

Brightstar



July / August 2013

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 July and August:

July 7th Mr Peter Crick
9.45 a.m. Coffee will be served after this service

July 14th Mrs Mary Dixon
9.45 a.m.

July 21st Café Worship!
Breakfast from 9.15 a.m.
Worship at 9.45 a.m.

July 28th Rev David Kemble
9.45 a.m. *Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion*

August 4th Rev David Kemble
9.45 a.m. *Holiday Club celebration*

August 11th Mr Bryan Nichols
9.45 a.m.

August 18th Café Worship! - Mrs Heather Bentley
9.45 a.m.

August 25th Rev David Kemble
9.45 a.m. *Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion*



Dear Friends,



We have just celebrated 150 years of Methodism in Walton and as I continue to reflect on that day I am led to give thanks to God not only for those who gave much of their time and faith in making the day very special but also to the faithful of every generation that led us to that point. I am reminded of their journeys of discipleship which influenced them to be pioneers in beginning and sustaining a faith community in these parts. No doubt their journeys were similar to our own, which contained many joyful experiences and also many struggles along the way. I suspect they were influenced in turn by events in their history to which we can all give praise to God such as the Israelites journey towards the Promised Land. It was a journey that required them to put their trust in God and in God alone in order to reach their destination.

We continue on our journey of faith in 2013, giving thanks to God to those who have gone before us in shaping the Church we are today and also as we look towards the future and our destiny. There will be many challenges ahead just as there has been in past generations but there is something very precious and unique about a group of people who put their trust in God and His Son Jesus Christ especially through the trials and tribulations of life and even its joys and celebrations. Let us therefore continue to be shaped by our experiences of God as we reflect on what our faith means to us and how it is worked out in our daily living as we share what we believe with those around us.

During what we hope is a belated warm summer please find time to consider prayerfully what part God is asking you to play in His Church of today? There are many opportunities which I will gladly share with you in serving God in Walton, the wider Felixstowe Mission Area, Methodist Circuit and District. Lastly and very importantly my grateful thanks to all who have served and continue to serve their God in many faithful ways.



Love in Christ

David

2013 Gift Day (with strawberries)



Tuesday 9th July from 7.00 pm

Hopefully everyone connected with the church should have received a letter of invitation to our Gift Day on Tuesday 9th July. Please come along to share in coffee or tea with strawberries and cream. If your invitation has gone astray 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.

From the Vestry

Angel Spotting!



Do you believe in Angels ? I do.

Angels have got rather a bad press in the last few decades. Their traditional fluffy white garments and cuddly alien status has tended to make them seem like the stuff of fairy tales and therefore of no real relevance to down- to- earth living today. Like the unicorn and the dodo they are figments of the past in many peoples' mind. Mind you they did a lot of good in the past and even the most rational of adults seem to be happy to see Gabriel and his friends resplendent in tinsel at Christmas every year!

But more seriously, I think we miss out on a lot if we feel that angels are confined to the pages of our Bibles. For they were and are God's agents, even today.

Angels in the Bible come in many forms and serve many roles. There are the traditional ones flying around the temple in Isaiah ch 6 but they also turn up in less dramatic form in a host of other stories. The word angel really means messenger, no more than that. God's messengers they were, coming to deliver all sorts of messages from God to ordinary and extra ordinary people who might have had a heart attack if God himself had turned up!

They bring good news of babies to be born .(Luke 1)

They try to stop people doing things that aren't what God wants (Numbers Ch 22)

They take away danger when things get scary (Daniel 6)

They release people from chains and imprisonment (Acts 5)

They bring comfort in grief (Matthew 28)..... to give but a few examples.

If angels are God's messengers, and God continues to work in our world today through his Holy Spirit then there is no reason whatsoever to assume that angels have been phased out. However like all good institutions they may have been rebranded so that we don't always recognise them for what they are as the fluffy wing uniform has been replaced with something more up to date.

It is my belief that they are with us and that we can encounter them every day if only we open our eyes to their presence among us. Never mind listening for the beat of heavenly wings ..when last did someone turn up in the nick of time to help you out of a tricky situation? When did someone bring you longed for good news ? When did a friend or stranger stop you doing or saying something you might have regretted, or suggested an alternative way of looking at a problem? When did someone suggest a coffee when you needed to talk? Friend or stranger, expert or even child , there is a fairly good chance that they were messengers from the God who loves us all so much.

In my experience , as I try to navigate the tricky human journey I have been astounded at the number of helping hands that I have and still do receive. And I genuinely want to thank God for his continual blessing through his agents whatever shape or form they come in. It lifts my spirits so much when I realise often on reflection that I have met one.

I am reminded constantly of my father's last real words to me as they wheeled him off to an operation from which I firmly believe, he knew he would never recover. He looked at the nurses, one at the head and one at the foot of his trolley, looked at me and said 'Don't worry about me, I have these lovely angels to look after me!' Since then I have treated all nurses as angels unless they prove otherwise!!

Enjoy your angel spotting , and let me know if you see any!

Heather B

Praise on the Prom

Churches Together in Felixstowe have planned a 'Praise on the Prom' event on the afternoon of Sunday 21st July. Despite the building work going on it is hoped to be able to hold this in the Spa Gardens. Look out for further details on the posters.

Churches Together in Felixstowe

A brief report from the Annual General Meeting and Forum meetings which took place on 23rd May at Seaton Road Methodist Church.

Robin Pattinson opened the meeting with a welcome and prayer.

Moderator's Report

Margaret Condick started her report, as her third year as Moderator, by wishing CTF a happy 20th birthday. The original 13 churches who signed the covenant has now increased to 22 churches and each church received a new covenant at this year's Unity Service. Margaret reflected on events of the past year and groups in Felixstowe that CTF supported.

Treasurer's Report

This year's receipts and expenses had both been less than last year's and we were left with a balance of £2011.

Election of Officers:

Moderator – vacant

Deputy Moderator – Andy Piper

Minute Secretary – Sue Hockenhull elected to take over from Margaret Bale who was standing down.

Treasurer – After 7 years Gordon Cooper wishes to stand down. Margaret Condick was elected in his place.

Steering group approval: Andy Piper, Rev David Kemble, Sue Hockenhull. Margaret Condick and Barbara Lamberton.

Matters Arising from previous minutes.

- **Felixstowe TV.** Rev Mark Reid is willing to film CTF services and put them on You Tube and CTF website.
- **Waiting for Christmas.** Over £50,000 raised for Tearfund to support a clean water project in Malawi.
- **Costa Coffee Shop Project** is on hold at the moment.

Recent Events

- **Christmas.** URC organised carol singing at Great Eastern Square and have invited other churches to join them in future years. Andrew Marfleet suggested 'Dressing the Scene' whereby people dress up to form a nativity scene and have their photo taken. CTF to consider for the future. The 2012 Christmas posters (Hope) had proved popular and most churches had displayed them (thanks to David Dyer)
- **January United Service.** Numbers were down because of the severe snowy weather. Rev David White had set up a united churches choir which was enjoyed. Thanks to Rev Robert Hinsley and Margaret Condick for organising
- **Week of Prayer.** Also fewer people due to the continued snow and ice. Thanks to Sue Hockenhull who will now step down from organising this event.
- **Good Friday** at the Triangle. Well attended with positive feedback. Good to have BOOST taking part. Some felt it needed to be shorter as people were standing in the cold. Penny Brinkley offered to do signing for next year. Thanks to Andy Piper, Andy Rayner and Tony Scarlett.
- **Easter Sunrise Service** had gone well with a good attendance despite the clocks going forward that day.

Forthcoming Events

- **Praise on the Prom** planned for Sunday 21st July (afternoon) in the Spa Gardens even though there is building work at present and this event has been cancelled for the past 2 years due to bad weather.
- **Summer Social.** Margaret Condick offered her garden for a bring and share tea. Late August date preferred by meeting.

Serving/evangelising our local community

Reports had been received from Felixstowe TV, Hope Trust, Walton Parish Nursing, LIFT, Felixstowe Listening Service and Salvation Army.

- **LIFT** (Life in Felixstowe Together) involves people from several churches and is looking at ways to address poverty and

homelessness in Felixstowe. Aims were to produce a database of provision, channel collections of food via Salvation Army and BASIC and encourage donation of food parcels from the churches.

- **BOOST** (youth work). Josh Hunt thanked churches for their continued support.
- **Felixstowe Town Pastors.** Philippa Kichenside thanked churches for support and said there was a new recruitment drive for pastors and base prayers.

Other matters

- **CT in Suffolk Tent** will be at the Suffolk Show.
- **Christian Aid.** House to house collections had raised £5000 but more collectors needed.
- **Welcome Packs.** Town and Walton packs available. Brian and Penny Cutler to make some up for new housing on the sea front.
- **Suffolk Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride.** 2nd Saturday in September. Churches were not only encouraged to take part but also to apply for funding for building projects.
- **IF Campaign** (Enough food for everyone IF...) during the 2013 G8 World Hunger Summit in Ireland. Rev David Kemble encouraged meeting to support this by sending postcards to the Prime Minister asking for fair distribution of food.

Rev David Kemble expressed thanks to Margaret Condict for her 3 years as Moderator before closing the meeting with prayer.

Mary Pattinson

Methodist connexion news

This year's Methodist Conference will be held at Methodist Central Hall in Westminster, London from 4-11 July.

The Conference is a gathering of 306 representatives drawn from each Methodist district, along with some who have been elected by the Conference, together with some ex officio members, and international, ecumenical and youth representatives. It is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world.

Live video of the main Conference debates will be streamed online and people can watch the debates later through the Conference website too. There will also be regular Conference updates on Twitter (#methconf) and Facebook.

On Saturday 6 July the induction of the president (Ruth Gee) and vice-president (Daleep Mukarji) of the Conference will take place. Please remember the Conference in your prayers and especially Deacon Georgina Brooks from Ipswich as she is ordained.

Suffolk Historic Churches Trust

Cycle Ride

Saturday 14th September



Please put 14th September 2013 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.

150th Church Anniversary

There were times that some of us doubted we would ever get everything organised in time but we made it!!!!

Sunday 30th June was a day of celebration in the life of Seaton Road Methodist Church Felixstowe (formally known as the United Methodist Free Church, Back Lane, Walton) as we gave thanks for 150 years of Methodism in this place, firstly in the old church from 1862 and in our 'new' church from 1937.

Using the Bible passage of 'I am the Vine and you are the branches' (John chapter 15) David looked at the 'Past, present and future' of our church. Some of the congregation were dressed up in fashions since the 1860's and we even had the Brownies wearing uniforms from days gone by. After the service people's memories were prompted as they looked at photos of our past ministers and various church events over the years. How people had changed – little ones had grown up, some grown ups had grown outwards and we recalled when some men had hair!!!!

We were pleased to have representatives from Trinity, Trimley and Kirton Methodist churches and also Walton Parish and Maidstone Road Baptist Churches joining us for the occasion. Our Parish Nurses Lorna and Marilyn were also able to join us and, together with the Brownies and leaders, we had a wonderful church family event aging in range from 4 months to well over 90 years.

About sixty people stayed for the bring and share lunch and conversations sparked more memories. Following the lighting of the fifteen candles (one for each 10 years) the 'cake', which

was in fact 150 little cakes (made by Heather Farthing and her three daughters Karen, Hollie and Lindsey) to form the numbers one-five-zero, was shared (see front cover).

The day finished with a group photo taken out in the sunshine which hopefully the future members of the church will look at as they celebrate the 200th anniversary!

Events like this don't just happen and we give huge thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the day so special.

We now look forward to planning for the future and to continue our witness and outreach in the community around our church building as we worship, care and share in God's love.

Booklets of memories and a brief history of the church, and coasters showing the old and new buildings, are still available.



DATES

July 9th Tuesday – Seaton Road Gift Day
7pm.

July 12th – 14th - Seaton Road Church
Family Weekend at Ditchingham

July 20th Saturday – Mission Area event at
Trinity. 2 -4pm. 'Walk about town' quiz and teas and coffees.

July 21st Sunday – CTF Praise on the Prom afternoon. Spa
Gardens.

July 29th – Aug 2nd - Seaton Road's Holiday Club Jungle Jamboree

August 3rd Saturday – Alan and Dorothy Taylor's leaving event at
Bramford Road at 6.30pm as Alan retires as our Superintendent
Minister

August 4th Sunday – Seaton Road Holiday Club Extra 9.45am.

August 6th Tuesday – Kirton Fun Day

August 12th – 16th – Trinity's Holiday Club

August 31st Saturday – Welcome service for the new Circuit
Superintendent, Rev Derek Grimshaw at Museum Street, Ipswich
6.30pm.

September 1st Sunday – Seaton road Covenant Service 9.45am

September 14th Saturday - Suffolk Historic Churches Cycle Ride

September 15th Sunday – Seaton Road Harvest Café Worship

October 16th Wednesday – Seaton Road Church Council 7.30pm.

For other dates see also the Mission Area Dates' diary for June -
August.



Mission Area Social Event – ‘Quiz about Town’

On Saturday 20th July there will be a Mission Area social event at Trinity from 2 – 4 p.m. There will be ‘walk about town’ based quiz taking the form of a series of questions, for which you will need to explore Hamilton Road to collect the answers. If you prefer not to take part in the quiz you are welcome to stay at Trinity to share a cuppa, cake and chat.



This is a fun event to which everyone is invited and will give the Mission Area churches an opportunity to get together.

Hopefully Seaton Road will be well represented. We look forward to seeing you there.

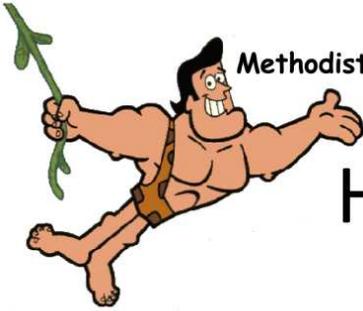
Worship Leader Course

A course for those considering becoming a Worship leader will be run between January and June 2014 by The Reverend Margaret Millar, Nichola Glasse and William Glasse.

Venue to be confirmed depending upon attendees.

Please contact Margaret Millar for details of dates and to book a place, by 1st November 2013 – at millarmargaret@hotmail.com or The Lodge, Wilford Bridge, Woodbridge, IP12 3DH.

Please note that all contributions for the September edition of Brightstar should be with Robin and Mary by Sunday 18th August. Thank you!
Please note this is slightly earlier than usual
email: robin.pattinson@btinternet.com



Methodist Churches Felixstowe

Holiday Club

JUNGLE JAMBOREE!



Seaton Rd Methodist Church

29th July - 2nd August 10.00-12.30



For Children at Primary School £2 per day

Booking Essential - Please phone Liz - 01394 282023

or go to www.seatonroad.org.uk