

BRIGHTSTAR



MARCH 2013

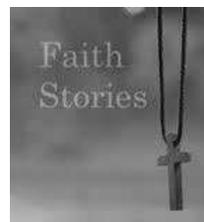
*Brightstar is the newsletter of Seaton Road Methodist Church
Seaton Road, Felixstowe, IP11 9BT.*

*Contact the minister, Revd David Kemble, on 282023
or email via our website - www.seatonroad.org.uk*

FROM THE MANSE....

Dear Friends,

As March begins, we find ourselves well into the time of Lent, and looking ahead to Easter and beyond. As we go through Lent, Holy Week and Easter, we hear and tell again the stories of our faith.



I remember as part of my training for the ministry compiling a *Gospel and Context* project by looking for the good news among the stories I'd heard while visiting chapels, circuits and their communities over an 18 month period. I'd heard stories of an almost lost business employing 80 people being saved by a last minute co-operative made up of determined workers; I'd heard stories of different circuits and churches brought together (with a heady mix of excitement and pain); I'd heard stories of communities which have changed greatly and those which haven't; I'd heard stories of hopes and fears.

I like stories – I like telling them and hearing them. I believe stories are powerful, for they often show how we think about ourselves and think about others. We could rattle off a load of statistics about our church and community, but it's the stories we tell which really get to the heart of things. So, what story do we as the people of God tell here in the Felixstowe Mission Area? Which story of God resonates with our stories?

Thinking about God's story in our lives and our world, perhaps the most powerful story of challenge, change, transformation and hope is that of the Easter story. Yet, we can only get to the glory of the resurrection by passing through Holy Week and experience the last few days that our Lord was to spend on earth in physical form.

This year, as in the past, we are holding services during Holy Week in all four Mission Area churches beginning at Trimley on the 26th March which we hope will help us identify more fully with God's Story. The overall theme poses the question "*What is Holy Week all about?*" and



then we'll search for answers each night by focusing on God's Justice, God's Power, God's Community and God's Love! I do hope you are able to join us at all four services or as many of them as possible.

As people who claim to be followers of a risen King let us rise to the challenge in living out the story which God has written for us! The exciting thing about His story is that new chapters are being written all the time!

I can't wait to hear the stories we will experience and write this year!

Blessings to you and your family this Lent, Passion and Eastertide!

Yours in Christ

David

WORSHIP

Sunday 3rd March

9.45am Revd Michael Allen

Sunday 10th March

9.45am Mothering Sunday Service
led by Robin & Mary

Sunday 17th March

9.45am Cafe Worship with breakfast from 9.15am
Led by Revd David Kemble

Sunday 24th March

9.45am Richard Brooks

Sunday 31st March

9.45am Revd David Kemble

Sunday 7th April

9.45am Janet Foster



FROM THE VESTRY

This is dedicated to my son-in-law Adam, who sadly lost his mum, Val Leeming, recently. And so the following has meant a lot to me recently.

It is hard to walk beside someone and feel their pain,
we don't always know what to do
or what to say,
and in the being there for them
we feel our own inadequacies,
we feel our own tiredness,
our own anxieties.

O Lord,
Teach me to fully enter into the pain of others without becoming
overwhelmed.
Teach me to weep with those who weep,
That both of us might be touched and healed,
Or at least know the beginning of the healing work.
Reach into my hurting places,
That I might see how you comfort once again,
Model your care in my life
-remind me how to do it and I shall seek to be your disciple and do
likewise.
Amen.

(This prayer came from 'Gifts for Healing' a book written by Michael Fulljames and Michael Harper)

God we thank you for the ability to look and to wonder.
We thank you for the ability to imagine and ponder
and to see beauty in the midst of despair,
to see light in the midst of darkness,
to feel the touch of your breath,
the sweetness of your embrace,
to know and to recognise your loving care of us all,
always and everywhere.

Amen.

Shirl

EASTER AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

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 'What is Holy Week Really About?' Looking at God's Justice, God's Power, God's Community and God's Love.

All services will start at 7pm and will take place in the churches as follows:

Tuesday 26th March – Trimley

Wednesday 27th March – Trinity

Maundy Thursday 28th March – Seaton Road

Good Friday 29th April – Kirton.



On Good Friday the service at Kirton will be preceded by a bring and share 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 leading up to Jesus' Crucifixion.

On Easter Day Rev David Kemble will be leading a Family Communion Service at Seaton Road at 9.45a.m. Coffee will be served after this service.

Our church decorations for Easter will be different this year. We will not be decorating with flowers on the Saturday but everyone is asked to bring a small bunch of daffodils (or other flowers) on the Sunday morning. To follow the theme of 'Transformation' these flowers will be put into awaiting vases on the window sills during the service. We will still have the usual cross at the front of the church into which everyone is invited to place a flower in memory of a loved one. Again this will be a part of the service so hold onto your flowers and do not place them in the cross before the service. After the service the flowers will go to some of our church family who are unable to get out so could pastoral friends please help out with this distribution.

OTHER EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday morning – Churches Together in Felixstowe's service at the Triangle at 11.15am.

Easter Day – Churches Together in Felixstowe's Sunrise Service at 6.15 a.m on the promenade by the Town Hall.

RETIREMENT

For the past several years Heather Bentley has been the Felixstowe Mission Area Pastoral Lay Worker. This has been a voluntary post appointed by Circuit.

Heather has decided that now is the time to step down from this post, for a variety of reasons.

The Mission Area is extremely grateful for all the hard work and dedication Heather has brought to this post. To show our gratitude, in a very small way, we are organising 'a cup of tea and piece of cake afternoon' for Heather on Palm Sunday afternoon (March 24th) at 4pm at Seaton Road. Please book the date and come along if you can.

WALTON PARISH NURSING



The Parish Nursing project needs your help! Why not join us in this exciting community outreach by joining our team of Parish Nurse Volunteers.

No special qualifications are required & no medical knowledge needed. Rather, you just have to be willing to support, by perhaps just talking with people on a one to one basis to build a trusting friendship. This will help to show God's unconditional love.

Or perhaps you could assist with a GP or a hospital visit. You simply need to be prepared to give some of your time to serve people of all ages. You could learn new skills - training is available with ongoing support.

Are you Interested? Then please contact Lorna Bellamy, Parish Nurse or Marilyn Flower, Occupational Therapist on 07969 901001 or for more information. or send an email to contactus@waltonpn.org.uk Alternatively, please speak to Heather B or Sue Hockenhill.



There are Parish Nursing Drop in Consultations at Seaton Road. One of our Walton Parish Nursing Health Professionals can be found in the church vestibule between 12-1pm on Church Lunch Days. (3rd Thursday of the month). These sessions are for anyone from the Walton Churches or the Walton Community who need a quick word with Marilyn or Lorna.

CIRCUIT ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL

This year's Circuit Arts and Crafts Festival will be held at Museum Street Methodist Church, Ipswich on Saturday 9th March.

If you have entered things please speak to Rose or Mary about getting them up to Museum Street.

Crafts will be on display from midday (after judging) until approximately 3.00pm. Light refreshments will be served during the day. The day will end with a very short concert and the presentation of the winning individual's cup and church shield.

If you are able to get to Museum Street to see the various entries it makes a good day out. Seaton Road's singing group will hopefully be performing in the group entries at 1.45 and 2.30pm. However, if you are unable to make the actual day Seaton Road's entries will be on view in our church hall after the morning service the following day, Sunday 10th March.

**MUSEUM STREET METHODIST CHURCH, IPSWICH.
SATURDAY MARCH 9TH 2013**

PRAYER REQUEST....

At the time of writing we are short of FUNKY leaders for the months of April and May. If we don't get any volunteers for those weeks then, unfortunately, we will not be able to hold FUNKY on those Sundays. We ask that you will all pray about this situation that it might be resolved so we can continue this important work amongst our young people

Robin

SEAFARERS' CENTRE SERVICE

Each year we, as a church, lead an act of worship at the Seafarers' Centre at the Port. Our allotted Sunday is always the first Sunday in April which this year will be on 7th April at 6.30pm. Sometimes we get seafarers joining us, many times we do not, but God is praised in that place and we also receive a very warm welcome. Please book the date. If you would like to take part in the service please see Rosemary or Mary and if you would like to come along to swell the numbers you would be most welcome.

WELCOME PACKS

Don't forget if you are aware of new people moving into the area around your home please speak to one of the church stewards so that arrangements can be made to visit them with a 'Welcome Pack'.

These packs have been put together by Churches Together in Felixstowe and provide information on the local churches in the area and some general information about Felixstowe (library, doctors etc)

Seaton Road, together with Maidstone Road Baptist and Walton Church have a supply of 'Walton' packs for people moving into the area around the three Walton churches.

FAVOURITE VERSES

Thank you to everyone who responded with their favourite Bible verse after my request last month. However, I do not yet have enough responses to compile an item for the April magazine, so if you have a verse you would like to share, (no reasons needed) then please let me know.

All contributions should be with me by Monday April 1st please

Heather F

FUTURE DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY

March 5th Tuesday – Seaton Road Mission Area Kids' Club 6.00 – 7.15 p.m.

March 6th Wednesday – Felixstowe Fairtrade evening - Trinity 7.30 p.m.

March 9th Saturday – Circuit Arts & Crafts Festival at Museum St. Ipswich

March 23rd Saturday – Seaton Road Family Barn Dance 6.30pm

March 24th at 4.00pm Tea and cake thank you to Heather B

March 26th – 31st Mission Area Holy Week services and Easter Day see separate article.

April 7th Sunday – Seafarers' Centre service at 6.30pm - see page 10

April 27th Saturday – Trinity Spring Fayre 10.00am - 4.00pm

May 4th Saturday – Seaton Road Plant Sale

May 7th Tuesday - Seaton Road Mission Area Kids' Club 6 – 7.15 p.m.

May 11th Saturday - Seaton Road Christian Aid Coffee morning 10 – 11.30am and skip clearing morning

May 18th Saturday – Kirton Plant Sale 11.00am – 1.00pm.

June 30th Sunday – Seaton Road past present and future as we celebrate 150 years. Service, AGM and shared lunch.

July 9th Tuesday – Gift Day 7.00pm.

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

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

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

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.

See also Mission Area Dates diary for March – May.events and dates

SITUATIONS VACANT

Shirl Stockley is currently our only Communion Steward. Our thanks are due to Denise who has filled this role for a number of years, but she has now stepped down, and it would be good to have a helper with whom Shirl can share the responsibility. If you would like to know what is involved, then please have a word with Shirl.

We also need another representative from Seaton Road on the Parish Nursing Management team to replace Heather B as soon as possible. Meetings are about every six weeks and it is the group that guides and supports the way Parish Nursing is developing. It is very exciting seeing how God's hand is guiding us and the work is growing. If you feel you could help in this way please let David Kemble know.

BARN DANCE



Barn Dance at Seaton Road
6.30pm on Saturday 23rd March

Admission £5 for adults
and £2 for children - includes a hot dog and a drink.

Live Music provided by the Seaton Road musicians
Calling by Robin.