

Brightstar



October 2014

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

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

Services for October:

October 5th Rev Diane Smith
9.45 a.m. This service includes Holy Communion
Coffee will be served after this service

October 12th Mrs Liz Cope
9.45 a.m.

October 19th Café Worship!
Breakfast from 9.15 a.m.
Worship at 9.45 a.m.

October 26th Mrs Heather Bentley
9.45 a.m.



Walton Parish Nursing Celebration Service

Date: Sunday 19th October 2014

Venue: Maidstone Road Baptist Church, Walton, Felixstowe

Time: 3.00pm

Speaker: Rev Dr Helen Wordsworth
(CEO of Parish Nursing Ministries UK)

The service will be followed by refreshments.



Parish Nursing
Ministries UK

Contributions for the November edition of Brightstar should be with Robin & Mary (email robin.pattinson@btinternet.com) by 25th October please.

Remembering.....

Earlier this year together with around 400 Leyton Orient Football club supporters, Nigel and I travelled to France to visit various sights connected to World War One. At each place a short act of Worship was led by the Rev. Alan Comfort former player and Chaplain to the club. This experience was profoundly moving and provided an opportunity for deep engagement with history. Many of the children in the party read poetry and took an active part, returning home like the rest of us mindful of the terrible sacrifice and cost of war.

It will soon be November, a whole month almost set aside for the purpose of remembering; All Saints Day, All Souls Day, Remembrance Sunday and even time to reflect upon an attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament!

Remembering for Christians has deep connotations with Holy Communion, as we eat the bread and drink the wine we remember how Jesus laid down his life for us.

The physical eating of bread and the drinking of wine is an embodied experience and can therefore speak to our deepest being. Such actions can bring great comfort to those who are experiencing memory loss and their loved ones.

The Bible reminds us that even if a Mother should forget her child, God never forgets us.

We are all held in the collective memory of God regardless of our own ability to recall detail or even recognise loved ones.

The peace of God that passes all understanding is not just about our thought processes and our ability to remember, it can be felt deeply by those who are no longer able to articulate such emotions. So it is that Worship can provide a frame work that both helps us to remember and assists us to hold those who are struggling.

Diane

Vision Meeting: CHANGE OF DATE

Please note the Vision Meeting planned for Tuesday 4th November has had to be changed to **Monday 17th November 7.30 - 9.00 p.m.** to allow our Minister, Diane Smith, to be with us.

At this meeting we shall consider:-

STRENGTHS: What do you like about SRMC? What do we do well?

WEAKNESSES: What could we do better?

OPPORTUNITIES

There will be more details in the November issue. Keep the (new) date free & start collecting your thoughts about how SRMC can move forward.

We value the opinions of everyone.

Circuit Arts and Crafts Festival 2015

Next year's Circuit Arts and Crafts Festival will take place at Museum Street Methodist Church Ipswich on Saturday 14th March.

Please book the date now. Schedules will be out in a couple of month's time.

Word Puzzle

N	L	S
I	A	L
A	T	S

No plurals please

4 letters or more (adults)

3 letters or more (children)

Result of the September word puzzle.....

The nine-letter word in the
September puzzle was
"HARVESTER"

This month's word is
actually two words and is
plural!

Send your list to Robin or Mary by Sunday 25th October

Messy Church

The date for the next Mission Area Messy Church has been changed to Saturday October 18th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church. If anyone is available to help please let one of our stewards know.



Thank You

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all our church friends who helped in any way at Norma's thanksgiving service, to Jo for leading the service in such a special way, to Heather and Paul for providing the music, to Heather and Malcolm for stewarding, to Daryl for providing the family with a much needed 'cuppa' between the crematorium and church services and to everyone who attended the service. We knew everything would be in safe hands and we had many comments afterwards as to what a lovely service it was and how welcoming everyone had been. Norma's sons and the rest of the family also very much appreciated everyone's kindness. We would also like to thank Diane for her support at this time.

Robin, Mary and Oliver.

Christmas Cracker Special

Outreach work in the Mission Area

On Saturday 22nd November Kirton Methodist Church will be the venue for our next joint mission area outreach.

Christmas Cracker Special

Two repeat sessions will be on offer for children (junior age upwards). Session one will run from 10am to 12 midday. Session two from 1 – 3pm.

Both sessions will include a chance to hear and engage with the Christmas Story. The children will have the opportunity to be creative, learn a dance and take home 'The real Advent Calendar'.

If you think you might like to be involved in one or both of the above sessions please go to Trinity Manse on 21st October at 7pm. If you

cannot make this date or time but would like to help please contact our Lay Worker Dawn Bone or Rev Diane Smith.

Kids' Club

Following another very successful Holiday Club in August the Mission Area Kids' Club will continue to meet 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 7th October

Tuesday 4th November

Tuesday 2nd 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 Heather Carpenter or Robin or Mary Pattinson.

Remembering Service

The Annual Mission Area Remembering Service takes place at Trinity Methodist Church at 6 p.m. on Sunday 2nd November. If you have loved ones who have passed away who you would like included in this service please let one of the Stewards or Diane have their names.

Minutes of Church Council Meeting 12th February 2014

Revd David Kemble opened the meeting with reading and prayer.

13 members and friends attended, including Sandy Hamilton as Circuit Rep.

Item 1 Apologies for absence and note of any courtesies due.

Apologies listed in the book.

Letter from Seafarers' Centre asking us to lead worship there on April 6th. Heather Bentley agreed to lead with support from members and other section churches. David Kemble acknowledged Robin and Mary Pattinson's input in past years.

Item 2. Minutes of the last meeting Circulated in Brightstar, accepted and signed.

Item 3. Matters Arising Already on the agenda.

Item 4. Notice of items for Any Other Business Matters raised placed in agenda

Item 5. Finance Report – Malcolm Bentley Accounts being audited next week. David Kemble signed accounts and Reserves Policy.

Item 6 Property Report – Malcolm Bentley Hall carpet replaced, electrical circuit testing next week.

Second *contact* needed for *hall lets*. Robin Pattinson and Heather Farthing agreed. *Property committee* hasn't met for a year and only three active members. Chris Woods name suggested, item asking for any interested in Brightstar.

Elizabeth Kemble asked to have *carpet cleaned*, she will ask whoever cleans Trinity carpet. Request for new light bulbs in ladies toilets in hall. Rose Cross volunteered Mick's help.

Daryl Read raised concern about chairs in hall and practicalities of putting out and clearing away. Elizabeth Kemble agreed to leave 20 chairs out after Little Fishes on weeks when coffee after service.

Clear up day– Saturday 10th May to be confirmed subject to manpower and trailer availability.

Item 7. Election of officers Completed at October meeting.

Item 8. Stewards' and joint stewards' report. – Sue Hockenhull

Items which had been discussed at the Leadership meetings.

Christmas Post Box Continue with present system but also option of people sending card to whole church using an area of the pinboard.

Remembrance – poppy cross and flags need updating. The lilies and poppies which Monica gave to be used this year.

Café –Leadership team recommended not arranging Café service in January or August. Decided to hold off decision on January until arranging of café in general decided.

Derek Grimshaw had visited Felixstowe – including Port. A job description for chaplaincy developed and to be sent to Port. Derek also had introduction to Parish Nursing.

Little Fishes – Elizabeth Kemble will finish as leader at Easter so need an organiser. Elizabeth has one person to approach, and Rose Cross also suggested Linda Grimshaw. Elizabeth agreed to approach these.

Heather Bentley thanked Elizabeth and said if there is no-one coming forward by Easter Elizabeth should not feel personally responsible.

Leadership meeting had discussed several *vacant posts* should be abolished, avoiding feelings of guilt or failure, as we are already covering the areas but in different ways. Eg MRDF support over the last year rather than Overseas Mission, Parish Nursing rather than Mission in Britain. Agreed to abolish Network, MHA, Action for Children, OM, MiB and JMA posts.

Joint stewards' report – Heather Bentley

Monday 17th February at Trinity- a demonstration of CDs when no organist available

February 18th Workshop for children at Trimley

February 18th Joanna Jacobs holding creativity meeting in preparation for Holy Week

February 27th Holiday Club planning meeting at Steve Wyatt's

March 4th pancakes at Kirton

March 7th Women's World Day of prayer at Salvation Army at 10.30am or Falkenham Church in evening

March 8th & 9th Trimley's 25th anniversary of rebuilding of church

April 5th Synod in Ipswich

April 13th Kirton - Palm Sunday procession

Holy week Tuesday 15th at Kirton, Wednesday 16th at Trimley, Thursday 17th at Trinity and Good Friday 18th at Seaton Rd

April 25th Walton Churches Quiz

April 26th Trinity Spring Fayre

May 3rd Seaton Rd plant sale

The LIFT Soup kitchen ceased due to lack of need.

The details of Lent Course will be circulated when decided.

Farewell and Welcome. 27th July is David's last service here – a plan alteration. The same day at Trinity there will be tea at 4.30pm followed by farewell service. Heather Carpenter organising children's party as thanks and farewell for Elizabeth

Welcome for Revd Diane Smith. Informal Mission Area Welcome at Trimley on

Monday 1st September

The Official Welcome Service on 6th September at 6.00pm at Trinity, organised by circuit stewards.

Mary Pattinson had no further information on *Synod* and is trying to get hold of more details so she can organise helpers.

Item 9 Life and mission of the church *Safeguarding* – David Kemble said we need to review policy. He asked if anyone had used it or had any comments. Was no response, so suggested updating names etc on it and reissuing. Malcolm Bentley suggested it is put on website, and one copy must be on display in Hall.

Brightstar – Heather Farthing had given notice that she will resign as Brightstar editor from July. With Robin and Mary’s editorship Brightstar is covered until February 2015, but thought needed about production after that. Trinity had suggested a MA magazine. Robin and Heather to meet with reps from MA to look at way forward. Thanks were expressed to Heather for past contribution.

FUNKY – David Kemble asked the meeting to consider FUNKY which at present is intermittent. Daryl Read summed up position of meeting, saying ideally we would like to provide for children. Robin Pattinson had held meeting for those interested; he and Mary are happy to organise FUNKY one week a month, as long as Malcolm Bentley or Daryl Read will prepare the slides for church that week... Elizabeth Kemble suggested resourcing the first and third weeks each month by taking up their offer together with the Café service. (Coffee would then be served after the 2nd Sunday of each month, freeing Daryl to be responsible for the slides on the first Sunday). Katie has expressed and interest in organising a further week, providing an extra person is available to help her, and that will be explored in time.

Singing the Faith – Robin Pattinson had researched costs and was decided to use money left in Upper Room Fellowship funds and an individual gift to cover majority of cost for 20 word copies, 5 large print editions and the electronic version. Elizabeth Kemble updating *databases* for family and children’s work. Next messy church on April 19th. The meeting formally thanked Elizabeth for all her efficient work as lay worker.

Item 10. Future events and services

The Church Weekend on July 19th/20th, at Kirton year.

In response to 2015 Ditchingham proposal was only one enquiry concerned at costs, so nothing further will be done at present.

Gift Day – July 8th at 7.00pm

June 15th Church AGM, not as previously suggested, to be confirmed by the leadership team.

Covenant – September 14th

Harvest – 21st September with a Café Service

October Café – David Kemble will organise Revd Diane Smith on plan on 19th

Remembering 2nd November

Carols by Candlelight 23rd December

Christmas Day – Hopefully with Revd Diane Smith taking the first part of service

Item 11. Matters referred to and from circuit – Sandy Hamilton

‘On behalf of Circuit Stewards, I thank David and Elizabeth Kemble for all their hard work - both will be greatly missed. Plans for farewell event are in hands of local

churches. We pray for God's Blessing on them and that they enjoy a happy and healthy retirement. Rev. Diane Smith will be joining Circuit in September. Welcoming Service will be Sunday 7 Sept at Trinity. Circuit Stewards are working with Felixstowe MA to recruit lay worker to support Rev. Diane. Rev Martin Dawes and Rev Andrew Sankey enter stationing process this year - we are not allowed to approach them to ask their intentions before District Stationing Preparation Meeting on 21 May 2014. Marilyn Watsham will be co-ordinating for the circuit. (Martin will be on Sabbatical April, May and June 2014.)

Brian Loader and Mike Stock have held meetings with Church Treasurers to discuss assessments for the connexional year 2014-15, and understand it is difficult for many Churches to meet assessments. Brian and Mike will meet with Treasurers to find ways to help them meet assessments. Church Councils have to be reminded it was agreed at District Synod that all Churches in District would donate £10 to District Benevolent Fund. Manse at 528 Norwich Road Ipswich now sold, bridging loan paid off and surplus returned to circuit funds.

Rev Kathy Flynn will be ordained on 29 June during Birmingham Conference. We pray for God's Blessing on Kathy for Ordination and her future Ministry.

Peter Adams and I come to the end of six year term as circuit stewards this year, and circuit is looking for replacements. Two nominations will be required for the March Circuit Meeting. Please consider these vacancies thoughtfully and prayerfully. District Synod on 5th April at Waterfront Centre, University Campus Suffolk, Ipswich. Marilyn Watsham is circuit's co-ordinator and is seeking volunteers for catering, parking etc. Will be farewell synod for Chair of District Rev Graham Thompson. David Kemble asked about hours for the lay post – 16 hours. Heather Bentley asked whether advertising of post had included a voluntary element – yes, it would be possible.

Malcolm Bentley asked about increase in assessment – it will be 7 1/2%

Item 12 Parish Nursing – Sue Hockenhull

Sue reported that all going well, and is plenty to report upon, but in view of the fact that it was by now late, she would save it for another time!

Item 13 Walton Churches. – Heather Bentley

In similar fashion, Heather reported a lot of interest in Christians against Poverty, but she would leave it for another time.

Item 14 Any Other Business All items dealt with already

Item 15 Dates of next meetings AGM & Church Council June 15th and Church Council October 15th 7.30pm

Minutes of Annual Church Meeting

Sunday 15th June 2014

This meeting followed Sunday worship, and was intended to be brief and cover only essential business.

David Kemble opened the meeting in prayer.

Item 1. Minutes of the last annual meeting.

These were read, and had previously been accepted and signed at the October Church Council.

Item 2. There were no matters arising.

Item 3. Election of stewards.

David Kemble thanked the team of stewards for all their work over the last year. There had been resignations from Howard Fotherby, Heather Bentley and Elizabeth Benyon, the three longest serving stewards. David expressed our appreciation of their whole terms of office. Shirley Stockley and Sue Hockenhull were willing to continue in office, endorsed wholeheartedly by the meeting.

After a prior discussion at a meeting of the Leadership Team, and because of the difficulty of maintaining a full team of stewards David Kemble had approached some of the ex-stewards with a view to them helping out as vestry stewards on some Sundays, particularly in the period up until December.

The meeting agreed to the temporary appointment of Daryl Read, Rosemary Cross and Jane Reed to help on that basis. The leadership meeting had proposed a Vision meeting to see the way forward once Revd Diane Smith has settled in.

Item 4. Review of the last 5 years

David Kemble spoke about how much he had enjoyed living in Felixstowe, how he had been impressed with the wide range of activities undertaken at Seaton Road and most importantly how he and Elizabeth had valued friendships made in this time. Sue Hockenhull gave a Vote of Thanks from the church community for the work and friendship of David and how much he had meant to us all.

Item 5. Date of Vision Meeting

The date of November 4th at 7.30pm was proposed.

Item 6. Any Other Business.

The meeting agreed the church should contribute £20.00 from funds towards the gift for Graham Thompson, as he ends his appointment as District Chairman.

Robin Pattinson asked that those interested in the Church Family Weekend at Kirton sign on the list promptly.

A Meditation about God

Alicia Holmes

As you think about God, I wonder what images come into your mind. Even trying to describe God is of course beyond us and yet to worship him we need to exercise our imaginations to begin to grasp his amazing qualities. Maybe it was coming to Felixstowe which made me start wondering if God is like the sea – not an image which would please Jews who by tradition, are very frightened of the sea. But for me there are possibilities in this idea....

Thinking of the sea I am reminded of the vastness of God, how he stretches beyond where my mind's eye can see. Swimming in the sea I am able to float and swim with ease – somehow it helps me to stay buoyant and gives me strength which is not my own. Jumping, I can catch the power of a wave at the right moment and I and my body board are propelled towards the shore in a rush of exhilaration. In the same way, when I obey the voice of the Lord and rely on His strength I can do things which I would never be able to do on my own. But first I have to persuade myself to get into the sea. I have to believe that it will be worth the rush of cold to my feet, my legs, worth launching into its depths. I have to have faith if I am to experience the delights it holds in store. I think of Peter's courage when he chose to step out of the comfort of the boat onto the stormy water, at Jesus' command. Like Peter I might sink or worse, drown.

And yet at other times God seems balmy and soothing like the warm waves of the Mediterranean lapping gently on a smooth sandy beach. He comforts me and refreshes me. Puts his arms around me to reassure and strengthen me if I am feeling sad. But then he can be wild and uncontrollable like waves crashing on rocks in a storm, capable of changing whole landscapes and destroying cliffs and property in a moment of fury. In Him I can feel so small, so out of control, so scared of what He might do. Over the years and especially through the storms God shapes me like a pebble in the sea. The rough times are those when I am moulded, my sharp edges are smoothed and maybe, just maybe he is gradually shaping me to be more useful to him.

If I look below the surface of the sea there are whole worlds of which so little is known. Huge numbers of undiscovered species. Creatures of

every colour and size, areas of warmth and parts which are too freezing cold for people to survive for long. God's depths too, are beyond my understanding. There is always so much more to discover of Him and His character.

And yet the sea is not pure and the Lord is holy. The sea is not capable of relationship and the Lord is above all a God who knows and longs to be known. The sea is not personal, but God is like a perfect parent who loves all the people he has made. Yes, of course the sea has limits while the Lord is beyond our understanding.

Seaton Road Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 6th 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.



Once again 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 and other saleable items. 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 November 10th at 7.30pm at Daryl's. Everyone is welcome to come along and share their ideas to help us raise money.