

# BRIGHTSTAR



Mary Samuels - see page 9 for Mary's story

## MAY 2012

*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](http://www.seatonroad.org.uk)*

# *WORSHIP*

Sunday 6th May (Holy Communion)  
9.45am Revd. Barry Middleton

Sunday 13th May  
9.45am Mrs Mary Dixon

Sunday 20th May  
9.15am onwards Cafe Worship - on Mustard Seeds

Sunday 27th May  
9.45am Revd Andrew Royal

## *EASTER OFFERING*

The Methodist Women in Britain (Network) Easter Offering Dedication Service, to which everyone is invited, takes place at Bramford Road Methodist Church, Ipswich on Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 p.m. The theme of the service will be "Entertaining Angels" and the preacher will be Rev Bev Barclay.

## *DAVID'S SABBATICAL*

Our minister, Rev David Kemble, has started his three months' sabbatical, during which time he will be exploring God's presence above, below and beside him.

During May, David will be walking the 186 miles of the Pembrokeshire Coastal path, beginning from near Tenby on 4<sup>th</sup> of the month. Towards the end of the month, after the 'God beside' part of the sabbatical, David will be undertaking the 'God below' experience as he snorkels in St Brides Bay.

A sabbatical support team has been formed for David's period of absence. If anyone needs a minister during this time, please, firstly consult one of the church stewards (Mary Pattinson, Heather Bentley, Howard Fotherby, Liz Benyon or Shirl Stockley)

Please continue to remember David, and Elizabeth, in your prayers during this time.

## *WEIGHTY MATTERS!*

I have a real love- hate relationship with my bathroom scales! When we pack cases to go on holiday, part of the ritual includes Malcolm standing on the scales, (as his weight is constant and presentable!) and then my handing him the nearly bursting suitcase to determine whether it will be overweight when it is checked in at the airport. If the total weight ( of Malcolm + suitcase) less Malcolm's weight is more than 15kg we are usually in trouble.

Back to the bedroom, we lug the offending case and review its contents. A few minutes later, we are to be found back in the bathroom repeating the exercise.

Although this is time consuming and stressful, it is infinitely preferable to the scenario which we watched with fascination as we waited to check in our baggage for Uganda last year. Next to the British Airways long-haul check desks there is an area officially designated a 'Repacking Area' ,where families were to be seen, repacking the entire contents of two suitcases into three. The third was obviously a new empty one bought from the luggage shop on the lower floor. What their original cases weighed I dared not think. Around them others were packing odd shaped packages from old battered cardboard boxes into newer, less battered boxes and tying them up with string. All in public view, which, as some items were distinctly personal, must have been quite embarrassing. So when packing holiday cases, I am quite fond of my 'bathroom scales method' of assessing the weight.

HOWEVER ...Sadly, when I stand on them on a regular basis every Saturday morning to weigh myself, the news is not always so good. Middle aged spread and a sweet tooth combine to make it difficult to keep my weight constant, never mind to lose some of it. On these occasions I approach my bathroom scales with reluctance. Perhaps, this week, I kid myself, lots of pounds will have somehow fallen off. Sadly the scales always tell the truth! Occasionally the scales move fractionally in the right direction but more often than not they go the other way.

On these occasions it is tempting to do one of two things ... Either to reset the starting point to beyond zero in which case I can get my weight down to any level I like, or to ignore what they say altogether and stop even consulting them at all!

However the thing about scales is that they tell us the universal truth. It is a truth that will not change where ever you are on the planet, or whatever make of reliable scales you use. The information that they give us is for our own good. Either to avoid us embarrassment at the airport, or to flag up that for whatever reason, our physical weight is not where we would like it to be. ( In some cases this is due to medical circumstances beyond a person's control, I admit.) Sometimes of course they give us reassuring or good news. A baby is gaining the right weight, or those who have been unwell are back on the mend. Even I get the reassurance that things are better - sometimes!

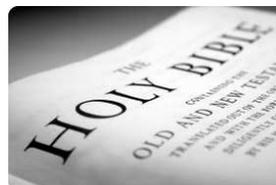
Once furnished with this information we are still free to act on it or not as we choose. Only the bathroom scales and I know the truth, and unless I choose to tell it and that's the way it will stay.

I sometimes think that bathroom scales are a bit like God's love. He too provides us with constant truths for our own good. Sometimes those truths are easy to accept. Sometimes they are not. Sometimes we take them on board and change our ways and sometimes we prefer to delude ourselves and go our own way. However his truth is still there, it is universal and it won't go away, and maybe one day we will realise how important it is for our safety and our wellbeing.

In the reflection at April café worship we were looking at Moses' encounter with God at the Burning Bush. God had weighed Moses up, and needed Him to save the Israelites. Moses wasn't at all keen on the truths he was hearing from God – but he took them on board (very reluctantly it must be said ), and God was able to use him mightily.

Whether you are packing for a holiday , or just monitoring your weight ... look out for God's truths too. For Jesus said : *'If you obey my teaching, you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.'* John 8 v32

*Heather B*



## *DATES FOR YOUR DIARY*

May 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday – Kids' Club 6 – 7.15pm

May 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday - Seaton Road Plant Sale 10am – 12 noon

May 19<sup>th</sup> Saturday – Seaton Road Coffee Morning for Christian Aid 10 – 11.30am

May 19<sup>th</sup> Saturday – Kirton Plant Sale 11am – 1pm + Christian Aid Lunch

May 26<sup>th</sup> Saturday – Trinity. Coffee morning, heritage exhibition and silent auction 10am – 4pm.

June 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Mission Area Queen's Diamond Jubilee event at Kirton. Cream tea and games 2 – 4 pm.

June 12<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Kids' Club 6 – 7.15pm

June 16<sup>th</sup> Saturday – Seaton Road Beetle Drive 6.30pm

July 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – Church AGM after the morning service.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday – Kids' Club 6 – 7.15pm

July 10<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Gift Day 7.30pm

July 14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> – Seaton Road Church Family Weekend at Kirton.

July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> – Seaton Road Holiday Club

August 20<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> – Trinity Holiday Club

September 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Circuit welcome service for Rev Kathy Flynn Bramford Road, Ipswich 6.30pm

September 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Harvest Café Worship.

November 24<sup>th</sup> Saturday – Mission Area concert at Trinity 6.30pm.

December 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday – Seaton Road Christmas Bazaar 2-4pm

## *WALTON CHURCHES - NEWS AND DATES*

The representatives of Walton Churches are still meeting every 6 weeks or so to try to coordinate our witness to the community of Walton. It is wonderful news that now all three churches are partners in Walton Parish Nursing.

As usual we are planning a variety of activities for this summer. All these are open to members of all three churches and would welcome helpers from all three.

United Toddlers Picnic in the Park ( August - Date yet to be fixed) The parents who attend the toddlers groups of all three churches plus friends will all meet in the playground opposite church for a picnic lunch

Holiday Club at Seaton Road – July 23-27<sup>th</sup> Children aged 5-11. Lots of helpers needed!

Away Day for Older People at Maidstone Road Baptist Church- in conjunction with Hope Trust and Parish Nursing. (August- Date yet to be fixed)

Walton Churches Safari Meal - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September

If you feel you would like to be involved in any way please let me know

*Heather Bentley* ( Fx 279998)

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## *CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2012*

This year's Christian Aid Week takes place between 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May. As usual, we at Seaton Road will be responsible for organising the house-to-house collection within our part of the town. Over the years the number of collectors we have has declined so please consider carefully if you could help in some small way with this. Please watch the notices for further details.

However, we have already planned a coffee morning for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May (10 – 11.30 a.m.). Proceeds from this will go towards Seaton Road's contribution to Christian Aid Week so please advertise this to your friends and family and encourage as many people as possible to come along.

*Robin*

## *MEET MARY SAMUELS*

**Mary used to constantly worry about providing enough food to feed her family. It was a daily struggle for her. And, in a country like Sierra Leone where four in every five rural households do not have enough to eat, it's a struggle for many mothers.**

But Mary's life changed after she became involved in a food production scheme created by Christian Aid partner the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone.

She saw the scheme as an opportunity that would bring benefits not only for her and her family but for the community as a whole.

### Working together

Before the scheme began, the people of Gbap used to farm individual plots and were unable to cultivate large areas and produce enough food for themselves and their families. People in the community would often go hungry and their children developed pot bellies.

The scheme changed this by bringing people together to cultivate the land as a collective and to share the benefits too. It also provided the tools they need to help plant and harvest their crops.

The result was improved harvest – previously people were only able to produce two or three bushels of rice but together they can produce more than a hundred. This leaves some farmers like Mary with enough to feed themselves and their families and some spare to sell at the market for a profit that they share.

It has also helped to bring the community closer together. They go out and work as a group and they share the problems they encounter and help resolve them too.

Mary is now the chair of the scheme in Gbap. She no longer needs to worry about how to feed her family; has money from the sale of her produce and says her children are healthy and concentrating better at school because they are now well fed.

But Mary's not stopping there. More people from the community want to join the food production scheme and Mary would like to form more groups so that others can benefit from working together.

## *FUNDING PARISH NURSING*

The 'Smartie Tubes' are doing well. Over £130 raised so far with tubes coming in steadily. Remember that you can exchange a tube full of coins for one full of smarties – just see me on a Sunday.

A number of people have taken a 'share' in our share scheme. Shares cost £4 per month (less than £1 per week), payable either yearly by cheque, or monthly by standing order from a bank account. Letters explaining the scheme went out a few weeks ago; I would like any remaining returns by the end of May if possible. If your application form has gone astray or never arrived please ask me for one.

*Malcolm*

## *MUSICAL STOP PRESS.....*

As you will know, a group of singers from Seaton Road, Kirton and Trinity has been happily learning songs from the musical 'SECOND CHANCE' by Susie Hare - an updated telling of the story of the Prodigal Son.

We have been fortunate to have the experienced advice and input on the drama front from Steve Wyatt and the Trinity Players, and it has now been decided that the production will take the form, not of a full musical, but with the songs interspersed with a dramatic telling of the story. Two dates have now been fixed for the production, which as far as I know is a first of its kind in our section.

Saturday 29th September at Trinity

Sunday 30th September at Landseer Road Methodist Church in Ipswich.

Please put one of these dates in your diary now for what promises to be an entertaining evening. (Robin has one solo line to sing, and is very excited about taking part in a production which does not involve him wearing a teacloth on his head - he would be very upset if no-one comes to watch)

*Heather F*

## *THANK YOU.....twice...*

Now the chair lift has been fitted Archie and Denise would like to thank all those who have helped to raise £8000 for the cost. Special thanks to the Computer Club for their tea and Malcolm for arranging grants

A Dedication service for the chair lift will take place when David returns from his sabbatical. This will take place after the church lunch on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Archie & Denise*

## *...And THANK YOU three times.....*

Despite the very wet weather that April has brought, Meg and I dodged all the showers on Saturday 14th April, and completed our 25 mile walk from Debenham to Felixstowe.

We both enjoyed the day very much, doing the vast majority of the miles on footpaths, and only from Nacton through Trimley and on to Felixstowe on the road. A lot of the paths I had never been on before, and it was good to discover some different places off the beaten track. Our route took us from Debenham, through Winston, Helmingham and the deer park of the Hall, Ashbocking, Swilland, Witnesham, Tuddenham, Ipswich, Rushmere, and Foxhall before joining the road.



Another uplifting experience was the fact that although I had let people know the walk was happening, I did not specifically approach folk to ask for sponsorship. Some is still coming in, but I think the total will be over £700.00, all of which was volunteered by very generous people, as I met them, or who rang up or came into the office to offer their support.

So I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who supported the walk, and in doing so supported Macmillan Cancer Support.

*Heather*

## *BEETLE DRIVE*

We are holding a Beetle Drive here at Seaton Road on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm. Adults £1, children 50p (which will include a drink and biscuit).

It has been some time since we held such an event and I'm sure those of you who have been before will know what a fun evening it is. Those who don't know how to play Beetle just don't know what you've missed! Please book the date now and we hope for a good fun evening.

*Robin and Mary*

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## *METHODIST HOMES - BUNTING KNIT*

Following the success of Posada, at Advent, the Mission Area has agreed to undertake the latest MHA initiative to knit bunting. We are challenged to knit blue, red and white triangles and see who can produce the longest string of bunting.

Trimley Methodist church are organising this on behalf of the Mission Area but individual people and churches are asked to knit too. All our triangles will be added together to form a Felixstowe Mission Area length, the measurement of which will be submitted.

At the time of going to print I do not know the Mission Area arrangements but please do knit your own triangles and look out for further details. MHA are advertising this as a sponsored event but we feel most people will be happier making a small donation as we did for the Posada. Obviously if you wish to get sponsors feel free to do so but please don't feel you must make a monetary donation.

We hope to use the bunting at the Jubilee Mission Area event at Kirton on 5<sup>th</sup> June so everyone can admire our handiwork.

### *BUNTING PATTERN*

Using Double knitting wool in Red, White or Blue and size 8 needles.

Cast on 2 stitches

Knit in garter stitch.

Cast on one stitch at the beginning of every 3<sup>rd</sup> row.

Knit until work measures 22cms (Approx 8.5ins)

Cast off

Triangles attached to tape at 3 inch intervals. (Mission Area will arrange to do this) You may like to vary with some striped triangles – or other imaginative ideas!!

## *THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE*

The Mission Area is arranging a cream tea for everyone from Trinity, Seaton Road, Trimley and Kirton Methodist churches to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

This will take place at Kirton Methodist Church on Bank Holiday Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June between 2 and 4 pm. Each church has been asked to provide some scones so, please, scone bakers let Mary know if you are able to help with this request.

Union Jack accessories and decorations will be in abundance (please also see Methodist Homes article elsewhere in Brightstar) and it is hoped that it will be an informal and friendly afternoon for the Mission Area to get together. There will be some simple fun games for children and hopefully the weather will be dry and sunny so that we can enjoy Kirton's lovely gardens.

Please book the date now and look out for further information during the month.

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## *COLLECT FOR ASCENSION*

Eternal and gracious God,  
Grant us as we believe your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
To have ascended with triumph into your kingdom in heaven,  
So may we also in heart and mind ascend to where he is  
And with him continually dwell;  
Who is alive and reigns with you,  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and for ever. Amen.

## *COLLECT FOR PENTECOST*

Almighty God,  
Who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit on the disciples  
With the wind from heaven and the tongues of flame,  
Filling them with joy and boldness to preach to gospel;  
Send us out in the power of the same Spirit to witness to your truth  
And to draw everyone to the fire of your lover;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Brief minutes from the Circuit Meeting held at Trinity Methodist Church, Felixstowe on 15th March 2012.**

Rev. David Kemble opened the meeting with prayer.

### **Personal References:**

Mrs Doreen Brown on the death of her husband Bill (former Circuit Steward) Sandy Hamilton (Circuit Steward) following major heart surgery in December

Rev Ian Gardner following his major heart surgery

Stephen Caley on the death of his father

Ellen Barber following her stroke.

### **Matters Arising**

Update on Graham Hart's "Walking in the Lakeland Fells". Graham completed this last year for his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and so far has raised £8000 for Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MDRF).

Mrs Elizabeth Kemble's appointment as the Family and Children's worker in the Felixstowe Mission Area was approved.

### **Circuit Superintendent's Report**

Rev Alan Taylor sent his appreciation to churches for all that's done in the Circuit in front and behind the scenes. Alan will give 100% to the Circuit during the 16 months he has left here. He initiated the 2008 document 'At the Heart of Community' and feels it is right that churches have a clear vision of the way forward. The Circuit have engaged in 'Where Next' and the responses, for which Alan thanked individuals, groups and churches as a whole, will help the Circuit Stewards draw up a profile for the New Superintendent's appointment.

### **Circuit Stewards' Report**

Kathy Flynn, a probationer Presbyter, has been appointed for Ipswich Urban Area, with pastoral care of Bramford Road and Chantry (and sharing pastoral care of Bramford with Alan Taylor), from Sept. 2012. Kathy's welcome service will be Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 6.30pm at Bramford Road.

A new invitation committee was appointed at the meeting for stationing for September 2013. *Mr Mike Peck from Trinity has been appointed as the Felixstowe Mission Area rep.*

Rev Ian Gardner will be leaving the Ipswich Circuit in August, after 8 years, to join the Lowestoft and East Suffolk Circuit working with Leiston, Knodishall, Peasonhall and Sibton, Southwold, Wenhaston and Kelsale.

Rev David Kemble is on Sabbatical from 9<sup>th</sup> April – 8<sup>th</sup> July.

Stewards are continuing to support 'Where next', the Circuit Policy review, and are looking at the Walton Parish Nursing project and a possible lay worker post in Ipswich Rural Mission.

Stewards are grateful to Robin Pattinson for offering to provide the Ipswich Methodist Church with a web site.

"At the Heart of Community" Circuit Missions

## Manses

Westwood Avenue manse has not been sold yet but a new manse is in the process of being purchased in Monmouth Close.

Norwich Road manse has no disabled access, no downstairs study and no garage so it may be more cost effective to sell and purchase something more suitable rather than try to update, when Alan moves next year.

## Lay Worker

Proposed Support Worker for Ipswich Rural Mission Area. It is envisaged that there is a need for 2 part time support workers. Initial estimates of the cost over 5 years would be £180k

## Deacon's Report

Ipswich Urban Deacon Georgina Brooks has set up partnerships, links and relationships with various groups over the last year. Links with schools include one church setting up games and going in to hear readers. Landseer Road are working with their Playschool to start a Toddler Group, and Chantry are looking to see if they can set up a partnership with a group for adult literacy.

## Walton Parish Nursing

Thanks to Sue Hockenhull who has done an awful lot of work in enabling Seaton Road to join Maidstone Road Baptist Church in partnership with this project. Now Walton Parish Church are coming on board too

Bereavement counselling course and health drop ins have been organised by the Parish Nurse.

It is hoped to do more work with playgroups and young people.

They now have 10 new volunteers and are looking at employing another PN.

It was proposed by the meeting (and unanimously voted for) that £8000, over 3 years, be given to WPN from the Circuit Model Trust Fund.

## Brantham Project

Due to Ian Gardner's illness the initial project is on hold. Pastoral oversight will come from Ipswich Rural Mission Area and Circuit have diverted £3500 to keep the building in reasonable order and to encourage the people of Brantham with future plans.

## **Other reports**

### Finance

Detailed finance reports were issued and approved. *(These can be seen in the Blue Folder in the church vestibule)*

Proposed change to Assessment Calculation. It is 10 years since this has changed and circumstances in some churches have changed considerably during that time. *Unfortunately the new method of calculation does mean that Seaton Road's assessment will be increasing.*

### Property

Stutton Methodist Church has been sold for £128,000. After expenses and Connexion cut Circuit have £94,000.

#### Local Preachers

Liz Cope, Jackie Howes and Jane Paterson continue their studies and continue 'on trial' for a further quarter.

Stephen Tuthill continues 'on note' for a further quarter.

Heather Bentley has given a presentation 'Engaging with Living water' as part of her continuing development following her recognition as a fully accredited preacher.

The majority of Local preachers and Worship Leaders have now completed the basic Safeguarding training.

A workshop on PowerPoint presentation would be led by Robin Pattinson.

#### Mission in Britain

Churches have the circuit have agreed that this year part of our Min B Fund donations will go to the Talitha Koum appeal

#### Training

3 Safeguarding Courses have been arranged across the Circuit in April, May and June.

#### Ecumenical

Help needed with serving teas and coffees at the Church Together tent at the Suffolk Show on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June. Also help needed with erecting (Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June) and taking down the marquee (Monday 11<sup>th</sup>). Offers to Grahame Lindsay.

#### MHA

New managers have been appointed at both Norwood, Ipswich and The Martins, Bury St Edmunds.

Rev Andrew Royal was appointed the new chaplain of Norwood last October.

#### World Mission

Rev Bev Barclay is looking at World Church work in the Circuit and needs some help with the secretarial part of this work.

#### **AOB**

Synod representatives appointed – Chris Finbow, Diana and Ray Sawyer and Colin Westren.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October the then president of Conference, Rev Mark Wakelin, will be at the District worship celebration.

*If you would like further information from the meeting please see the Blue file on the sideboard in the vestibule or speak to one of Seaton Road's representatives- Malcolm Bentley, Kathy Fullick and Mary Pattinson.*

*Mary*