

# BRIGHTSTAR



## NOVEMBER 2009

*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)*

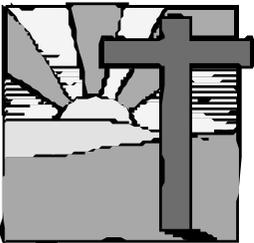
# From the manse

Dear Friends,

So the sun doesn't shine everyday in Felixstowe, there are times when the clouds and mist descend? The last few days have reminded me of a time a number of years ago now when Elizabeth and I and our then young family spent an enjoyable time on holiday in Northern Spain. We were camped about 100 yards from a sandy beach with the 'Los Picos' mountains as our backdrop. It was an idyllic spot as we enjoyed uninterrupted sunshine for the first three days of our stay. However, when we awoke on the fourth day we found a sea mist had rolled in and enveloped our site to such an extent that we couldn't see our wonderful scenery anymore let alone feel the sunshine on our backs. We hoped it would lift during the morning but it didn't and so by midday we decided to get in the car and take a drive along the coast in search of clearer weather. My sense of direction isn't that great so instead of sticking to the coast road we found ourselves negotiating a twisty road up the side of a mountain. After about an hour of careful driving and with the children getting a little impatient in the back we decided to return to our campsite. However, it wasn't that easy to find a convenient let alone safe point to turn the car around and so some 10 minutes later we were still climbing up the side of the mountain. Just as tempers began to reach breaking point we broke through the mist into brilliant sunshine. We spent the rest of the day paddling in a glacier lake. Sunshine is what we had hoped to find and sunshine is what we found and also a great deal more, including a little sunburn.



It's a bit like that when we decide to follow Jesus in our lives. There are times when we are not sure where he is leading us and the way forward is unclear, but when we take courage and venture out on that journey we find there is always more than we could think possible or even hope for.



This time of the year can be an uncertain time for many. Our young folk have returned to school and colleges by now, started new

courses, which in its self brings some anxiety. Perhaps some of you have changed jobs or homes recently and are still getting used to new surroundings and faces. This is certainly the case for some leaders and ministers up and down the country as they continue to settle in unfamiliar places.

If you have gone or are going through such a period of change or uncertainty in your life at present I pray as you step out into the future that when the cloud of unknowing clears you will find the Son of God shining upon you and many new blessings ahead.

*David*

PS It doesn't matter if the clouds or mist do descend on Felixstowe from time to time we're still enjoying our life with you all!

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# Worship

Sunday 1st November

9.45am      Rev David Kemble

6.00pm      Remembering Service at Trinity

Sunday 8th November

9.45am      Mr Grahame Lindsey

Sunday 15th November

Breakfast from 9.15am

9.45am      Cafe Worship

Sunday 22nd November

9.45am      Mrs Heather Bentley

Sunday 29th November

9.45am      Revd David Kemble (Holy Communion)

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# From the vestry - a contribution from the team of stewards

## Our Wider Church Family...

With my Pastoral hat on, I am often told how friendly and welcoming Seaton Road is, as I go round visiting. 'It's like being in one big family,' people say to me. I can't but agree as I sit among the breakfast tables, musical instruments, buggies, babies, toddlers, parents, grandparents, walking sticks, crayons, quizzes etc..... waiting for Café Worship to start!

It is true of course. We are one big happy family. We are all part of God's family and we want others to know that they are part of our family too. But I think families are rather like icebergs – the bit you see is a very small representation of the whole thing.

Anyone into the latest hobby of tracing family trees will tell you it's a fascinating task. People discover new relations they never knew that they had. They discover that they have roots and connections in far flung places too, and this motivates them to make contact and travel to find out more.

Having family connections with a place makes it personal and much easier to want to know more about its culture, its problems and its people. The places cease to be merely places on a map, the subject of documentaries or news bulletins. The people become our people, and that makes them special in a unique way.

As part of God's family, we have relations in every corner of the world, but it is easy to forget that in this cosy corner of East Anglia. Our brothers and sisters all over the world need our prayers. So perhaps next time you see a news bulletin highlighting a community many miles away, it might be a gentle reminder to pray for our brothers and sisters in that place too.

*Heather B.*

PS: Do you have personal family connections in other parts of the world? Please let me know if you do – I am thinking of compiling a list/map of the wider Seaton Road Church Family...watch this space!

# Churches Together in Felixstowe

The Churches Together in Felixstowe Forum met on 13<sup>th</sup> October at the River of Life Church. Here are a few notes from the meeting.

## Recent events

Brief reports were heard on the:-

- success of the Praise on the Prom event.
- good witness that open churches provide and the sense of Christian togetherness received during the Suffolk Historic Churches Bike Ride
- celebration of 20 years of Christian witness since the opening of Christchurch (formerly Cavendish Community Church).
- Faith Worker award granted to Maidstone Road Baptist Church for its Parish Nursing work.

## Forthcoming events

- CTF Unity service will be held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 6.30pm at St John's Church , Felixstowe. The speaker will be Mark Warner from the Seafarers' Society.

## Town Prayer update

- Paul Taylor and Pam Hewitt have taken over as prayer coordinators for the town since Alison Woolgar has gone to Australia to work.
- Paul asked the question 'How do we raise the profile of prayer in and for the town?'
- The next town prayer event is a drop in session (stay for as short or long a period as you want, or are able to) to be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November between 10 and 11.30 a.m. at the River of Life Coffee Shop in town.

## BOOST Bus

- The BOOST Bus, a portable youth club, meets at the skatepark once a week and also at Orwell School. Volunteer drivers are needed.

## Town Pastors

After the general business had been discussed the meeting heard about the 'Town Pastor' scheme for Felixstowe. Please see separate Brightstar article.

*Mary Pattinson*

# November Prayer Diary.

All the prayer requests this month are for charities, some working locally in our town, others nationally and some worldwide. If you don't recognise the name of one, ask someone else in church and see if they know - for example, Howard would tell you all about Operation Restoration, and Mary about Samaritan's Purse. Or you could even Google it, or ask your grandchildren to!

Pray for all the volunteers who give their time, for organisations that they may be cost effective, and most importantly, for everyone who receives support from or even depends on a charity for survival.

Sunday 1st	Cruse Bereavement Care
Monday 2nd	The FACTS service and volunteers
Tuesday 3rd	Level Two
Wednesday 4th	The Boost Bus
Thursday 5th	The Blue Cross
Friday 6th	Trinity Day Care Centre
Saturday 7th	The Seafarers Centres, here and elsewhere
Sunday 8th	The Royal British Legion
Monday 9th	Help for Heroes, Combat Stress
Tuesday 10th	St Dunstan's
Wednesday 11th	Amnesty International
Thursday 12th	East Anglia Air Ambulance
Friday 13th	Christian Aid
Saturday 14th	The Samaritans
Sunday 15th	JMA, Methodist Fund for World Mission
Monday 16th	Brownies, Rainbows, Guides, Scouts & Cubs
Tuesday 17th	Crossroads
Wednesday 18th	The Suffolk Wildlife Trust
Thursday 19th	WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature
Friday 20th	Children in Need
Saturday 21st	Street Pastor Schemes
Sunday 22nd	Methodist Homes, Norwood
Monday 23rd	St Elizabeth Hospice
Tuesday 24th	Macmillan Nurses, Hospice at Home
Wednesday 25th	The Alzheimers Society

Thursday 26th	Cancer Research & other scientific progress into all types of illness and disease
Friday 27th	Oxfam
Saturday 28th	Operation Restoration in Bolivia
Sunday 29th	Action for Children (NCH)
Monday 30th	East Anglia's Children's Hospices
Tuesday 1st	The Aquabox Scheme
Wednesday 2nd	Samaritan's Purse
Thursday 3rd	Talking Books, East Suffolk Association for the Blind
Friday 4th	The R.N.L.I.
Saturday 5th	The Whitechapel Mission

## A Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

You are holy,  
 You are holy, Lord, the only God and your deeds are wonderful.  
 You are strong, you are great.  
 You are the most high, you are almighty.  
 You, holy Father, are King of heaven and earth.  
 You are three and one, Lord God, all good.  
 You are good, all good, supreme good, Lord God, living and true.  
 You are love, you are wisdom.  
 You are humility, you are endurance.  
 You are rest, you are peace.  
 You are joy and gladness, you are justice and moderation.  
 You are all riches, and you suffice for us.  
 You are beauty, you are gentleness.  
 You are our protector, you are our guardian and defender.  
 You are courage, you are our haven and our hope.  
 You are our faith, our great consolation.  
 You are our eternal life, great and wonderful Lord.  
 God almighty, merciful Saviour.

*(contributed by Daryl, and used in a morning service in the summer)*

# World Church Partner

At the Circuit meeting in September we were given news of the partnership between the East Anglia District Methodist Church and the Methodist Church in Latvia. As promised in last month's Brightstar here is more information of this.

Some time ago the E. Anglia district looked for a partner church and, after consultation with the World Church office, Latvia was chosen. Since then folk from Latvia have made two visits to our District and a group of women from here have travelled to Latvia. This year they want to broaden the partnership and involve as many of the District's members and friends as possible so the two churches have created a prayer card. There is a copy of this on the church noticeboard and individual copies, for you to take home to use, are available on the sideboard in the vestibule.

Rev Alan Taylor and his wife Dorothy visited Latvia on their recent around the world trip during Alan's sabbatical. They have some thought provoking stories to tell of their experiences, including one lady they met who was so excited and grateful that they were now allowed to use their church again after the government had forced them out. How would we feel if we were told we could no longer meet as the Seaton Road church family in our 'home' church? I'm sure we don't always appreciate what some others throughout the world have to go through to be able to worship God openly.

Please take and use a prayer card. I can always get more. The prayers of the East Anglia District are on one side and Latvian prayers are on the other side.

*Mary Pattinson.*

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## Brightstar

Please can I have material for the December Brightstar by Monday 29th November. Don't forget the next issue will also cover the month of January.

*Heather F*

# Seaton Road Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2-4pm

I hope everyone has the date of the Christmas Bazaar in their diaries by now. We shall need plenty of help on the day, also on the Friday evening to set up and after the event to put everything away.

There are two huge boxes at the back of the church. These are for tombola items – toiletries and groceries. Please check sell by dates of anything perishable. We are also on the lookout for CDs, DVDs and jigsaws. We shall need bric-a-brac (but not electrical items) – so start looking stuff out now - but if you can please hold on to it until nearer the time.

There will be a cake stall for cakes, breads, savouries, preserves and pickles. Why not make some jam this month ?

The next planning meeting is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the church. Everyone is welcome to share their ideas and help us raise money.

*Malcolm*

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## Felixstowe Town Pastor Scheme

Following the general business of the recent Churches Together in Felixstowe Forum a discussion was held on the Felixstowe Town Pastor scheme. The meeting heard from representatives of Suffolk Coastal District Council, the police and Woodbridge Town Pastor scheme.



The police and the pubs in Felixstowe are in support of the scheme and there is funding available to get started. Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Sudbury and Woodbridge already have Town Pastors. Before a scheme starts, research at county level is carried out in each town to find the best times and places for its operation.

After a period of training, Woodbridge introduced their scheme in September 2008 and the crime figures in the last 3 months for Saxmundham, Framlingham, Aldeburgh and Woodbridge show that only the latter has a reduction in crime (of one third) whereas all the other towns showed an increase.

Woodbridge has a team of 60 people, aged between 18 and 78, which includes the pastors, prayer team and people praying at home. They operate on a Friday night between 8.30 p.m. and 1.30 a.m. and have two teams of two pastors (one male, one female) out each night. Each pastor is issued with a backpack containing such things as water, chocolate bars, torch, first aid kit, foil blanket, gloves and sharps' box. They also have a radio with which they keep in contact with the prayer base (at Woodbridge Methodist Church).

Town Pastors do not preach to people but act as a presence on the streets (physically and in prayer) to care for people and to help them enjoy a safe evening out. They will talk to people, phone taxis for people to get home safely after leaving the pubs and clubs, pick up empty cans, bottles and used needles and do anything else that they need to. Each evening can be completely different.

The prayer team, back at the prayer base, will plot the pastors' routes on a large map of the area, inform them of any situations they hear of e.g missing persons, and get support for them if needed. They also keep the people praying at home informed of the night's activities.

Peter Livey, from Felixstowe, has looked into the background of Town Pastors who in some areas are called Street Pastors. Of the 80 schemes operating in the UK each area has seen crime figures drop, with a reduction of between 7% and 70%. A Felixstowe steering group has been set up with ministers from four denominations; Allister Versfeld - Salvation Army, Mark Reid - Baptist, David Kemble - Methodist and Val White - Church of England. The target is to have the Felixstowe Town Pastor scheme up and running by next summer.

Obviously something like this does not just happen and cannot be left to a few people. Realistically only a small number of people will feel they can volunteer to be out on the streets but anyone can offer to be part of the scheme by being a part of the huge prayer team necessary to support the pastors. Look out for updates on this exciting scheme and in the meantime please remember it, and those trying to carry it forward, in your prayers.

*Mary Pattinson.*

# Seaton Road Methodist Church

## Christmas Bazaar

Cakes  
Books  
Bric-a-brac  
Tombola  
Face painting  
Puzzles  
Christmas Decorations



Games  
Refreshments  
Bran tub  
Raffle  
Toys  
Treasure Hunt  
Guess the weight



Saturday 5th December  
2.00pm – 4.00pm



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## Circuit Arts and Crafts Festival

Although it doesn't seem five minutes since this year's Arts and Crafts Festival, held here at Seaton Road, the committee have been beavering away during the summer preparing the schedule for next year's event! Every church in the circuit has now been issued with a copy and ours is on the church noticeboard. Please do have a look to see what you would like to enter but please do not remove this copy. Copies are available from the church website [www.seatonroad.org.uk](http://www.seatonroad.org.uk). If you do not have access to the website have a word with Rose or Mary.

As you will see next year's festival will be held at Museum Street in Ipswich. There is something on the schedule for everyone so please don't leave it to just a few. This year there is a new class for a group activity which involves members of the church designing a nativity scene, using as many mediums and talents as possible, so we will have to get our heads together and see what we can come up with.

Please look at the schedule and book the date **NOW**.

**ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL MUSEUM STREET, IPSWICH  
SATURDAY MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> 2010**

*Rosemary and Mary*