

Brightstar



November 2012

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

Contact our minister, Rev David Kemble on 01394 282023
or email through our website at www.seatonroad.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Firstly, thank you for your prayers and messages of encouragement and support while I've taken some time off following a bout of vertigo. During my recovery I've pondered on the beauty of creation especially at this time of the year and even looked out my watercolour paints and tried to capture the views from the manse overlooking the port. My eyes were filled with wonder at what God was doing...

Yellow, brown, gold, red, copper, bronze, saffron, purple, orange, every shade of every colour oozed beauty in the sky and on the ground as leaves continually floated as they fell from trees. Through the grey mist of a murky day, dancing in the sunrise on a frosty morning, or moody and mysterious in the moonlight, the trees of autumn have a powerful wow factor.



It is as if God the great artist wanted to use all the colours that were left over in creation and so randomly sprinkled and splashed them off the pallet and onto trees just to make us smile. It only lasts a few weeks and I know they can sometimes be dangerously slippery and make a mess. Oh the sheer magnificence of God's world and imagination.

God has not created a monochrome world. It is a world full of glorious diversity. God has not created a dull, colourless neutral humanity. We are a race full of variety.

Some of us look good with grey beards and orange turbans, others of us are most comfortable in blues jeans and a tee-shirt and yet others high-heels and glad rags. Some of us are

engineers, scientists, athletes, gardeners, poets, and carers. Some of us make marmalade, coffee and cheese scones. Some of us can research new ideas, farm the land, tell stories that can draw others into the depth of God's love. Some of us can spend our whole lives studying one small detail of life while others can take a broad overview. Some of us make music while others can make simple the complexities of finance.

We have different songs to sing, different stories to tell, different mountains to climb, valleys to navigate and storms to weather. For some of us the ride is easy, for others it is a struggle from start to finish.

Yet God who is revealed in Bethlehem and at Golgotha journeys alongside every human life and invites us to offer our gifts and insights as disciples of His love. Each of us is one of God's great gifts to the whole human community.

Our challenge is to work together in our churches, mission area and communities so that this good news of God can be appreciated by all. All can know the motivating, creating, healing love of God that last for all eternity.

Every Blessing and Love be yours through our Creator God

David

From the vestry.....

Paul and I have recently spent a lovely holiday near Coniston Water. This is a part of the Lake District we have not explored before and we enjoyed some wonderful walks and also learnt about four interesting people who had strong links with the area.



I'm sure most of you will remember the terrible accident on Coniston Water in 1967 when Donald Campbell lost his life trying to break the water speed record in his vehicle Bluebird. In 2001, Bluebird was raised from the bottom of the lake and there is now a huge fundraising effort in place to reconstruct it and display it in the local museum. Donald loved the village of Coniston and felt very at home in this spectacular valley.

Coniston Water is also the setting for 'Swallows and Amazons' written by Arthur Ransome (who has strong links with East Anglia too). We saw the island which featured in the stories and also the actual boat that he had used during his many happy childhood

holidays on the shores of the lake which had inspired him. He too loved the area, which is hidden away from the normal tourist venues of Windermere and Ambleside.

Beatrix Potter lived in Hill Top Farm in Near Sawrey, a small village quite close to our holiday home. In an effort to recover from the tragedy of losing her fiancé, she moved to the Lake District and used the profits from her very popular children's books to buy properties and farmland. When she died in 1943 she left her considerable estate to the newly formed National Trust, which not only preserves huge areas of the Lake District but also hundreds of properties and areas of outstanding beauty in England and Wales. We should all be very grateful for the adventures of Peter Rabbit and his friends!

We took the steam gondola over the lake to Brantwood, the home of John Ruskin. The

weather was amazing and the views were stunning as the water was so calm and the autumn trees were magnificent. John Ruskin was a leading English art critic of the Victorian era, also an art patron, draughtsman, painter, a prominent



social thinker and philanthropist. He wrote on subjects ranging from geology to architecture, myth to ornithology, literature to education, and botany to political economy. In all of his writing, he emphasised the connections between nature, art and society. He also made detailed sketches and paintings of rocks, plants, birds, landscapes, and architectural structures. He obviously loved his home and gardens by the shores of the lake and he wrote the following poem which seems to echo that feeling:

There is religion in everything around us,
A calm and holy religion
in the unbreathing things in Nature.
It is a meek and blessed influence,
Stealing in as it were unaware upon the heart;
It comes quickly, and without excitement;
It has no terror, no gloom;
It does not rouse up the passions;
It is untrammelled by creeds. . .
It is written on the arched sky;
It looks out from every star;
It is on the sailing cloud and in the invisible wind;
It is among the hills and valleys of the Earth
Where the shrubless pinnacle pierces
the thin atmosphere of eternal winter,
Or where the mighty forest fluctuates before the
strong wind,
With its dark waves of green foliage;
It is spread out like a legible language
upon the broad face of an unsleeping ocean;
It is the poetry of Nature;
It is that which uplifts the spirit within us . . .
and which opens to our imagination to
a Earth of spiritual beauty and holiness.

John Ruskin

Liz Benyon

Services for November:

- 4th "Second Chance"
9.45 a.m. Friends from Kirton Chapel will be
joining us and coffee will be
served
after the service.
- 6.00 p.m. Remembering service at Trinity
- 11th Local arrangement
9.45 a.m.
10.55 a.m. Short service of Remembrance
- 18th Café Worship!
Breakfast from 9.15 a.m.
Worship at 9.45 a.m.
- 25th Rev David Kemble
9.45 a.m.



Christmas Post Box

As in previous years we are again organising a Christmas card “sorting & delivery service” for members of Seaton Road this year. Just put your pile of cards in the post box provided – they will then be sorted and given to the right people (please include surnames to avoid any confusion and only ‘post’ cards for people who actually attend church). For this service we are simply asking for a donation to the work of JMA (Junior Mission for All, part of the Methodist Church’s World Mission group) . The postbox will be available on 2nd December and the last ‘collection’ will be on 16th December to ensure time for sorting.

Remembering Service

The Mission Area's annual Remembering Service will be held at Trinity on 4th November at 6pm. This service gives people an opportunity to remember loved ones, who are no longer with us and everyone is invited to this service.

Mission Area Concert

As you will have seen from the dates' list, another Mission Area Concert has been arranged for Saturday November 24th at 6.30pm. This will be held at Trinity and similar to last year's event but will not have the supper before it (teas and coffees will be served during the evening.) It is hoped that each of the four churches will again take part by supplying various items for the concert. If you have a suitable 'party piece' you are willing to perform, please see Mary. Please support this event which should be a good, fun evening as well as giving everyone in the Mission Area a chance to meet up with each other. Please see the advert below for further details.

A FELIXSTOWE MISSION AREA EVENT **'ENTERTAINMENT EVENING'**

Trinity Methodist Church
Saturday 24th November, 6.30 – 8.30 p.m.
Come along and have fun, everyone welcome
Retiring collection in aid of MRDF
(Making Motherhood Safer in Mali)

Peggy Baldry 1/2/1919 – 27/9/2012

Selected notes from the Rev David Kemble's tribute at Peggy's funeral service held at Seaton Road on 5th October, following the reading from Mark chapter 12 verses 41 – 44.

There are parallels, I believe, to be drawn between Margaret and the widow and her offering. Both it seems suffered tragedy in their lives, had to work extremely hard to make ends meet & yet gave very generously of themselves and their resources.

Margaret was born in 1919 to John and Frances in Gislingham along with her older brothers Walter and Jack before moving to Cow Pasture Farm, Gulpher Road, Felixstowe. She was christened Margaret Phyllis although her Aunts who being in service and therefore mixed with gentry strongly suggested she should be called Peggy. In fact her Aunt Emma and Uncle Ernie worked for Lady Quilter of Bawdsey and Margaret loved to visit them using the ferry.

Margaret's full share of tragedies began at the tender age of 5 when her Brother Jack, 16 at the time, died in a road traffic accident. She also had to cope with illness herself which meant missing many days of schooling at Central Juniors, now known as Fairfield. The Elmers moved to 65 St Andrew's Rd in 1926 which continues as the family home today. Margaret left school at 14 and worked in the drapery trade at Holden's and then for the Co-op who paid a little more. I suspect her bosses found in Margaret a gem for she was conscientious and extremely hard working.

Near the beginning of the Second WW she met Clifton and they were married in 1941. Margaret continued to live at home for Clifton was a wartime fireman and worked in various locations in Suffolk, Norfolk and London which meant long periods of absence. Further sadness touched the family in 1943 when Walter, Margaret's other brother died in action whilst serving in North Africa.

Some good news, however, followed. The war ended, Clifton returned to Felixstowe, they moved into their own place, a flat in High Road West and David was born in July 1945. However, their independent lives were short-lived as in 1950 the small family moved back to St Andrew's Road so Margaret could look after Mum

who had a terminal illness. She died in the same year. They unselfishly stayed to care for John whose health was beginning to deteriorate. Nephew Brian kept Margaret's chin up during this period with his mischievous antics. David, as a young boy, would often accompany Granddad John to his allotment. Hopefully not on the odd occasions that John went poaching, nothing too sinister though. John was no doubt thrilled to see his second grandson born, Colin in 1954. Big brother David was a help in looking after Colin and thankfully was around when Colin decided to practice his writing skills on whatever he found such as Granddads' pension book.

The chapter of disruption to family life continued, as in 1956 Granddad John passed away and then 8 years later Clifton, always a strong and healthy man was taken seriously ill and died aged 49. Margaret spent the next 48 years as a widow.

And how she worked to ensure her sons were lovingly cared for. She did odd jobs, probably several at the same time to fit in with taking David to school and caring for Colin. Work included cleaning at people's homes which was very demanding in those days, scrubbing steps and floors, washing by hand and of course she did the same at home including all the decorating. But she found some time to be in her garden where she loved to grow flowers & in attending Church here at Seaton Road.

Knowledge of God and His worship was especially important to Margaret following Clifton's death; perhaps she saw some common connection with the gospel story of the widow... She initially went to church with her Father's aunts and uncle Olive, Gladys and Felix but soon made other friends including Daryl who gave her lifts and who fondly remembers Margaret's sense of humour. When she could no longer attend, church members came to Margaret especially at Christmas time to sing carols as she sat near her front door enjoying words familiar to her & which we can believe spoke God's message of eternal love.

As the boys grew into men Margaret had various health issues to contend with but her strength of character, determination and faith brought her through major operations to live a long life which in no small part is due to the legacy of care that she passed onto her two sons, David and Colin. They have been for Mum what she had

been for her family in the past and she must have been extremely proud of you both!

Margaret, thankfully, was able to regain enough strength to enjoy some small rewards in her later life. Along with friends Dolly and Ollie she had her first proper holiday in Eastbourne and in further years she journeyed as far as the IOW & Scotland. She also loved to go to Farnborough to visit her niece, Clem & family. During her lifetime Margaret loved to knit and sew, always for a purpose as she patched clothes or knitted lovely jumpers and cardigans especially for her nieces and nephews and how lovingly she made outfits for their dolls. Her other interests, too numerous to mention them all, included watching TV & listening to the radio especially Nature & gardening progs, Dad's Army, Morecombe & Wise, Billy Cotton's Bandshow, Andy Stewart, Compo & friends in Last of the Summer Wine plus a good helping of football, golf and horse racing. She was even known to have the occasional flutter especially on the big races & I believe quite successfully.

More surgery was to follow for Margaret, replacement heart valves, which after an initial setback again gave her a further lease of life. Mobility was increasingly difficult, however and without hesitation it was decided David would leave work & care full time for Mum. She did with help, however, manage to get out and about and she especially loved her visits to Bury on the bus, car journeys to places such as Ely & trips to the countryside so she could spend time among God's creative splendour.

The last three years have been particularly difficult for Margaret and indeed for the family as Dementia increased but regular trips to Needham Lakes, Woodbridge Quay and the seafront at Felixstowe brought a smile of recognition to her face. David and Colin are very grateful to friends, family and neighbours for their help and support including respite care at Anglesey Heights and Maynell House plus regular home carers. And last but certainly not least 16 yr old Lauren, a near neighbour who regularly visited Margaret during the last 6 or so years to chat and even accompanying her on some trips. Thank you so much Lauren for your generosity in giving something you may consider small but was of immense value to Margaret. Margaret has earned her peace this day and has left a lasting legacy for many to follow. Well done thou good and faithful servant. Amen



It was in the November issue of Brightstar three years ago that I was first able to outline what Town Pastors do and the hope that a group would soon be starting up in Felixstowe.

As you know this is all history and the Felixstowe Town Pastor team has been operating most Saturday nights for the past two and a half years.

Like all voluntary organisations extra volunteers are always needed. If you feel you would like to know more about being a Town Pastor, a base pray-er or a home pray-er please speak to David, Robin or Mary.

We were very pleased to have recently learnt that the Suffolk Town Pastors, of which Felixstowe is a part, has been named as Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations (SAVO's) charity of 2012.

The Big Worship Day

It was good to meet up at the Norfolk Showground as part of the East Anglia Methodist District to celebrate "The Big Worship Day". There were a variety of activities to share in such as a puppet workshop, creative writing, finger art, a drumming workshop, Café Church activities, sewing, reflective areas as well as the opportunity to chat and share in a picnic tea. Maybe one of the highlights of the day for me was a last-minute impromptu performance by a choir comprising a group of soldiers from Tonga who were about to be deployed to Afghanistan. The afternoon concluded with a time of worship led by Nick and Emma Pears and their band, with a message from the president of Conference, Rev Mark Wakelin.

Robin

Computer club

For the past eleven years Seaton Road has run two weekly computer clubs. Due to increased church commitments Robin and Mary feel they are unable to continue running the Monday evening computer club on a weekly basis.

As from the beginning of November this computer club will only be meeting on the first and third Monday evenings of the month (8pm - 10pm).

If anyone would like to take on the running of this (or knows someone who would) for the alternate evenings please speak to Robin.

These changes do not affect the Thursday afternoon computer club.



Parish Nursing
Ministries UK

You are invited to

A CONCERT

**of Songs, Carols and Readings for Christmas
by the ORWELL CONNECTION CHOIR**



**Tuesday 11th December
7.30pm
at Maidstone Road Baptist Church**

**Free entrance
Light Refreshments**

Retiring collection in aid of Walton Parish Nursing

Seaton Road Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 1st December 2-4pm

Christmas is coming and preparations for the bazaar are in full swing. Please keep items coming in for the **Chocolate Tombola** - it was a great success last year.



There are boxes for chocolate tombola items and toiletries at the back of the church.. We are lookout for CDs, DVDs, toys and jigsaws. We shall need bric-a-brac – 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 so consider baking and freezing to avoid a rush nearer the time.

There will be a meeting on November 21st at 7.30pm in the Upper Room when we hope to sort through the stock, particularly the books, and price up the Christmas items.

If you can't make that we shall need help from 7.00pm on Friday 30th to set up and again after the bazaar to clear up - also the week before to leaflet the surrounding streets. Look out for details in the notices over the coming weeks.

Please note

Trimley Methodist Church have notified us of a change of date for the Christmas concert by Geraldine and friends to be held at their church. This concert will now take place on Saturday 8th December at 6pm (NOT 1st as previously advertised)

**Forum Meeting
Wednesday 7 November 2012
7.30pm
Christ Church, Felixstowe
Grange Farm Avenue, IP11 2FB**

All Welcome!

Come early for refreshments (from 7pm)



Smartie Tubes

The *smartie tubes* have raised £194.96 for Parish Nursing so far. But I have not had as many back recently, so dig out your tubes and get them back to me. Remember that every tube of coins can be exchanged for a tube full of smarties.

Malcolm



DATES

November 4th Sunday – Mission Area
Remembering Service, Trinity 6pm

November 6th Tuesday - Kids' Club
6 – 7.15pm

November 17th Saturday – Trimley Tea
and Chat from 2.30pm

November 24th Saturday – Kirton Christmas Fair
9am -12 noon

November 24th Saturday – Mission Area concert at Trinity
6.30pm.

December 1st Saturday – Seaton Road Christmas Bazaar
2-4pm

December 4th Tuesday - Kids' Club 6 – 7.15pm

December 8th Saturday – Trimley Christmas Concert
Geraldine & Friends 6pm

December 15th Saturday – Decorate the church for Christmas
10am

December 15th Saturday – Mission Area 'Messy Nativity' at
Trinity 11a.m. – 1 p.m.

December 18th Tuesday – Seaton Road Carols by Candlelight
7pm

December 22nd Saturday – Trinity Christmas Coffee Morning
11am – 1pm



December 24th Monday – Kirton Carol Service 7pm
Trimley Carol Service 7pm
Trinity Midnight service 11pm for 11.30pm.

December 25th Tuesday – Seaton Rd Christmas Family
Celebration 9.45am

December 30th Sunday – Mission Area Service at Trinity
11am
(NO service at Seaton Road)

2013

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

March 23rd Saturday – Seaton Road Barn Dance

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

Church Hall lettings

We are very fortunate to have the buildings that we do here at Seaton Road and, in order to make best use of them, we do let out the Church Hall for events, children's parties etc. If you know of anyone who is looking for a venue (either regular or 'one-off') then please get in touch with Malcolm Bentley.



The “Second Chance” performers

Please note that all contributions for the December/January edition of Brightstar should be with Robin and Mary by Saturday 24th November. Thank you!
email: robin.pattinson@btinternet.com