High School. Over 200 young people visit the bus each week. They have funding until September but further funds are desperately needed as it costs £1500 a month to run the bus, insurance, diesel and Adrian's salary.

Other business and news

□ Peter Dawes gave information of 'Shared Interest', a scheme of investing in a fairer world to provide finance for farmers in less wealthy countries.

□ Loraine Stiff told us of X-site a Scripture Union initiative used at Ranelagh Road Christian Fellowship.

□ Andy Rayner has received the Mayor's award for services to the community for his work on the school recording programmes over the past 17 year which has raised just over £100,000 for Tearfund.

□ Praise on the prom 2010 will be held on Sunday July 11th (see details elsewhere in Brightstar).

Mary Pattinson.

MORE SUMMER DATES

2010 GIFT DAY (with strawberries)



Tuesday 13th July from 7.30 pm

Everyone connected with the church should have had an invitation to our Gift Day on Tuesday 13th July. Please come along to share in coffee or tea with strawberries and cream. If you have missed out on an invitation please come anyway to join in the fellowship. And even if you feel unable to make a gift at this time you will, of course, still be very welcome.

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST CYCLE RIDE



Saturday 11th September

Please put 11th September 2010 in your diaries as we will once again be participating in the Historic Churches Cycle Ride. If you are planning to ride, see Malcolm for sponsor forms. If you are not riding but can record cyclists as they arrive at Seaton Road, keep an eye out for the signing-in rota that will be going up in the vestibule over the summer. Please be generous with your sponsorship of our riders.

HARVEST BARN DANCE

Saturday 25th September
with food and live music.

Book the date now!!



The Methodist Church
Ipswich Circuit
'At the Heart of Community'

WELCOME SERVICE

for Rev Andrew Sankey & Rev Martin Dawes

Sunday 5th September
Bramford Rd Methodist Church
6.30pm

Preacher: Rev Canon G. Thompson
Chair of East Anglia District

Praise from 6.10pm with the Circuit Musicians





Aaron and Jen on their wedding day

BRIGHTSTAR

Thanks to Howard for the picture on the front cover. I hope that we will be seeing more of his images in the coming months.

There will be no Brightstar in August, but please let me have your contributions for the September copy by Monday 30th August

Heather F