

BRIGHTSTAR



MAY 2011

*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, The central message for Christians during the Easter Season is to be positive and forward looking followers of our Lord! It is summed up in the Great Commission which Jesus gave his disciples when they met with him following his resurrection.



Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When the disciples saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matt 28:16-20;

How has your Easter been? Over 100 different people attended the Mission Area church services during Holy Week as we journeyed to Calvary! Brilliant weather certainly helped put a spring in our step as we walked from church to church behind our cross each evening before an hour of creative worship! Then on Good Friday morning many Christians met in the Triangle following local services for a joint time of worship and again walks of witness took place from different areas of the town. On Sunday there was the incredible sight of the sun rising over the sea looking like a great ball of fire for those early birds who turned out for worship on the prom at 6am. No-one could doubt the 'Son had indeed risen!' The day continued for many as they joined celebrations in churches across the town.

I believe this Easter has signalled a renewal that will, if we are obedient of our Lord's commission, reach and change hearts and minds throughout our town! Only one thing can stop it – US! We must listen and follow the direction our Lord is leading us towards in the future! And it will take ALL of our efforts to fulfil. Jesus didn't ask a small percentage of his followers to complete his commission – he asks them all – what has he been saying to you? What is he saying to our church? What changes, however difficult they might be to act upon is he asking us to consider so we might continue to be positive and forward looking Christians?

God bless His Easter people with his guidance and love, He is with you always

David

WORSHIP

Sunday 8th May

9.45am

Revd. David Kemble

Sunday 15th May

9.15am onwards

Cafe Worship - on John Wesley

Sunday 22nd May

9.45am

Holy Communion

Revd David Kemble

Sunday 29th May

9.45am

Mr Colin Westren

EASTER OFFERING

The Easter Offering Dedication Service, to which everyone is invited, takes place at Landseer Road Methodist Church, Ipswich on Sunday May 15th at 6.30 p.m. The theme of the service will be "Seeds of Life, Harvest, Hope and Wholeness for all God's children" and will be led by Network members. Light refreshments will be served following the service.

CHURCH FAMILY WEEKEND

If you have booked to come on the Church Family Weekend to Belsey Bridge, Ditchingham in July and would like to start putting a small amount away towards your costs, please see Rosemary Cross who will be running a savings scheme.

FUND RAISING DINNER

There will be a fundraising dinner on Saturday 28th May at 7 p.m. This will be a three course meal and will cost 10. Tickets will be available from Daryl, Kathy or Heather and you will need to buy your ticket by Monday 23rd May. We are inviting our friends from Maidstone Road and Walton Parish Church to come to this dinner too so it will be a Walton Churches event. Please book the date and get your tickets in good time

AFTERNOON TEA

The Computer Club members are organising an afternoon tea (plus strawberries if available by then!) at "The Hut" on Felixstowe Promenade on Sunday 5th June from 2 – 4 p.m. to raise money for the stairlift in our Church Hall. Please come and enjoy a cup of tea and a cake and bring your friends. Also, if anyone feels they could contribute a cake or some scones please let Daryl know.

E100 CHALLENGE

Saturday 25th June : E100 challenge in a day! Mission Area Churches +Salvation Army hoping to read all 100 key passages in one day. Volunteers to read can opt for their passage and it can be read in any version.(Passages will be read in order) Please let Heather B know if you would like to take part.

THE BIBLE IN VOICE AND VERSE

Friday 28th October , organised by St, Mary's at Maidstone Road Baptist Church, with Lance Pierson : an evening to celebrate 400years of the King James Bible through Music and words. Lance is a professional actor who brings with him a vocalist and her accompanist. For more details see his website. Tickets will be available in due course.Lance has been to St. Mary's before and is highly recommended

THANK YOU

Since the last edition of Brightstar we have celebrated Mothering Sunday and Easter and I would like to thank everyone who has helped in any way at either time.

Firstly, special thanks for the Mothering Sunday service go to Archie and Denise who provided the daffodils, Kathy for decorating the church and making all the little nets of sweets, organising the cards and decorating the church windowsills so beautifully, computer club for printing the labels for the cards and finally Daryl, Rachel, Charlotte and Megan for the delicious cakes we shared with coffee following the service.

The Easter period is always one when many people work hard behind the scenes preparing for the various services. I'm sure everyone who attended any of the Holy Week services in the Mission Area would like to join me in expressing thanks to David for all the hard work he put into producing four thought provoking services to lead us through the week and also to Heather for coming up with the idea of walking the cross between the four churches of the Mission Area. For those who managed to join any of the walks it was a very special time.

On Easter Day Seaton Road was full of flowers to enhance our celebrations of the Risen Lord. Daffodils were harder to come by this year but the church still looked very Spring like. Thank you to everyone who helped with the decorations and particularly the Little Fishes for their beautiful Easter garden and FUNKY for their Easter models. Also thank you again to Rachel for providing more cakes, this time little Easter nests, to share with our coffee.

Seaton Road was well represented at the Easter Sunrise service on Felixstowe beach and further thanks go to David who was the speaker at this service. Although initially quite dull the huge crimson ball of the sun rose spectacularly over the sea and the reflection got stronger by the minute as friends from a variety of the Felixstowe area churches joined together to celebrate and praise God's most precious gift to us all.

Mary

MAY PRAYER DIARY

Please keep this list and include the topics in your private prayer time.

The Lord accepts my prayer

Psalm 6 v9

Sunday 8th Rev David Kemble leading worship this morning
Monday 9th The work amongst young people in our Mission area
Tuesday 10th The Hope Trust and its work with the old and infirm in Walton
Wednesday 11th North Africa and Middle East in particular Libya and SuYria and the unrest in the whole area
Thursday 12th Catriona and her work in Uganda
Friday 13th Little Fishes, the leaders and helpers with this group
Saturday 14th Christians suffering persecution in Pakistan and India

Sunday 15th Cafe Worship - those leading our time together today
Monday 16th Our sister churches in Walton
Tuesday 17th Churches Together in Felixstowe
Wednesday 18th Stella Gray and Ethel Wedlake and others you may be aware of needing our prayers at this time
Thursday 19th Church Lunch - pray that the fellowship of sharing and eating together will be encouraging to those who attend
Friday 20th Nicky Wright and Parish Nursing initiative
Saturday 21st Rev Alan Taylor and all circuit ministers

Sunday 22nd Paul B and Heather F - give thanks for their contribution to our worship and praise each Sunday
Monday 23rd Rev David Kemble in his role as Dock Chaplain
Tuesday 24th For the grieving families of military personnel whose lives have been lost in Afghanistan and Iraq
Wednesday 25th Mission Area churches, Trinity, Trimley and Kirton
Thursday 26th Midweek worship and coffee morning today
Friday 27th Le[rosy Mission at work in Africa and Asia
Saturday 28th Ministers and local preachers preparing to lead worship around the circuit tomorrow

Sunday 29th Colin Westren leading our worship today
Monday 30th The groups using our church premises
Tuesday 31st Circuit stewards and those responsible for circuit administration

Prayer diary continued.....June

Wednesday 1st Heather Bentley our Pastoral worker

Tuesday 2nd The work of the Town Pastors as they seek to help those suffering from excesses in their lives

Friday 3rd Christian Aid and the many charities endeavouring to ease the pain of hunger and disease in many of the poor countries in our world

Saturday 4th The work of the Bible Society as it seeks to make scripture available to all whatever their language



The Community Light Orchestra

presents a

Summer Concert

of

Light Classics and Music from the Shows

Conductor: Barry Salmon

Leader: Jean Hudson

Friday, 10 June 2011 at 7.30pm

River of Life Church

Christian Life Centre

2 Carr Road

Felixstowe IP11 2FS

Admission Free of Charge

A Retiring Collection will be taken
in aid of Hope Trust – helping older people

We say: "no-one should be
lonely in our friendly town"

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FELIXSTOWE

As you will see from the details below CTF are holding their AGM on 11th May at Walton Church. This meeting is open to everyone and it would be good to see some Seaton Road folk there.

Churches Together in Felixstowe AGM/Forum meeting
Wednesday 11th May 7.30pm
St Mary's Church Walton

ALL WELCOME

Refreshments will be served from 7pm

PLANT SALE

Saturday 14th May

10 a.m. - 12 noon

Plants supplied by Katie's Garden Centre

Katie's Garden Centre will be supplying us with a variety of plants, including perennials, small shrubs and bedding plants. Those of you who came last year will remember what good quality and good value they were, so please come again this year and tell your friends and neighbours about it. There will also be a book stall and a cake stall and we shall be serving refreshments.

As usual, we shall be needing alot of help on the day so please speak to Daryl or Malcolm if you are free on May 14th and/or the previous day at around 5 p.m. to carry in plants and get the hall ready. If you can make a cake for the cake stall please let Mary know. We shall also need help to do a leaflet drop in the area during the week beforehand.

This event is to raise money for the Church and for the East Anglian Children's Hospices.

Please give your support

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

This year's Christian Aid Week is from 15th to 21st May. As usual, we will be helping with the local house-to-house collection and if you are able to spare a little time then your help would be greatly appreciated. Not everyone "enjoys" collecting in this way but this is a real opportunity to help those in the world who have few choices in their lives. We aim to go out as a group again this year and we shall be meeting up at the Church on Wednesday 18th May at 6.30 p.m. to go out collecting for an hour or so. If you are unable to make that evening but are still able to collect then you can, obviously, go out at any time during the week. Please think about this carefully and prayerfully.

Robin

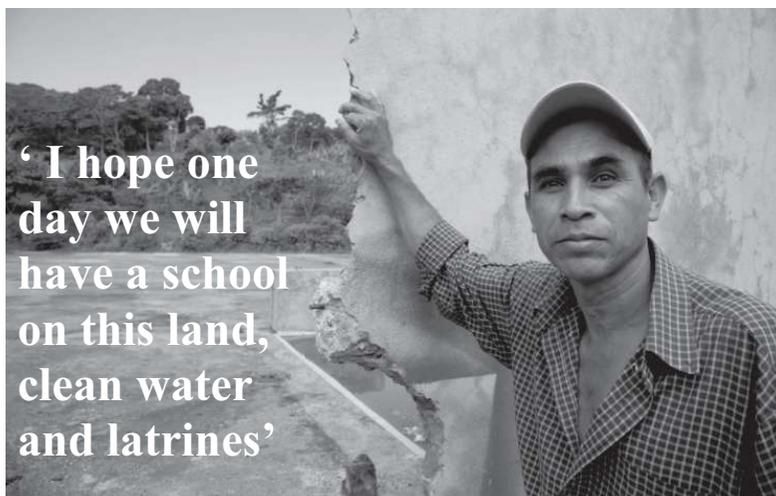
Christian Aid Week 15–21 May 2011

For the people of Jinotega, Nicaragua, coffee isn't just a caffeine kick – it's a means of transforming the lives of entire communities. By getting involved in Christian Aid Week, you can help to make this transformation possible.

Five years ago, Eladio Simeón Pineda's community was a group of poor farm labourers. Then Christian Aid partner Soppexcca (pronounced so-pecks-ka) offered them credit to establish themselves as coffee farmers and supported them to work together as a cooperative. Eladio and the other members of the La Paz del Tuma cooperative now hope that together they will transform their own community.

Even though the coffee farmers of La Paz del Tuma have only been working with Soppexcca for a short time, their lives are already changing for the better. The credit which Soppexcca gave to Eladio and the other farmers has been vital in getting them started. The cooperative has a community fund that will be used to achieve the dreams which Eladio and his fellow farmers once thought were out of their reach.

- **£14** could buy enough coffee seeds to plant a 0.7 hectare plot of coffee and start one farmer on the path out of poverty.
- **£2,170** could pay for a processing plant, allowing farmers to process the coffee they have grown and then sell it for a better price



Eladio stands on the site on where his community hopes to build a school

I hope one day we will have a school on this land, clean water and latrines,' says Eladio.

Eladio knows that transformation is possible. He is driven by the example of a nearby community, where Gustavo Adolfo Talavera and the members of the Los Alpes cooperative have been supported by Soppexcca for 12 years. In that time, they have successfully worked to establish a school and a health centre for their community.

The hopes of the people of La Paz del Tuma are hopes held for the whole community. Eladio works every day towards his dream of a purpose-built school, clean water and latrines for all the farming families of La Paz del Tuma.

Soppexcca's support for coffee cooperatives like La Paz del Tuma and Los Alpes allows communities to see a bigger picture, full of possibilities for the future.

You can be part of the story of transformation which is unfolding right now in Nicaragua.

By getting involved in Christian Aid Week in your own community, you can help to turn the hopes of communities all around the world into realities. You can be part of a movement which is transforming lives.

To find out how, visit www.caweek.org or talk to your local Christian Aid Week coordinator.

CIRCUIT ARTS AND CRAFTS

HYMNWRITING

Following last month's write up on the Circuit Arts and Crafts Festival held in March and Heather Farthing's joint winning entry in the Hymn writing category, this month we print Paul Benyon's entry which was the other joint winner.

Tune: Slane

Heavenly Father, we give you our praise,
Our skills and our talents through all of our days
Be here in our worship, unite us as One
That all may know Father, and Spirit, and Son.

Heavenly Father, we treasure your Word
Passed down through the ages, your voice has been heard;
Instruct and direct us in all that we do,
So all we accomplish is pleasing to You.

Heavenly Father, we ask that our minds
Be constantly challenged by new things we find.
Please show us your purpose in all that we see
And teach us to walk ever closer with Thee.

Heavenly Father, we ask for your peace,
Our world is so troubled by wars without cease;
Bring hope to your children, inspire from above
That all may see Christ in the way that we love.

Heavenly Father, I ask you to be
A personal Saviour, a Father to me;
Fill us with your Spirit like heavenly food
Our vision restored and our wholeness renewed.