

Brightstar



November 2013

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

Services for November:

November 3rd
9.45 a.m.

Prof David Welbourn
Coffee will be served following this service

November 3rd
6.00 p.m.

Mission Area Remembering Service
at Trinity Methodist Church

November 10th
9.45 a.m.
Remembrance
Sunday

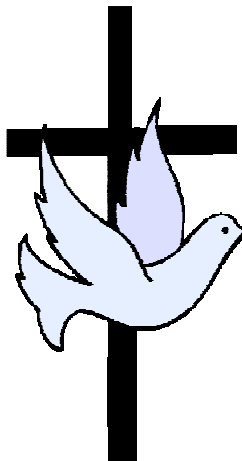
Rev David Kemble
Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion
There will be a short act of remembrance
at 10.55 a.m.

November 17th
Breakfast from 9.15 a.m.
Worship at 9.45 a.m.

Café Worship!

November 24th
9.45 a.m.

Rev Jo Jacobs



Dear Friends

It is always a privilege to lead worship on Remembrance Day. At our peril, we forget the sacrifice of the past and present being made to guard our freedom.



I am mindful that this month will be 26 years since a terrible atrocity,

The Enniskillen bombing in Northern Ireland took place on 8th November 1987. An IRA bomb exploded during a Remembrance Day service, resulting in 11 people being killed and 63 injured. What is remembered most from this day is the interview Gordon Wilson gave only hours after the bombing. It brought him to international prominence, as he described the conversation with his dying daughter Marie, as they lay buried in rubble. To the astonishment of listeners, Wilson went on to say:
'But I bear no ill will. I bear no grudge... She's in heaven and we shall meet again. I will pray for these men tonight and every night.'

The impact of his words lay in Gordon Wilson's willingness to forgive the bombers and, as a result, he went on to dedicate his life as a campaigner for peace and reconciliation.

No words in more than twenty-five years of violence in Northern Ireland had such a powerful, emotional impact. Such radical words seemed to encapsulate the very radical teaching of our Lord:
'You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy'. But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.' (Matt 5:43-45).

As we wear our poppies and remember those who have paid and are paying the ultimate sacrifice, we must challenge ourselves anew not just to be peacelovers but peacemakers in our home and our communities.

The Peace of Christ be always with you

David

Gateways to God

On the 16th October I represented Seaton Road at a meeting for stewards and door stewards. This meeting was chaired by Jack N. Lawson and was about whether our churches are 'Gateways to God' and how welcoming are we? Research tells us that most people who visit our churches for the first time are not seeking a denomination but are seeking God. Our God is a universal God and can be found outside formal worship.

The first thing we can do is to make people welcome and to try to answer any questions they might have. Ideally we should have leaflets, booklets and other material available which briefly explains the basics of Christian faith. As a church we should engage with the local community and show by example what our faith has done for us. We want people to come into our churches, so we should keep our premises clean and tidy and be on hand to help with finding the right hymn books and tell folk what to do at communion. All the above is only a summary of the meeting and I have more information in the form of a booklet if anyone would like to read it.

On a personal note I think that we carry out these duties very well. We are known to be a friendly church and engage with the local community through our church lunches, computer club, holiday club and Kids' Club, Little Fishes and Walton Parish Nursing.

Kathy Fullick

Churches Together in Felixstowe

The next **FORUM MEETING** will be **Monday 4th November 2013 at 7.30pm** (refreshments from 7pm) **at The Salvation Army** (Cobbold Road, Felixstowe)
Chaired by Captain Richard Waters.

Town Pastors

We congratulate Woodbridge and Felixstowe Town Pastors who have been presented with the “**Making the Community Safer Award**” by Suffolk County Council – (Awarded to an individual or group that has worked to reduce crime and disorderly behaviour within their community and who encourages local residents to take positive steps to make their community safer).



The Felixstowe Town Pastor Team is always looking for more people to take part in this valuable work. If you would like to know more about being a home pray-er, base pray-er or Town Pastor please speak to David Kemble or Robin or Mary Pattinson.

Synod Spring 2014

The East Anglia District Synod meets twice a year in various parts of the District. Next Spring this will be held on Saturday 5th April in Ipswich at the Waterfront Building of UCS.

Sylvia Maclean, from Holbrook, and I have been asked to head up a team of people to make and serve drinks to the people attending Synod at various times during the day.

The challenge is there is no kitchen and water would have to be fetched from a drinking water tap. If anyone is skilled in carrying water containers on their head please let me know!!! We have been told the good news is that there will be no washing up!!

Seriously, we will probably need a team of more than 25 people split into smaller groups for the different serving times. I know it is a long way off but PLEASE consider if you can help and put the date in your diaries now.

Mary Pattinson

Kids' Club

The Mission Area Kids' Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month at Seaton Road from 6 – 7.15pm for any Primary School aged children.

The dates this term are:

Tuesday 12th November (please note change of date to 2nd Tuesday for this month only and this meeting will be held in the church)

Tuesday 3rd December.

As with all children's' work staffing can sometimes be a problem so if you are able to help now and again please speak to Elizabeth Kemble, Heather Carpenter or Robin or Mary Pattinson.

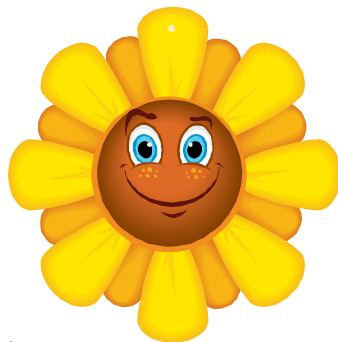
Walton Churches “Away Day”

On Friday November 1st the Walton Churches Away Day was held at Seaton Road. Twenty five invited guests joined helpers from all three churches, Walton Parish, Maidstone Road Baptist and Seaton Road, together with Hope Trust and Lorna and Marilyn from Walton Parish Nursing.

It was the third 'away day' this year and gives people who do not have the opportunity to get away for a holiday a chance to get out and meet people. The theme this time was Autumn and as well as lots of chat people could choose to take part in Autumn based crafts or complete jigsaws. Our Brownies came to entertain us and were fantastic. The afternoon closed with a message from David Kemble and everyone left well fed and happy. A great opportunity for us all to work together and spread God's love for everyone.

Green(ish) fingers?

We are looking for someone who would be willing to volunteer to tend to the small pieces of the garden immediately outside the Church. The grass is cut regularly already and this will continue however it would be good to have someone to take responsibility for just keeping the small flower beds tidy. Any cost incurred would, obviously, be paid by the Church. If you feel you might be able to help with this please see any of the Stewards.



Church Family Weekend

We are now looking ahead to future Church Family Weekends. At the recent Church Council it was decided to organise another “at home” Weekend next year – again making use of the facilities at Kirton Methodist Church and sharing worship with them on the Sunday. Looking further ahead we would like to gauge the level of interest for another Church Family Weekend at Ditchingham in 2015. If you feel that you would be interested in coming away in 2015 then please could you give your name to Robin or Mary by Sunday 1st December.

Report from Circuit Meeting 19.9.13 at Capel

The meeting started with Devotions led by Rev. Derek Grimshaw, our new superintendent. He read the account of Jesus' Baptism from Matthew 3.

In his comments afterwards Derek reminded us of two things:

- That it was our job as Christians, Churches and Circuit to prepare the way for Jesus and for God's on going work. All mission was God's work and we are needed as facilitators to work alongside Him, but it was not our duty to produce results but to enable His Spirit to work to do so.
- That Jesus' baptism was a symbol of his affirmation of the tradition in which he had been brought up. We too must be proud of our tradition as Methodists, but must use this DNA (Methodist Connexional inheritance) as a foundation to address the problems of living in our current place and time, just as Jesus used his Jewish roots as a basis for his ministry and the proclamation of the Gospel.

Points from the Business

1. **Our prayers were asked for** Rev. Graham Thompson (our district chair) and for Rev. Sue Lambert (King) who have both suffered personal bereavement.
2. Sandy Hamilton welcomed Derek formally on behalf of **the Circuit Stewards**. Mike Peck is now a circuit steward from the Felixstowe mission area.
3. Brian Loader gave **a review of the work of the pastoral workers in the circuit** and Elizabeth Kemble added some points of particular good news of people who had been drawn into the church through our Holiday Clubs.

4. Marilyn Watsham explained that the **East Anglian Synod** would take place in Ipswich (at the waterfront building of UCS) next April. Lots of people were needed to help in all sorts of roles as this is a huge logistical exercise. Please keep a look out for future details and help us if you can.
5. There were reports on **Home Missions, World Church, Finance and Safeguarding** (.The First Sunday in Advent is to be offered as a focus for Home Missions and church councils are asked to review their policy about giving to this important work.)
6. **Property:** A new system for schedules is in place this year. It requires everything to be entered on line. There will be a series of workshops to help people understand what is required but it does pose problems for churches that do not have computer access of this sort.
7. **A new Worship Leaders Course is starting in January.** Church Councils were asked to consider if there were any they could recommend for the course. We were reminded that Worship leading is a calling and can take a variety of forms –dance music ICT skills are all gifts and graces that can be used in Worship.
8. **Local preachers update:** Liz Cope and Jane Patterson are now fully accredited local preachers and Alicia Holmes has been given a note to preach.
9. **October 19th – Meeting of under 19 group leaders** (anyone welcome!) at Hethersett .Keynote speaker to be President of Conference. Free Lunch!!
10. Posters about **Methodist Women in Britain, and MRDF** appeals given out.
11. Rev. Georgina Brooks happy to lead a **Bible Study on Poverty in Britain** which she had attended when at Conference. 2 sessions, any size of group.

12. There are **vacancies for Circuit Archivist and for Home Missions secretary**. Church councils asked to spread the word.
13. The Meeting ended with **Rev. Andrew Sankey giving us an account of his recent Sabbatical Trip to India**. He had a fantastic time and there will be an opportunity to hear more of his adventures at a Circuit World Church Event in March. Date yet to be finalised but watch out for the posters!!

The Meeting ended with **Prayers and the Grace**.

Heather Bentley

Little Fishes

Friday is my favourite day of the week! Why? Not because I eat fish but because I meet little tiddlers! It's toddler group!

Little Fishes toddler group continues to meet on Friday afternoons. It is still a small group of 15-20 families but it is good to be able to get alongside mums, dads, grandparents and carers and get to know them well.

Parents are very appreciative and willing to help tidy away etc. It is important to have a reliable team of helpers and thanks go to Kathy, Mac and Natalie (one of our ex mums) for the help they give. We need however to consider the future of the group and consider ways to sustain it should the church feel this is worthwhile.

From Christmas I would suggest the drawing up of a rota of volunteers willing to lead the session once in 4 or 6 weeks.

This involves helping to set out the toys, talking to adults and supporting children during the session.

There is also a simple craft activity each week. Helpers with refreshments are also welcome. Parents help clear away at the end of the session.

It is enjoyable and rewarding. Please come along to visit and see if you can help.

I'm sure both Kathy and Mac will be happy to tell you more about the group.

Make Friday your favourite day! Go Fishing!

Elizabeth



CHARITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2013

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH,
FELIXSTOWE

7.15 PM START

Felixstowe Academy
Jazz & Strings

Music By

something Different
Brass Quartet

Level 2 Young People

TICKETS : Adult £5 Child £3.00

Tickets Available From :

Level Two Youth Project

Tel : (01394) 272521

E-mail : fydlevel2@btconnect.com

Website : www.leveltwo.org
Registered Charity No. 1102380



*We provide youth services for ALL 10-25 year olds in
Felixstowe and the surrounding area*

*Active in the Heart of Our
Community*

Seaton Road Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 7th December 2-4pm

Christmas is coming and once again we are holding a Christmas bazaar. We shall need plenty of help on the day – please put the date in your diary. It helps if you let the organising team know you will be there and what you would like to do.



Last year the **Chocolate Tombola** proved a great success – the chocolate items disappeared fast. So it is no surprise that we will be repeating it this year but aiming to make it even bigger and better. We will be collecting items for the chocolate tombola in one of the boxes that will be appearing at the back of the church.

There will also be a box for toiletries. We are on the 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.

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



You are invited to a

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



of Songs & Carols by the

ORWELL

CONNECTION

CHOIR

with readings by Janet Dann

Tuesday 10th December

7.30pm

at Maidstone Road Baptist Church

(additional parking at Felixstowe Academy, Maidstone Campus)

Free entrance

Light Refreshments

Retiring collection in aid of

Walton Parish Nursing



Parish Nursing
Ministries UK

All Welcome



Catriona Bentley and
Steve Bennett on their
wedding day -
28th September



Max Ainsley's
Baptism

