

BRIGHTSTAR



SEPTEMBER 2010

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

FROM THE MANSE....

My Dear Friends,

What a first year it has been! Has it lived up to my expectation? Most certainly in so many respects! I hope you feel it has been a good year for you as an important member of God's church here in Seaton Road. Jesus asks his disciples to have courage in following his example of not looking back but always in pressing on towards the goal! Hopefully, we are all aware of that goal in helping others of all ages to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and our own personal goal of being part of His Kingdom. Our vision to be "at the heart of community" continues to be the focus at this the beginning of a brand new Methodist Church year



I have been delighted with the response and commitment towards meeting our aims in the past 12 months. This has included new initiatives in addition to maintaining existing ones. The reviews received over the past 13 weeks concerning Town Pastors has been amazing and the team that brought huge smiles to the faces of over 50 children and their parents during our holiday club week was simply fantastic. There has also been the important work of strengthening ties with our brothers and sisters in the Felixstowe Mission Area and the Walton community. All this work I pray will continue in the New Methodist Year! And it has only been possible because Seaton Road Methodist Church believes the whole family is important to God which you have shown in so many ways over a number of years. Café worship, prayer and bible study, church family weekends and the pastoral work that goes on here are the building blocks that has enabled this church to be where God intends it to be!

I pray you have had a chance to recharge those heavily used batteries during this holiday period for we need to be prepared for more challenges in the coming year! Our new President of the Methodist Conference, Alison Tomlin, has said her term will be about 'listening to God' and following the direction towards which he is leading His Church! May we also be blessed with such insight in discerning where God is on the move in our hearts and in the centre of our community!

Much Love and blessings,
and Happy New Church Year!

David

WORSHIP

Sunday 5th September

9.45am Revd David Kemble - Covenant Service

6.00pm Circuit welcome service for Revd Andrew Sankey
and Revd Martin Dawes

Sunday 12th September

9.45am Revd Peggy Heim

Sunday 19th September

9.45am with breakfast from 9.15am

Cafe Worship with Revd David Kemble

Sunday 26th September

9.45am Revd David Kemble - Harvest Festival

(The church will be decorated with floral displays as usual on
Saturday 25th September. The monetary donations this year will be
in support of the EACH Tree House Appeal.)

Sunday 3rd October

9.45am Mrs Mary Dixon

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

HARVEST BARN DANCE



Saturday 25th September at 6.30 pm

£4 adult, £2 children includes hotdog

Tickets from Daryl or Malcolm



It's time to smell those sausages and get your feet dancing again. The
musicians are practising, but all you have to do is turn up, simply do
what the caller calls and have an evening of fun.

SUFFOLK HISTORIC CHURCHES CYCLE RIDE

We will once again be participating in the Historic Churches Cycle Ride.
Jonathan Reed is planning to ride and looking for sponsors. If you want
to join him get your forms from Malcolm Bentley.

SLATES AND LADDERS - AN UPDATE

Soon after we completed work on the slate roof of the hall, it became apparent that the tiled area over the stairwell needed attention. This has now all been re-felted. We took the opportunity of having the scaffolding in place to paint the high-level woodwork.

The work has left a legacy of slate dust in the hall and water damage in the stairwell. Both areas need redecorating. Fortunately we have enough money left over from our appeal to cover the cost. But it was not possible to get the work done during the school summer holidays – which is really the only time we can tackle the main hall. Next year we hope!

As we have sufficient money put aside, I want to wind up the slates and ladders appeal. The boxes have raised over £1000 and I am sure there are still one or two out there. If you have one could you let me have it some time? Thanks

Malcolm

SEPTEMBER PRAYER DIARY

Pray without ceasing (Charles Wesley) H&P 719

Sunday 5th Covenant service with Revd David Kemble, and the Welcome Service at Bramford Road for Revd Martin Dawes and Revd Andrew Sankey

Monday 6th Work of the Port Chaplain, Revd David Kemble

Tuesday 7th For those involved in work amongst our young people and children

Wednesday 8th Parish Nursing (Nicky Wright) and the need for more volunteers to assist this work

Thursday 9th Midweek Worship and coffee morning and the local preachers' meeting this evening at Kirton

Friday 10th The millions of people in Pakistan who are still without shelter, food and clean water - remember those who are seeking to bring them relief

Saturday 11th The Leprosy Mission and the District Synod at Cambridge

Sunday 12th Revd Peggy Heim as she leads our worship today

Monday 13th The various groups using our church hall week by week

Tuesday 14th Military personnel in Afghanistan and those involved in peace keeping in other countries

Wednesday 15th Catriona Bentley working in Uganda, pray for health and strength to fulfil what at times can be a demanding schedule

Thursday 16th Church Lunch, those who come for food and fellowship and give thanks for those involved in the preparation

Friday 17th Remember all our Circuit ministers and their families

Saturday 18th Local preachers preparing to lead worship in various churches tomorrow

Sunday 19th Pray for all who join us today for Cafe Worship

Monday 20th Pray for the pre-school pupils and staff who meet in our church hall

Tuesday 21st Circuit lay workers Stephen Caley, Heather Bentley and Elizabeth Kemble

Wednesday 22nd Associated churches in Walton - St Mary's and Maidstone Road Baptist Church

Thursday 23rd Upper Room Fellowship as it starts its Autumn /Winter programme today

Friday 24th Seamans Mission at the Port and worldwide

Saturday 25th The work of the Town Pastors, and our Barn Dance here this evening

Sunday 26th Harvest Thanksgiving with Revd David Kemble
Monday 27th For guidance and direction for our Circuit administrators
Tuesday 28th For patients and staff at St Elizabeth Hospice
Wednesday 29th Revd Michael Allen and Paul Taylor and team as they seek to comfort and help those suffering ill health, disability and loneliness
Thursday 30th Any members of our church family who may have particular need of our prayers today
October
Friday 1st Churches Together in Felixstowe. Remember in your prayers our reps on this committee, Mary and Rose
Saturday 2nd Mary Dixon as she prepares to lead us in worship tomorrow

NEWS FROM CATRIONA

Dear All,

Thank you so much for your prayers and emails of encouragement.

Settling into life here in Africa has been fairly straight forward so far. I have a lovely room, a very welcoming land lady and living in a shared house is a really good way of meeting people. I love the climate (generally mid twenties and sunny) although when it rains it absolutely throws it down so even a quick dash for safety can leave you soaked through. I have found this amazing market just down the hill from me, where you can buy all sorts of fruit and vegetables all locally grown.

Work is great. The clinical officers and doctors have been very helpful in settling me in. They have given me some great tips, and offered good advice when I am not sure what to do. They are very experienced and I am sure I will learn much in the year I am here. I have been showing them some of the things I do in the UK, particularly with the more complicated patients. It is strange working without the level of back up, in terms of advanced care, that I have in the UK but it really makes you think about each patient and adapt your management plan to the situation. Communication is absolutely essential both within the theatre and with the ward.

So far I have not been able to buy a car as I cannot find a small 4x4 for sale. I am continuing to ask around and in the meantime I am tackling Ugandan bureaucracy to get a tax number so I can register it when I

find one. Ugandan bureaucracy is not to be recommended; if someone asks you to fill in a form then run a mile because you can be certain that it won't be straight forward and will require a photocopy of everything from your birth certificate to you death certificate! It's not a corrupt system it's just not user friendly.

Ugandan people are however very friendly and most speak at least some English which is a great help, although I am getting the clinical officers to help me learn some Lugandan. The children call "muzungu" after you in the street which means "white person", and love it when you turn and wave. The ones at the hospital are always zipping around the grounds in their wheelchairs. They could do with a few driving lessons although we haven't yet had any broken bones from their antics. Children here are so brave, many staying at the hospital with a distant relative, and often anaesthetised on their own or having procedures done under local anaesthetic. The vast majority don't cry or scream they just cooperate and are incredibly polite.

I went to a church last week which was great. I liked the style of worship and it was very family orientated but it was full of Muzungus. So I will try somewhere different this week as I would like to be a member of a more mixed congregation.

If you have some prayer time then I would really appreciate, prayers for: finding and purchasing a car, finding a church, meeting some people who will become good friends.

Best Wishes,

Catriona.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

As part of the Macmillan Cancer Support World's Biggest Coffee Morning, Heather and Robert Farthing will be opening the office doors to anyone who would like to support this charity on Friday 24th September between 10.00am and midday.

There will be coffee (and tea) and cakes, and while there will be no set charge, there will be a collection box for any donations.

THANKYOU.....

Dear friends,

I would like to thank all my friends for all the kindness which has been shown to me over the last few months. Firstly for all the donations towards the chair lift appeal in memory of my dear Joyce. The fund stands at £300.00 at present.

And secondly for all the cards which I received on my birthday - the number was overwhelming. Everyone has been so kind, especially my Denise who has given me such love and support.

Thank you all.

Archie

Dear Seaton Road Church Family,

I would to thank everyone who was involved in any way in making my Local Preacher Accreditation Service on the evening of Thursday 5th August such a lovely and meaningful occasion. As always a lot of work was put in behind the scenes by people working together and it is impossible to name them, but I am really very grateful to you all.

Thank you, too, for the lovely bouquet of flowers and the card from you all, as well as for the individual good wishes. I feel really blessed to have had such wonderful support.

Heather Bentley

Just a little note but a great big thank you to all those who helped out at our Circus Holiday Club. What a team! From the ring-master to the cleaner of the elephant tent you were all brilliant. Thank you for stepping into the unknown with me and believing me when I said it would be fun - it certainly was!

Thank you also to any parents of children who came along. Your children are wonderful and we hope to see them again soon.

Lastly, thank you to all who supported us although you were unable to come -(please check with me before booking your holiday next year!!) We appreciated and indeed felt the amount of prayer offered for the week.

In the words of the children's favourite song.....

Our God is a Great Big God!

Elizabeth

FROM THE VESTRY...

Growing your Own'

With encouragement from Archie, Paul has recently rediscovered his fascination with growing his own vegetables. So at weekends and after work he is constantly pottering around at the bottom of our garden, tying up his tomatoes, digging up the potatoes or picking runner beans! Being close to nature helps him to unwind from the stresses and strains of the working day. Meanwhile, I have been expanding and developing our flower beds and pots to attract the bees and other insects to our garden. We both find gardening very relaxing and enjoyable and we especially like to eat our 'homegrown' produce – it is so tasty!

Jesus was clearly inspired by nature and the things growing around him – he used examples such as the sower and his seeds, and the lilies of the fields to illustrate his parables and stories. Being a carpenter he must also have been very aware of how to make best use of the resources he had. As we look forward to our Harvest celebrations later this month, we are reminded of the wonderful way that nature provides us all with food and so many other resources.

Harvest Festival is a really good time to take stock of where we are, give thanks for everything we have, and consider ways in which we might use the things around us to help us grow, both as individuals and a church family. As a church we have so much to be thankful for, and our Cafe Worship services and events like the Holiday Club have started to show us ways in which we can 'grow' our church family. As individuals we can use the Bible, regular prayer time and inspiration from others to 'grow' in our Christian faith.

I'm sure we shall all enjoy the Harvest Celebrations here at Seaton Road and hopefully they will inspire us all to think about how things grow – not only in our gardens, but also in our church family.

Liz

The report on the Church Family weekend will appear next month due to lack of space

KIRTON METHODIST CHAPEL REDEDICATION

After the completion of the extensive work to update the Chapel at Kirton, friends there had a weekend of celebrations on 24th and 25th July.

Friends from many neighbouring churches attended, including several from Seaton Road, and extra seats were needed at the re-dedication service on Saturday afternoon, led by Revd Alan Taylor and Revd David Kemble. It was a very happy occasion after a period when the Kirton members and friends have worked tirelessly towards a vision which at times seemed far off.

Below is part of the liturgy used in the service, which you may like to read through. It is particularly apt as we think about our own covenant service this month.

The skies and the highest heavens cannot contain God, much less church buildings that are made by human hands.

Yet God dwells on earth and makes himself known in sacred spaces and sacred moments.

Today we dedicate afresh this building to the service of God.

We consecrate our sanctuary and meeting room as places of worship, prayer, praise and fellowship.

We promise to share God's word more readily and to sing, pray and share in such ways as to energise and deepen our faith.

We rededicate ourselves this day to the praise of our God and to the service of his people.

We look forward to sharing with our Christian brothers and sisters God's love on our life's journey.

We covenant anew today, to share the ministry of Jesus with the larger community around us, that all who cross our paths may know of his unconditional love and healing grace.

Filled with the Grace and Love of Jesus Christ, we rededicate ourselves to his service, With God's help, may it be so.

ROLL UP, ROLL UP

That was the theme for our holiday club held at Seaton Road in the first week of the school holidays. The church hall was transformed with our parachute suspended from the rafters to look like the big top and various other decorations on the walls. Although we had some children pre-booked we weren't sure how many we would get each morning. Most days we had over 40, peaking on the Thursday at 47. We worked in age groups – the clowns, the jugglers, the lion tamers and the trapeze artists.

The mornings were well planned with periods for aerobics, singing, praying, a story, a drama, puppet show, refreshments and craft. The children were fantastic and joined in so enthusiastically with everything. You couldn't hear a pin drop during the story telling and the singing nearly raised the roof (a good test for the new roof!). Ratty and Stinky, the puppets, were very popular and Zippo the clown had to be cloned so that when he wasn't there in person he sent his twin brother!!

One of the activities was circus skills and on the Thursday morning the children performed their skills for their parents. We had some tremendous stilt walkers, plate spinners and jugglers. On the Friday morning we were entertained by the skills of Dave the juggler who managed to effortlessly juggle with up to six balls at a time. The children again were enthralled and sat watching intently. When Dave showed them how to balance peacock feathers on their fingers they couldn't wait to have a go and it was a real picture to see the church full of youngsters concentrating hard to balance their feathers.

Holiday club extra was held on the Sunday morning when we shared with the church family some of the week's events. It was encouraging to have several of the youngsters and their parents joining us too as well as many of the helpers. The whole week was great fun, very tiring but most of all a wonderful sharing of God's love for us all.

Elizabeth and David had prepared the week and their enthusiasm encouraged us all. A huge thank you for all their hard work and also thanks go to everyone who helped in any way to make the week such a success.

Mary

BRIGHTSTAR

Thank you once again to Howard for the cover photograph from his collection. Please can I have material for the October Brightstar by Monday 27th September .

Heather F