

BRIGHTSTAR



MAY 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*

DEAR FRIENDS,

Are you called to be a prophet?

Whilst studying at Wesley College I first sang the words to a hymn that now appears in the new Methodist Hymn Book, 'Singing the Faith'. Its number 702 and it goes like this...

***I will speak out for those who have no voices
I will stand up for the rights of all the oppressed
I will speak truth and justice
I'll defend the poor and needy
I will lift up the weak in Jesus' name
I will speak out for those who have no choices
I will cry out for those who live without love
I will show God's compassion
To the crushed and broken in spirit
I will lift up the weak in Jesus' name.***

I found those words challenging then and as much so today. One part of our work, our discipleship, as Christians is to collectively express the compassion of God to human beings in practical ways. In Felixstowe there are a number of ways in which churches do this through, for example, Town pastors, Parish Nursing, Boost, Hope Trust and many more. In addition there are lots of other ways in which individual Christians put this into practice as pastoral visitors, supporting those going through personal difficulties and being involved in groups like The Listening Service, Action for Children, MHA etc. Most of these groups have what we might call an 'individual focus'; that is they seek to help individuals who for various reasons have fallen on hard times. This is very important and part of our calling as Christians.

But there is also something else to do. The prophetic voice is the voice that speaks in a way that challenges the behaviour and structure of society as a whole. It does not just feed the hungry but asks those with power why are there hungry people? It does not just house the homeless but asks about the structural causes of poverty. Significant prophetic work in a democracy is undertaken by ordinary people. When we challenge prejudice, bullying or unjust treatment of others we are doing God's work. When we write to our PM, MP, councillor, newspaper or broadcaster on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves we are doing God's work.

This year the World Hunger Summit is being held in Northern Ireland on June 8th. Charities such as Oxfam, Cafod, Save the Children, Christian

Aid, Fair Trade etc are asking people of all faiths to be involved in a campaign that stresses on world leaders that they is ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE, **IF** we are prepared to share what we have in abundance with others who do not have much.

We can also be involved as a Methodist Mission Area church and individuals by doing one or all of the following:

- Registering our concern by sending a **pre-pared postcard** to the Prime Minister/or completing one on line
- Buying a **IF bracelet** to flag up the issues
- Attending **special events** and rallies on the weekend international politicians are in London.

Watch or listen out for more information as to how you can vent your unease and distress at living in a world where some people simply do not have enough to eat! When you join in the ways suggested above, telling the world how you feel about what is happening - you are being a prophet; just like Amos or Isaiah.

God Bless

David

WORSHIP

Sunday 5th May
9.45am Brian Loader

Sunday 12th May Holy Communion
9.45am Revd David Kemble

Sunday 19th May
9.15am onwards Cafe Worship

Sunday 26th May
9.45am Jane Paterson

CIRCUIT SERVICE

The Methodist Women in Britain Easter Offering Dedication service will take place at Bramford Road Methodist Church, Ipswich at 6.30pm on Sunday 5th May. Everyone is invited to attend this Circuit Service.

FUNKY

We are still short of FUNKY leaders for some Sundays in May. If we don't get any volunteers, unfortunately, we will not be able to hold FUNKY on those days. PleWe are still short of FUNKY leaders for some Sundays in May. If we don't get any volunteers, unfortunately, we will not be able to hold FUNKY on those days. Please continue to pray for this situation as our young people are an important part of our church family. If you are able to fill one Sunday please speak to Liz Benyon.

Robin

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FELIXSTOWE

AGM 2013

Thursday 23rd May at 7.30pm
Seaton Road Methodist Church
All welcome.

150 YEARS OLD

Not many people get invited to a 150th birthday party.....

But in just a matter of weeks time, in June, we shall be celebrating the 150th anniversary of our Church here in Seaton Road. A planning group will be meeting soon to decide on the format for a suitable celebration. If you have any ideas, then please speak to David Kemble or one of the stewards.

With the passing of Archie last month we have all lost a good friend, and the church was full for the Service of Thanksgiving. I felt that Archie was such a character, who had lived such a full and remarkable life, that we should include the eulogy which David Kemble gave, and include it in a format which may be kept.

I know many people keep the Order of Service at such times, so you may like to remove the middle pages from the magazine and tuck them away inside your copy. David called his Eulogy 'The Adventures of Archie'

Heather F

DOUBLE CELEBRATION

Sunday May 19th is not only Pentecost. As if that were not enough, this year it is also Aldersgate Sunday, the Sunday before 24 May, the date when in 1738 John Wesley felt his heart strangely warmed.

From Singing the Faith, No 400.

Word of God, dynamic Spirit,
Breathe upon our hearts today;
That we may your power inherit,
Hear us, Spirit, as we pray;
Fill the vacuum that enslaves us -
Emptiness of heart and soul;
And, through Jesus Christ
who saves us,
Give us life and make us whole.

Voice of God, prophetic Spirit,
Speak to every heart today
To encourage or prohibit,
Urging action or delay:
Clear the vagueness that impedes us -
Come, enlighten mind and soul;
And, through Jesus Christ
who leads us,
Teach the truth that makes us whole.

Fire of God, volcanic Spirit,
Burn within our hearts today;
Cleanse our sin - may we exhibit
Holiness in every way;
Purge the squalidness that shames us,
Soils the body, taints the soul;
And through Jesus Christ who claims us,
Purify us, make us whole.

Michael Seward.

Those words we may agree applied to the way Archie lived his life and our real hope this day is that he has inherited the promise of verse 34 and that he now resides in God's Kingdom, reunited with Joyce his loving wife. We will miss him though and today is an opportunity for us to remember and give thanks to God for a very special Christian gentleman, a loving family member and dear, dear friend.

Archie was born the last of 11 children to Gertrude and George Mayes on 27th July 1920 at 66 Queens Street, the old street Queens Street that was just around the corner from here. He was premature and not expected to survive but thanks to very diligent nursing by his mother and elder sister Edie, he did survive. All his brothers and sisters were given two Christian names but, by the time Archie arrived, his parents could only think of one, Archibald! 66 Queens St. was a small Victorian house with no bathroom, one outside toilet and no heating upstairs. The younger brothers had to sleep in the attic without electric lighting! Maybe his upbringing at that home led to his lifetime love of growing things, for the family had a larger than average garden with a greenhouse, fruit trees and bushes and an area for growing vegetables.

As was common in the 1930s when opportunities for further education were very limited, Archie left school at 14. Initially he worked for a local flower grower, Mr Vince, working in the gardens and helping to make wreaths and floral displays. In 1937, Archie successfully applied for a job as a gardener with Felixstowe Urban District Council in their Parks and Gardens nursery off Garrison Lane, where he learnt how to grow such wonderful bedding plants, an interest that he retained as we can testify here with the bedding plants in the borders outside of this church. Twice a year he would set them out. They were admired by the community, and Archie even went to the trouble of choosing their colours according to the colour scheme of any weddings planned for members of the chapel that year. His work at Garrison Lane, Archie said himself, was a very happy period of his working life.

On 20 March 1937, aged 16, the adventure continued at the foundation stone laying ceremony of this church where Archie first met Joyce Sparrow (also 16). Joyce's home was at Bramford Lane in Ipswich but she was staying with friends (the Masons in Queen Street) as she recovered from a serious illness.

Around this time, Archie first joined the St John Ambulance Brigade attending the cadet training meetings at their Ataka Road hall, begin-

ning an association with St Johns that lasted to the end of his life - but more of that later. Firstly, Archie's War Time Adventures

Archie was only just 19 when he was called up to join the Royal Navy on 1 September 1939 at the outbreak of World War II. Only one month after starting his basic training at Chatham, his St John training and evident compassion for others no doubt earmarked him for medical training in the Royal Naval Hospital, Chatham. Shortly after completing his training, he took part in the evacuation of allied troops from the beaches of Dunkirk. This was followed by operations that were part of the Battle of Britain.

In July 1941, Archie received a draft to join the newly commissioned, Flower Class corvette, HMS Starwort. Before joining his ship, he was granted 48 hours special leave to return to Felixstowe and marry Joyce in this church, the start of a very happy marriage that lasted over 68 years until Joyce's sad death in 2010.

Archie's serviced on the convoy escort Starwort for the remainder of the War, guarding merchant convoys across the Atlantic, in the Mediterranean and to Russia via the cold and dangerous Arctic Sea route around Norway, something that has recently been recognised with a medal that has been added to his collection of military honours. "Join the Navy and see the World" the poster said – for Archie this included Londonderry, Sierra Leone, Russia, Newfoundland, Malta, Egypt, Iceland and Harwich! He was the only medically trained member of the 80 strong crew and was always known as the 'Doc'. He was recently contacted by the son of an American merchant sailor who had been rescued by the Starwort after his ship had been sunk, to express their family's sincere thanks to Archie and the Starwort crew for saving his father and giving them happiness after the War. In a conversation Elizabeth and I had with Archie he told us his medical supplies were at times little more than some headache tablets and sticking plasters. When asked in a recent interview what his main memory of those times was, Archie replied "comradeship". {Archie has left a wonderful description of his time in the Navy that may be downloaded from the BBC History web pages.}

Family life was a very important part of Archie's adventures, setting up home with Joyce after the War. Archie was unsure whether to build on his medical training as a career or to return to his pre-war job at Felixstowe Urban District Council. His love of plants and gardens

ultimately swayed his decision and he re-joined the Council. He also grew his own prize winning chrysanthemums at the family home on High Road West, Walton.

In 1953, two significant changes occurred in Joyce and Archie's adventurous life together. They had the chance to take over one of the Land Settlement Association's horticultural smallholdings at Newbourne and they adopted Denise as a small baby to make their family complete.

The 11 acres at 13 Ipswich Road allowed Archie to be his own boss. Many challenges and much hard work lay ahead for all the family. Archie reared pigs, kept thousands of free range hens for egg production, grew tomatoes and lettuces for London markets and cultivated cereal crops on the open fields. He always had innovative ideas for expanding the tomato and lettuce production aspects of the business and invested when finance allowed for new glasshouses and equipment. It was gruelling work and both the weather and, in later years, the growing competition from the Common Market caused many headaches. In addition to running his business, Archie found time to sit on the Newbourne Parish Council and to undertake LSA management duties that involved visits to the various Settlements around England.

Archie also continued to give much of his time to St John Ambulance and took on ever more senior roles including County Commissioner for Suffolk. In 1985 he was promoted to Commander of St John – a most-richly deserved honour. In addition to his 13 military medals, Archie held the Service Medal of the Order of St John with Gilt Laurel Leaf for over 60 years' service!

In 2007, Joyce and Archie were invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party hosted by the Queen, an event that they both enjoyed thoroughly. It marked a fitting culmination to a lifetime of adventure and service given to others.

Archie and Joyce returned to Felixstowe in the 1980s running a green-grocery shop in High Road West for several years before finally 'retiring' to his large garden and no less than four allotments at Exeter Road! Throughout his adventurous life, Archie has also given so much of his time and energy to Seaton Road Church. Always supported by Joyce, he has served on many committees and helped organise many Church events. He and Joyce were key figures in the project to save the Church Hall from demolition a number of years ago and to restore it with

the help and support of the Church members. Archie and his family have given much to the Church including the chairlift given in memory of Joyce but they have also been supported by the Seaton Road Methodist Church family, particularly in their later years of advancing age.

We must thank Denise for all the love and support she has given first to Joyce and then during Archie's last three years without his beloved wife. Archie would not have been able to live out his last years at home without Denise by his side.

As we can see from the large congregation here today, Archie has touched the lives of many people in the local area, in Suffolk and wider afield. I am sure you will agree with me when I say that Archie Mayes was a very generous and warm hearted man who always tried to look forward and to concentrate on the positive things in life. My description of his life's work that I have tried to summarise today only scrapes the surface of his contribution to our community. He was much loved and will be sorely missed.

May I add in closing something of Archie's adventures with Jesus Christ? His faith was uncomplicated which is not to say it wasn't deep and well founded but just as he knew Jesus loved him so he followed his Lord's example in loving others. I suspect we can all, both young and not so young, testify to being touched by Archie's love in some way through his sense of fun on church weekends or his gentle but sound advice and I'm sure he would like me to say today that we too can look forward to receiving what he is now enjoying in heaven, a continuation of an adventure when we simply put our trust in Jesus and devote our lives to him in love and compassion. May God continue to cherish you, dear Archie this day and always. Amen.

FROM THE VESTRY

Eating biscuits.



Seeing someone (no names given!) at church recently nibbling carefully around the outside of a jam and cream sandwich type biscuit to 'save the best bit until the end' set me thinking about peoples' biscuit eating habits!

There are also those who wolf it down in one go without hardly tasting it, those who dunk it, those who lick the chocolate or cream first and those who savour every bite. I'm sure there are more examples too!

This set me thinking about my approach to God and worship. In 'biscuit eating terms' I think I have a varied approach. I'm sorry to admit that I often 'hardly taste' it as I am in such a rush to do so many things at once (usually church related) but not giving my undivided attention to God. Sometimes I want it softened ('dunked') to make it more palatable and less challenging. Those of you who know me well will know that I would never leave a biscuit even if I had chosen to lick the chocolate off it first (something I would not actually do!) but there are times in life when I only want the best bits – the easy life without sticking at something or seeing it through. Fortunately there are, of course, occasions when I 'savour every bite' and am struck by God's awe and wonder and His amazing love for me. Thinking about it though, possibly my friend had got it right; we should nibble around the outside to 'save the best until the end' when God gives us the gift of eternal life.

I know a big part of the fellowship at Seaton Road is around food and 'biscuit eating' so perhaps next time we share coffee and biscuits you can think about how your biscuit eating habits relate to your relationships with God?

With every blessing to all my fellow 'biscuit nibblers, wolfers, dunkers, lickers or savours.

Mary

BITE BACK AT HUNGER

Christian Aid Week
12–18 May 2013



'It's very rewarding to know that Christians of different traditions are working together for one common aim during Christian Aid Week.' Christian Aid Week volunteer

Thousands of churches will stand together this Christian Aid Week to speak out for change. Some 100,000 committed volunteers will go out and put their faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

This includes Britain's largest house-to-house collection, an extraordinary act of witness – demonstrating to our communities that we care about ending poverty and injustice.

There is enough food for everyone in the world, but one in eight people will go to bed hungry tonight.

This year's Christian Aid Week tells the story of how Christian Aid is helping communities to bite back at hunger through the lens of land rights in Bolivia, new technology in Kenya and innovative agriculture in Zimbabwe.

You can support Christian Aid Week by looking out for local events, and discover how you can be involved by speaking to Robin.

In the Amazon rainforest in eastern Bolivia Christian Aid's partner, the Centre for Research and Training of Peasants (CIPCA), has been successfully working with marginalised indigenous communities in the region of Beni to secure the rights to the land where they have lived for generations.

The communities feel an even stronger link to the land on which they live now that their families have gained the official land titles.

Securing land rights

Elmy Ymanarico, who keeps chickens provided by CIPCA, says: 'These chickens are better than the ones we had in the community before because they produce more eggs and more often', ensuring regular food and income.

Now families are **safe on their land**, they can **invest for the future**, too. Elmy is now able to provide food for her family and sell surplus produce at market

Protecting families

Over the past few years CIPCA has helped more than **1,000 families** to secure legal ownership of the land they have lived on for generations.

This in turn has **protected** them from local cattle ranchers and mining and logging companies who had been trying to drive them off their land, often destroying their crops or intimidating their families.

With rights to the land, communities are now able to look forward to a more secure future and are able to invest their time and efforts in caring for the land and forest in which they live.

Sustainable businesses

As well as helping these communities to gain their land rights, CIPCA is also helping them to increase the amount of food they have while continuing to protect the forest and the rich resources it holds.

By developing new sustainable businesses with the communities, such as growing the region's high-quality cocoa and teaching the communities how to keep hens and woolless sheep, **fear and hunger** are being replaced by **safety and abundance**.

Diversifying crops

Moreover, by providing each family with seeds or saplings for 52 different types of crops, CIPCA is helping them to diversify their agriculture, ensuring that they are not reliant on just a few crops.

This means that even if there is **flooding** or a time of **drought**, they can still harvest some foods.

While some crops, such as rice or maize, are ready to harvest within a year, the communities can plan ahead and plant cocoa saplings or citrus trees for harvesting after a few years.

They also plant their own hardwood trees, which may take 30 years to mature but can then be sold or used to build their children's homes, further protecting their forest environment and futures.

DATES

May 4th Saturday – Seaton Road Plant Sale 10 – 12noon

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 17th Tuesday – Seaton Road MA Holiday Club planning meeting 7.30pm

May 18th Saturday – Kirton Plant Sale 11am – 1pm.

May 23rd Thursday – Churches Together in Felixstowe AGM at Seaton Road

June 4th Tuesday - Seaton Road Mission Area Kids' Club 6 – 7.15 p.m.

June 16th Sunday – Seaton Road take Café Worship to Kirton Methodist Church. No service at Seaton Road.

June 30th Sunday – Seaton Road Past, present and future as we celebrate 150 years. Service, AGM and shared lunch. Kirton joining us for this service.

July 2nd Tuesday - Seaton Road Mission Area Kids' Club 6 – 7.15 p.m.

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

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.

September 15th Sunday – Seaton Road Harvest Café Worship

For other dates see also the Mission Area Dates' diary for March – May.

You are invited to

A CONCERT

by the **COMMUNITY LIGHT ORCHESTRA**

Friday 17th May 2013

7.30pm

at The River of Life Church, Felixstowe

featuring

Suffolk and the Sea

& Music for the Coronation

with readings by Janet Dann

Free Admission

Retiring Collection in aid of

Hope Trust & Felixstowe Town Pastors

ALL WELCOME



Ian and Mandy with Daniel and Mel on the occasion of their wedding at Lawshall church near Bury St Edmunds on 20th April.



Mark, Hollie and Daisy with Mollie Rosie on the occasion of her baptism on 14th April