



Brightstar

October 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

Services for October:

7th John Cobbold + Worship Band
9.45 a.m.

14th Rev Alan Taylor
9.45 a.m. Including Sacrament of Holy Communion
3.00 p.m. Parish Nursing launch service

21st Café Worship! – Rev David
Kemble
Breakfast from 9.15 a.m.
Worship at 9.45 a.m.

28th Mr Peter Crick
9.45 a.m.



Dear Friends,

Knowing I had to write this article I decided to take my thoughts for a walk along country lanes and see if inspiration would mingle with perspiration on a pleasant early October day. And there it was!

In a field where corn had been harvested I could see puddles made by recent rainfall and nearby a section of corn that had not been harvested and was now rotting in the ground.



It was obvious the harvester had got stuck in this section for it had created long deep ruts. I knew there was a story in the rut. I could see where the rut was shallow at one end, gradually getting deeper and deeper, before coming to a sudden stop. I imagined the driver thinking he could simply keep going in the boggy ground before being forced to stop as the wheels sank in the mud, bringing the combine harvester to an abrupt halt. I wondered if he had broken any of the mechanism or if he had knocked it out of alignment. Did he laugh at his misjudgment or did he curse at his misfortune? Was he able to reverse the large machine out of the rut and find an alternative route past the soft earth or did he need to call for assistance and ask for a tow? I couldn't tell but I know he had created a deep rut and delayed his progress by pressing on when he should have stopped, evaluated and changed direction ever so slightly.

Sometimes we get stuck in ruts. We keep doing things the way we have done them for years without asking about how effective they are or if some small adjustment might bring more life. Jesus often confronted the people of his day when he saw that they had allowed themselves to become comfortable with practices that excluded others and made it hard for them to know God's love and care. He challenged them to change their ways; he even said there was rejoicing in heaven when people changed the direction of their lives and lined themselves up with his.



God is at work among us. He has called us to serve him by serving others. Let us continue to be open to the way God is challenging us to serve him now and for the next generation. It is time to leave our ruts in the corn field, take up the Spirit and follow Jesus.

Luke 15:7 "I can guarantee that there will be more happiness in heaven over one person who turns to God and changes the way he thinks and acts than over 99 people who already have turned to God and have his approval"

David

From the vestry

Stones, water, thread.

This may sound a bit like the game 'Rock, paper, scissors' but I can assure you it's not!

The initial random thoughts were born during a recent visit to Yorkshire when Robin and I found ourselves, sitting in the car, behind a flock of sheep being moved from one field to another along the road where we wanted to drive! As we all know, sheep have minds of their own and, even with the help of the farmer and a hard working sheepdog, they were not going to be hurried. We waited for some time (not that we minded as we were on holiday and the sun was shining for once!) Being a narrow road, we were very close to the dry stone wall surrounding the nearby field and during our wait I found myself studying its intricate pattern of stones, seemingly woven together with invisible thread. In the corner of the field there was a pile of discarded stones with no structure and not much use to anyone in that state. The stones in the wall, however, were strong, almost indestructible, and had the purpose of keeping the sheep (or other livestock) safe within its boundaries.

As many of you will know, I often send postcards from my holiday and this occasion was no exception. Some of the cards I bought were of a waterfall called Hardraw Force which looked quite a steady flow but when we actually visited it it was far more magnificent. Not only was the force of the water falling, and the thunderous noise which accompanied it, not captured in the picture postcard, the actual waterfall was much wider than depicted. For the previous three days, at least, the rain had poured down virtually non-stop (we knew

because we'd been there!!) and no doubt, knowing the wet summer most of the country had had, plenty more rain had fallen from Yorkshire skies previously to that. Again, we were watching the fall for some time as Rob was taking photographs (need I say more!) so I had plenty of time to reflect on questions like 'how many gallons of water were gushing down?', 'where had it come from?', 'where would its future journey take it?' etc.

The 'thread' thoughts came to me when, a few days later, we visited a rope makers in Hawes – a place I'm sure many of you will know. As we walked through the factory we were fascinated to see the speed at which the machines were working and we spent some time watching many threads (in some cases 32) being woven together to make great lengths of rope. The strongest ropes had a core in the middle around which the threads were woven tightly.

All this made me think that one individual thing is not always much use by itself but when joined with many others is a force to be reckoned with. One stone by itself, almost useless, but when put expertly with others can result in a strong dry stone wall. One drop of water is quite insignificant but joined with millions of others can produce a powerful waterfall (and sadly as much of the country has recently experienced can also cause devastating floods). One single thread can easily be broken but when woven together with others can produce an extremely strong rope.

We as individuals all have a purpose but when working together with God at the core, and in His power, can indeed be a force to be reckoned with.

With every blessing,

Mary

Worship event

The East Anglia District of the Methodist Church has been focussing on a year of worship during 2012. Workshops were held earlier in the year and now a 'Big Worship' event has been organised for 20th October at the Norfolk Showground. To help with transport to the venue a free coach has been booked for the circuit and will be departing from Bramford Road Methodist Church, Ipswich. If you would like to book a place on the coach or for the 'Big Worship' (also free but tickets are needed) please see the noticeboard, or Mary, for further details.

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.

Quiz

Felixstowe Listening Service are organising a 'Battle of the Churches' Quiz Night on 26th October at Salvation Army, Felixstowe at 7pm.

It has been suggested that we might like to enter a Felixstowe Methodist Mission Area team as the smaller churches would find it difficult to provide a team from their own people. If you

would like to be a part of a MA team (or would like to set up your own team from Seaton Road) please speak to Mary.

Second thoughts

I had my first thoughts about Second Chance, the musical production, quite some months ago, when asked to organise some singing evenings for Upper Room Fellowship. I had previously bought the score from a music publisher as it was half price in a sale. What a bargain it turned out to be.

My second thoughts about Second Chance are these.... I'm not sure how many evenings we spent learning and refining the songs, but I do know that each one contained almost as much laughter as singing. A bonus of these evenings has been the presence of friends from Kirton – Mary, Brian & Beryl, and Trinity – Jill & David, who came along, enjoyed themselves, and stayed the course.

It wasn't until the Wednesday, three days before the first performance, that we got together with Stephen Wyatt of the Trinity Players, who had turned the full drama into something manageable, and with Barry & Julia Middleton, who were the narrators. I think our excitement grew through the Thursday and Friday rehearsals and rather than being frightened by the idea of performing, we were all actually looking forward to it.

And when the time came, we all enjoyed the moments, when months of preparation turned into performances we could be pleased with. And so I would like to thank all those mentioned above, plus all the usual Seaton Road suspects. Everyone sang their hearts out, retelling a very well-known story in memorable fashion, and Denise was efficient in her role as page turner at all the right moments.

I really did feel a fraud when people said 'Well done' because it was a real collaborative effort. Thank you all for giving me a chance to play for a musical, something I've never done before. I will definitely be keeping the card you gave me, complete with some inappropriate messages, to remind me of Second Chance.

In addition the retiring collections raised £301-41 for the Whitechapel Mission, helping those who today are in need of a second chance.

Heather F

If you missed the 1st and 2nd chance of hearing 'Second Chance' you may get a third chance, as we are hoping it may be possible to bring it to one of Seaton Road's morning services in the not too distant future. Mary

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.



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 warmly invited to
**The launch of a new ecumenical 3 way partnership
for Walton Parish Nursing, Felixstowe**

including

*Maidstone Road Baptist Church, Seaton Road Methodist Church,
St Mary's Anglican Church.*

on *Sunday October 14th 2012*

3.00pm

at *Seaton Road Methodist Church,*

A short service of celebration followed by tea & cakes.
ALL WELCOME

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.

Please note that all contributions for the November edition of Brightstar should be with Robin and Mary by Saturday 27th October. Thank you!
email: robin.pattinson@btinternet.com

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, by lighting a candle as their names are read out. If you would like to have someone remembered please give names to one of the church stewards as soon as possible, as an alphabetical list will be drawn up before the day.

Harvest Thanks

A big thank you to everyone who helped in any way with our harvest thanksgiving celebrations.

On the Saturday morning the church was decorated with flowers, fruit and hedgerow material as well as being set up for café worship the following day. A special thank you to the Brownies, Little Fishes, Tea and Chat and FUNKY who each decorated a windowsill.

Our chosen harvest charity this year was 'The Ipswich Umbrella Trust' and we collected several boxes of items for them as well as £13-90 in cash. During our harvest service we looked at the hymn 'Praise God for the Harvest' with each table taking a verse to discuss and illustrate by making a collage.

Following the service flowers were taken to members of our church family who were not well enough to join us for worship and I'm sure were much appreciated.

Thank you all.

Mary

Thank You from Ipswich Umbrella Trust

Received from Roger Fern, IUT on 22nd September.

Dear friends,

Thank you very much indeed for the harvest items from Seaton Road. I delivered them to the Community Resource Centre yesterday.

The staff and volunteers were delighted to receive them and the opportunity they provide for creating food parcels for some of the Centre's more needy service users. Some of the biscuits and tea we shall use in the cafe, the remainder will go into the parcels. Sadly, the number of needy folk is increasing, and I predict will get worse as the changes to benefits kick in over the next few months. Some of our service users are in work, but it is poorly paid, others are desperately looking for work, and a significant number need a good deal of help before paid work becomes even a possibility.

On behalf of the service users, staff, volunteers and trustees, please convey my thanks and greetings to all the friends of IUT at Seaton Road, and assure them that the results of last Sunday's harvest thanksgiving and celebration will be put to very good use. As a result, there is much thanksgiving and celebration at the Community Resource Centre as well!!

Best wishes

Roger



Seaton Road Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 1st 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 we experimented with a **Chocolate Tombola** and it 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 are 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.

There will be a planning meeting on October 23rd at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and share their ideas to help us raise money.

Minutes of Seaton Road Methodist Church combined Annual Church Meeting and Church Council

Sunday 1st July 2012

Meeting was chaired by Rev. Martin Dawes who opened with a prayer asking for guidance to make decisions rightly and well.

Item 1. Apologies for absence and note of any courtesies due. Present: 21 members and friends. Two apologies as recorded in the attendance book. There were no courtesies due.

Item 2. Minutes of the last meeting and Parish Nursing Report. These were accepted and the minutes were signed as a true record.

Item 3. Election of Stewards. Five stewards were willing to be re-elected – Heather Bentley, Shirley Stockley, Mary Pattinson, Elizabeth Benyon and Howard Fotherby. Sue Hockenhull was willing to become a steward. Martin asked the meeting to approve the election of all six stewards 'en block', this was agreed by the meeting and the six stewards were voted for unanimously by those members present.

Item 4. Brief presentation by Leaders of Little Fishes, Kids Club and Funky, followed by open forum discussion.

Sue Hockenhull reported that 'Little Fishes' is going well for the Mums/Dads and toddlers who attend – approximately 15 adults and 20 children, but there is always a shortage of helpers. Elizabeth wants to cut down on Fridays so she can develop other ministries (particularly at Trimley). Sue is going to finish at end of the autumn term to make space for other responsibilities.

See separate sheets for report on Kids Club and Holiday Club.

Funky (Fun for C(K)hristian Youth)–Robin thanked everyone who had helped in any way with Youth Work at Seaton Road. He reminded us that we are fortunate to have so many areas of youth work at our church when so many churches are struggling to attract

youngsters. The aim of Funky is to promote Christian values and morals whilst working with the children on fun activities including crafts, games and colouring etc. The current challenge is the large age range (3-14) being catered for in a single group. The rota needs to be re-invented for the next year starting in September as we have recently lost a few helpers. More volunteers would be most welcome and any ideas for topics to explore would also be gratefully received.

Heather Bentley commented that faith was about trust and relationships and she observed that she felt youth work in churches had gradually changed from teaching, to learning about the Christian life through being in the presence of Christian people and how they interact with others.

There then followed an open forum discussion. Some of the points made were as follows:-

- Mums work more these days and the needs of families are different
- The connections made with families through working with the youngsters are important
- Perhaps grandparents could help with the practical needs at Little Fishes?
- The main challenge with youth work is people to help
- Which aspects of youth work can we actually sustain?

Martin concluded the meeting by commending the concerns and issues to prayerful consideration.

Item 5. Dates of Next Meetings

October 10th 2012 and February 6th 2013

The meeting closed at 12.05pm with a shared Grace.

DATES



October 10th Wednesday - Seaton Road Church Council 7.30pm

October 14th Sunday – Walton Parish Nursing Commissioning Service 3pm

October 14th Sunday – Trimley Harvest tea (5pm) and Songs of Praise (6pm)

October 20th Saturday – District Worship Event Norfolk Showground

October 30th Tuesday – M.Area 'Make and Take' morning at Trimley
10am – 12.30pm (for 5 -11 year olds)

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 1st Saturday – Trimley Christmas Concert
Geraldine & Friends 6pm.

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

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

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

Walton Parish Nursing, Felixstowe

is looking to recruit an additional

Parish Nurse



Due to the success of our current work we are seeking to add to our Parish Nursing team of one Nurse and 11 volunteers.

This is an exciting joint ministry of three churches in Walton, Felixstowe, showing God's love and care for individuals within the Walton community, enabling people to be whole people.

The candidate will be:

- a registered nurse, with 5 years of post qualification experience, preferably working in the community.
- personally and actively committed to the Christian faith, (Genuine Occupational Requirement applies).
- preferably an Accredited Parish Nurse. However accreditation and ongoing professional development will be funded by Walton Parish Nursing.

7.5hrs/week

Salary: £4600 (pro rata equivalent)
plus contribution to stakeholder pension

For further enquiries/discussion please contact
Linda Paris on 01394 671479

More information about Parish Nursing and our initiatives and a job description is available for download from the Walton Parish Nursing web site www.waltonpn.org.uk

Closing date: 27th October 2012

Interview date: mid November

Start date: negotiable