

The Methodist



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From the Superintendent



If we are ever unsure about the priorities of the Christian faith, not in terms of our personal eternal prospects but of the priorities it engenders within those who follow Jesus, then we need look no further than the four evangelists who together represent the fullest picture we have of our Lord's teaching. Each of them - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – recall and quote his words to his disciples in his final days prior to the ascension (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48 and Acts 1:8; John 20:21). The importance Jesus placed on these life priorities is underlined by the fact that they were set before his disciples as his final instructions to them, not to be forgotten, overlooked or ignored by them or by the church that would come into being as a direct result of their obedience to those instructions.

Before I was ordained as a Salvation Army officer (minister), I remember being told that the most important position to be filled in a local church was that of the 'Recruiting Sergeant.' This was the person whose main responsibility was, as the title suggests, evangelism and the nurture and discipling of those new to church. This was seen - theologically, though sadly not always in practice - as more vital than finance, property, and yes, even musical, roles.

When such a large proportion of Jesus' recorded ministry was directed at spiritual healing and salvation, sometimes prefaced by the 'sign' of physical restoration, then who are we to relegate this to a place behind social care and responsibility? The Gospel is, of course, not one or the other. It is both, and it is the primary purpose to which Christians are called.

It is my prayer that the church as a whole, our Circuit and its churches, and we as individual disciples who have each made a response in love and obedience to Christ who first loved us, always remember his departing words and seek to follow them to the best of our ability

Every blessing in Christ
Andy

Patron saints - St Andrew

by Joy Southam

On 30th November, people in Scotland will be celebrating St Andrew's Day.

Andrew was born between AD 5 and 10 in Bethsaida, Palestine's main fishing port. His father was a fisherman and Andrew, along with his brother Simon, followed him into that profession working alongside family friend Zebedee and his two sons James and John.

Andrew's name meant manly, and he was also full of curiosity. Educated in the synagogue school from the age of 5, he would have studied the scriptures and also astronomy and arithmetic. He met John the Baptist on the banks of the Jordan and later became the first disciple of Jesus. It was Andrew who took the boy with the loaves and fishes to Jesus. If you read the apocryphal 'Acts of Andrew', he became a traveller and is reputed to have made three trips to Asia Minor as well as visiting Greece,, Russia and Hungary.

He died in agony in Patras, having chosen to be scourged and crucified. He asked that the cross be diagonal as he like Peter felt he was not worthy of being crucified like his friend, master and saviour. He hung on his cross for three days not nailed to it but tied by ropes, continuing to preach the good news of Jesus as long as his agony allowed him to do so.

Various legends exist as to how his bones ended up in Scotland but what is known is that in 908AD St Andrews became the home of the only bishopric in Scotland and a centre of pilgrimage. In 1316, the cathedral was dedicated and in 1411 the university was founded. During the Reformation, the reliquary containing Andrew's bones was destroyed and for a very long time no one knew the whereabouts of the bones. In 1879 the Archbishop of Amalfi sent to Scotland what was thought to be his shoulder blade and in 1969 the Pope gave part of what is believed to be his skull to the Archbishop of St Andrews. Both relics are now housed in St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh. Another part of the skull is to be found in Greece at St Andrew's Cathedral in Patras.

Not only did Andrew become the first disciple of Jesus and brought the boy whose picnic fed so many people to him, he also brought Gentiles to him and preached about him far away from Bethsaida until his dying day.

The Scottish Saltire Cross is a multiplication sign and a reminder of that miracle by the lakeside.

Joy Southam



Methodist Conference weekend report

I am no longer a representative to Methodist Conference so this time my report only relates to the weekend and does not cover any of the business. By the time you read this, a Conference Business Digest should be available on the Methodist Church website. Conference had a new venue this year, at the Royal Armouries in Leeds, using the New Dock Hall and rooms in the museum building. The membership of Conference was smaller, having been streamlined.

Paul and I attended the official opening of Conference on the Saturday and this included lively worship, the loyal address to King Charles III and the addresses by the new President of Conference (Revd Helen Cameron) and Vice President (Carolyn Godfrey) once they had been formally elected. As usual, the Conference started with the hymn “And are we yet alive?” which is a traditional Wesley one.

The President’s address included a quote from Isaiah 1 v17 “Learn to do what is right, seek justice and defend the oppressed”. As a “Yorkshire lass” Helen was pleased to be President when Conference was meeting in Leeds. She spoke of sharing with us this year a vision of the Church and the world transformed, not by might or power but by love and justice, mercy and compassion, truth and grace. This fits in well with the Justice-seeking Church work and a belief that justice is what love looks like in public. Justice needs searching out as we learn about how others experience life. This was all music to my ears as the District Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Officer!

Helen suggested that most of us need to be more aware of our (often white) privilege. The suffering of the poor must not be ignored. Helen reminded us that prejudice and discrimination is not someone else’s problem. We also need to remember that, although we are smaller and frailer as a denomination on our own, we are also part of a glorious, diverse and dynamic body of Christ. She also stressed the importance of ecumenism.

In her address the Vice President looked at the challenge of change through learning. She said she is fascinated by people, how they interact and especially the way humans learn. We are all different and all learn differently and too often judge others through the lens of our own experiences. Carolyn spoke of the fact that we do not all experience faith in the same way and we do not all need

to do church in the same way. The joy of being a Connexional Church is the rich diversity that makes up who we are.

Carolyn suggested that John Wesley's three key rules "Do no harm, do all the good you can and attend to the ordinances of God" are golden threads that should weave through our lives and all we do as individuals and as an organisation. There are so many ways that we can learn and the process of learning new things changes our brains and how we think and act. As someone who has always been keen on reading and learning, this resonates with me.

We also attended Sunday morning worship. The President's sermon drew on the image of Jesus as the vine and on the importance of prayer. The 50th Anniversary of women's ordination to the presbyterate ministry was celebrated and this year's ordinands were joyfully received into Full Connexion. Later that afternoon we attended one of the ordination services at Batley Methodist Church. This included the ordination of Rev Jonny Bell from the Central Norfolk Circuit and was a wonderful occasion. The African singing (by those supporting another ordinand) on the steps of the Church afterwards made our District Chair (Julian) feel like he was back in Zimbabwe!

Next year Conference returns to Telford. For information the President Designate is Revd Richard Andrew and the Vice President Designate is Matt Forsyth.

Susan Eldridge
(District EDI Officer)

Methodist Women in Britain

Autumn District Day will be on Saturday, 5th October
Venue Histon Methodist Church
Bring your own lunch Tea and coffee will be provided.
10.15 for 11am start
Leader - Revd Jenny Pathmarajah

The Friends of Cromwell House

A Short reflection on its development
by David Ingham

What follows has been written from the notes of meetings (held by my late wife, Anita,) going back thirty years or more, though I cannot go back to the opening of the Home in 1969.

Like so many Christian charities, the Friends started as a result of the need to involve volunteers from local churches in the running of the Home. In the beginning, Methodist Homes for the Aged (as it was then called) provided a back up facility and some broad policy guidelines as well as funding the construction of the Home. In order to make the Home a good place in which to live, volunteers were used extensively at a local level, each Home running fairly autonomously but under the umbrella of MHA.

The Home was controlled by an Executive Committee (providing general guidance and decision-making at a local level) and a Home Sub Committee, which enabled a Support Group to advise on, and sometimes carry out, many of the key functions, such as premises management, staff payment and appointment, and also a wide offering of entertainments, arranged, and often provided, by the volunteers themselves. In addition, volunteer members attended all Residents committees to ensure that their needs were being met and they were being listened to.

Like all such organisations, as Methodist Homes grew it also developed a stronger core of policies and took over the appointment of staff (though always involving local people). MH also gradually realised the need to seek to ensure that all of its housing provision met acceptable standards of performance wherever it was provided. This saw a gradual movement to reduce local autonomy and increase the control of the Derby headquarters. Given the growth of quality standards and the importance of Charity Law, Derby needed to ensure that each home was meeting the requirements and was accountable to the Head Office in order to maintain good standards nationwide.

While this did not eliminate the need for volunteers, it did reduce their significance locally in relation to the key areas of staffing and quality. As the changes

came about, The Support Group gradually became the committee for the Friends (1995) and that has remained until this day, and will remain into the future. The names of the members of the Support Group (or Friends committee) are written in history, in the first instance coming mainly from Chapel Field Road Methodist Church and Hethersett MC but fairly quickly volunteers came from many other churches within the Methodist Circuit and beyond.

Several factors have gradually led to further need for change for the Friends committee, and these are very familiar to those of us involved in many other Christian charities. The main factor is undoubtedly the increasing pressure on younger people to work long hours if they are to earn, between them, sufficient income to support their families. When that is added to the inevitable ageing of the committee members, and the difficulty of finding replacements, (Anita had first asked for a replacement as Secretary, after she had served for 25 years, but was still going strong more than ten years later!) the need for further change became inevitable. What prompted the speeding up of this was the Covid years during which we lost some volunteers and also found fewer people willing, or able, to offer their help. I suspect I am not the only person who can recall going in to Cromwell House to offer entertainments in the late 1980s or 1990s. The volunteers did a wonderful job and made sure that there would always be some extra entertainment provided but such arrangements could never survive into the future as the MHA recognised the importance of such stimulation for its residents and appointed, at a local level, Activities Coordinators. I found the first occurrence of this in 2002/3 when a member of Care staff was given this role as an additional responsibility. Since then, this role has grown into a full time position and has been graced by some excitingly good staff providing a much more full package of visits, entertainments and outings, to the extent that we currently have a weekly programme with something on every day of the week. While volunteers remain important, such a programme could not be dependent on volunteers alone. Paralleling the growth of Activities, there was increasing recognition of the importance of opportunities for daily worship and so we saw the Home move from the former system of a Circuit Minister doing this in her or his spare time, to specially appointed part time Chaplains.

As someone who is privileged to still go in to lead worship every other week, I know just how important the spiritual life of the Home can be, especially during times of crisis or bereavement. The provision of worship and Bible Studies continue to draw attendance of nearly half of the residents every time .

For the whole of its existence, Cromwell House has developed a reputation as a caring community with excellent staff. One of the main roles of the Support Group/ Friends, in the early years was to lobby Derby Head Office when we felt our staff were being put under extra pressure or were paid inadequately.

This was probably one of the main themes of minutes of earlier meetings but since then things improved considerably when MHA adopted the policy of always paying the Living Wage or above, which is still the case. The importance of lobbying has always been there as often it has helped to support MH in its national campaigns especially those seeking to lobby Government to provide fairer funding for our residents. In the early days the staff team remained fairly constant for several years but with the increasing restrictions by government on spending in the care sector it has become harder to keep staff when they can get much higher pay elsewhere. It is easy to understand why even the most caring person might leave the care industry when wages are so much higher in almost every other sector of employment. Nevertheless, I think we can still feel very proud of our Home as they look after the residents who can have all sorts of problems and challenges.

(I would like to interrupt the history there to quote from a poem written by a former resident. I will not name the member of staff as she is still with us even though the poem was written in 2010.

‘Not in the NVQ you are working for
But in the love you share
When you come and put my shoes on
And tidy my duvet too
This is Christian caring
Going the extra mile
When you’re tired and ready to rest yourself
You do the job with a smile
And a twinkle too.....
The one and only.....’

What I have not yet mentioned is the other side of the Friends work, the raising of funds for the Amenity Fund, to pay for those extra special treats which might otherwise be beyond the allocated budget of the Home.

Traditionally we have raised funds through subscription and fund- raising such as the Annual Garden Party and Autumn Fayre. All of that has happened from day one. We added to that the running of a small shop which is now kept on a trolley which our Activities Coordinator wheels round weekly. The funds raised from all of these sources, have enabled so many things and that was added to greatly during the period when Chapel Field Road kept its minibus at Cromwell House and it was used to provide transport to all sorts of places. Run by volunteers (led by the indefatigable Geoff Brown and his team of drivers).

As with all of the other original work of the volunteers, the fundraising has di-

minished as the committee members became too elderly themselves to do the huge amount of work required. What happens now is largely due to our wonderful Activities Coordinator and staff volunteering beyond their working hours. Covid was probably the death knell of many of these things as once something stops it is difficult to get it going again, especially when some of the main active people have become frail or poorly. However, the programme of stimulating activities kept going once mixing was allowed again and is now really a big feature of the life of the Home. One of the positives during Covid was the generosity of local companies and churches who made quite large donations so that, ironically, at the end of the current phase of the Friends we have more in the bank than at any time before! We are grateful to a number of volunteers who have looked after our money over the years but like so many things, they too have become older and tired and so in recent times the Treasurership has passed to our wonderful Administrator in the Home, Colleen Ellis. It is Colleen who you need to contact if you wish to give subscriptions or donations.

So, I will finish this anecdotal history by trying to summarise how things are today.

Firstly I believe that in a great many ways they are better now than ever. While my history talks of the decline of volunteer numbers and involvement, that has been more than matched by the increasing professionalisation of what we did for so many years.

*There is no longer a need to rely on local church members to provide all of the entertainment as our professional Coordinator arranges this so much better and that is how it should be.

*There is no longer any real involvement of volunteers in appointment and payment of staff, though the need for a loud voice of support, writing to acknowledge the work done by Head Office in its campaigns in parliament, is still necessary at times.

*Rightly, this is now a professionally conducted process ensuring all Homes conduct themselves legally and within policy guidelines under the oversight of Head Office.

*The Care system, while often stretched, is working well as is testified by the positive ratings from CQC. Perhaps one of the biggest areas of volunteer involvement needs to be to support the staff as they work their fingers to the bone to ensure good care and food for all.

* Funding of the Amenities Fund continues to be important as the Home is still dependent on this Fund to provide those things not available from the allocated budget from Head Office. It is good that someone in the Home now has control

over this Fund and access on a much easier basis than before.

The final note must be that the Friends STILL EXIST AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

They continue to depend upon you and your churches to support the activities of the home, to offer acts of worship, to befriend the staff and residents and to provide the funding through your subscriptions and donations. YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO KEEPING THIS WONDERFUL WORK GOING. PLEASE SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO



Julian Retreat 27 - 28 September 2024

In 1373 Julian of Norwich experienced a remarkable series of visions of Christ, that she would later call Showings or Revelations of Divine Love.

Over 650 years on we continue to find ourselves nourished, moved and challenged by Julian's prayerful reflections on her experience. We sense that Julian is a gift for our times, and invite you to join us as we explore excerpts from Revelations of Divine Love.

This two-day retreat will offer a spacious mix of teaching, stillness and contemplative prayer, with space and time to enjoy and pray in the Julian cell, church and garden. Gail and Ian will be offering a simple and deepening practice of contemplative prayer through the retreat. They will be sharing from their life experiences, and Ian will be sharing from his poems and photographs.

Gail Adams and Ian Adams are chaplains at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. Gail is a spiritual director and life coach. Ian is a spiritual director, poet and photographer, and writes about the spiritual life. @urbelov_ed @pacebe

To book your place, find a map and get more information please visit: www.JulianRetreat2024.eventbrite.com

East Anglia Methodist Historical Society

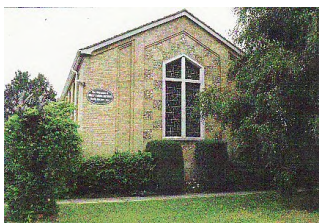
by Ursula Franklin

This society holds two meetings a year in May and October, at both of which non-members are very welcome.

At the October meeting this year the speaker will be Margaret Dann who will give an illustrated talk on the life and work of her father in law, the well-known architect Clifford Dann, who designed many Methodist churches and Sunday School premises all over the District, including many in Norfolk and Norwich. She will also be speaking about his tireless work in the Methodist churches he attended, particularly his work among young people at Queen's Road and Bowthorpe Road. She will pay tribute to his commitment as a Local Preacher in the wider Circuit for which he travelled many miles.



This talk will take place on Saturday, 12th October at 3pm at Downham Market Methodist Church, which is one of the church buildings designed by Clifford Dann. Meetings always end with a tea.



Downham Market
Methodist Church



Costessey

Jessopp Road



Matters from the Circuit Stewards

Preparing for the future

The Revd. Andy Burrows will soon be entering the final year of his appointment with us, and his last year stationed as a Methodist Minister before his well-deserved retirement. In preparation for this, the Norwich Circuit has already entered into a new Stationing process, asking for a Superintendent Minister from September 2025. Senior church stewards have already canvassed for thoughts on the particular gifts and skills desirable for a new, incoming Superintendent to bring to the appointment. Grateful thanks go to all who kindly contributed towards this. These ideals have been carefully collated by the Invitations Committee and added to the Norwich Circuit Profile, which in turn will be seen by prospective candidates.

As the Circuit Profile contains direct links to the Circuit and individual church websites, too, it is important over the coming weeks that these are all kept up-to-date, showing relevant and helpful information about each church's missional and worship activities. The Norwich Circuit is doing much vital 'Kingdom work', and any prospective Superintendent will be attracted to images and information showing local initiatives. We want to show the best of what we are doing, so even if you feel you cannot update your own church website, please send posters or information to Martin Callam at the Circuit Office, norwichcircuit@gmail.com for inclusion in the Circuit website under up-coming events.

Please continue to pray for the whole Stationing Process, particularly for discernment and 'the prompting of The Spirit', during this time of preparation and invitation.

Creating A New Circuit Finance team

Following the sad and sudden death of our dear friend, John Walters in May, 2024, the Circuit was without a Treasurer. Our grateful thanks go to Eric Steward for very ably stepping up to fill the role until arrangements could be made for a new finance team to be put in place. Following discussion with interested individuals, the July Circuit Meeting gave its approval for the formation of a new team. We are delighted and thankful, that Graham Thomson (Treasurer) and Tina Chan (Book Keeper) have agreed to join John Manson,

to form a new finance team, to steer the Circuit as from September 2024. Our sincere thanks go to both Eric and Marilyn Hood as they step down from their roles, after many years of tireless service to the Circuit. They, along with both John Manson and John Walters, have used their gifts and talents to ensure continued good stewardship and governance of Circuit funds.

Proceeds from the Sale of Redundant Church Buildings

All proceeds from the sale of church buildings have gone into a 'Key Growth Fund'. With a number of churches in the Circuit in need of an upgrade to their IT systems, and a growing need to improve ecological sustainability within our buildings, it has been agreed that a proportion of the income from the sale of redundant churches can be used for these purposes. The new parameters for the revenue in the 'Key Growth Fund' will be: 75% to be used for Missional initiatives, 15% to form the Eco Fund and 10% to form an IT grant.

Welcoming New Stewards

In May two new Circuit Stewards, David Read and Kai Chiu Liu, were welcomed to the leadership team. They have already met several of their church councils and we are delighted that they have felt able to offer their time and talents to serve the Circuit on the Stewards' team.

As we look forward to the start of a new Methodist year, please pray for the Circuit staff and all who hold lay offices, that they will continue to feel the inspiration, love and energy that the Holy Spirit brings to their work and service.

Sue Skinner

Senior Circuit Steward



St Peter's Chapel, Lady Lane

by Norma Virgoe

On New Year's Day 1824, a crowded meeting at Calvert Street Chapel in Norwich heard of an exciting proposal to build a new chapel, as Calvert Street had become impossibly full. A building fund was opened and before the meeting ended, the huge sum of £600 had been subscribed. A site was found in Norwich city centre in Lady Lane where the Forum now stands. In April the foundation stone was laid and building quickly began. The opening services were arranged for the 21st October 1824 when, amid scenes of rejoicing and thanksgiving, the President of the Wesleyan Conference, the Revd Robert Newton, preached the sermon.

One of those attending the service wrote that Methodism in Norwich 'is no longer hid in obscurity and held in contempt'. Nevertheless, a constable was paid one shilling a week to stand outside the building and prevent troublemakers from disturbing the congregation during services. The chapel was named St Peter's after the parish of St Peter Mancroft in which it stood. Built of white brick, it had a classical design with pillars flanking the panelled doors. It was set back a little from the street and was bordered by iron railings and gates, each with an arch above on which was fixed a lantern. Inside, two aisles with slender pillars held up galleries which ran round on all four sides above. Sand was scattered on the brick floor. Pews for 900 were uncomfortably narrow and straight-backed. Lighting was provided by candles and a stove sat rather incongruously in the centre of the ground floor. The choir, accompanied by a string band, occupied a section of the gallery behind the mahogany pulpit which was of a large square design. The Sunday school gathered under the east gallery with partitions separating it from the main body of the chapel. The large site had cost £1030 and the building and furnishings a further £2972, a very substantial sum.

The Wesleyan upheavals and defections in the middle of the nineteenth century led to substantial losses in the congregation and hence in the income of the chapel. Many of the more prosperous members withdrew their loans, leaving debts of £2000. Unable to meet its mortgage liabilities, threats were made to lock the congregation out, but, at the last minute, one of the congregation managed to avert closure by raising a bank loan. Even though it remained the only

chapel left to the Wesleyans in the city, it took decades to recover its fortune and its membership.

Although the centenary was celebrated with much enthusiasm, by the 1930s, many of the congregation had moved out of the city centre. Then, in 1937 the City Council decided to buy the Sunday school building adjoining the chapel. Feeling this would be to considerable detriment of the chapel, the decision was taken to close. The last service was held on the 3rd September 1939, the very day which saw the start of the Second World War. It was a momentous occasion.

Norma Virgoe



Brooke Chapel Centenary Service

We were pleased to welcome to the chapel a congregation of about seventy folk from around the circuit and beyond to celebrate 100 years of foundation stones being laid at the 'Old' chapel building.

How good it was to greet Revd Chris and Marion Sharp, Revd William and Lynn Booker, Revd Derek and Karen Grimshaw and Peter and Elizabeth Viney who travelled from Portsmouth to join in the celebrations. During the service a flower vase was dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth's parents Ray and Jean Dye, stalwarts of the Chapel for over 50 years. Greetings came from previous Ministers who had served at the chapel: Revd David Hart and Revd Norman Peck.

Revd Chris Sharp spoke of his time with us and it was during his ministry that the vision for a new worship building was formed and opened in 1991, thank you Chris for that foresight and trust to achieve that vision.

Revd Derek Grimshaw recalled an incident at one of his early appointments when during the service a stranger came in to suggest that those with cars might like to move them as the straw stack just over the hedge was on fire! It just so happened that the hymn we were singing was Come down O Love divine, and whilst the Fire Brigade were using all their skill to put the fire out we sang 'O let it freely burn' Derek's timing and choice of hymns was impeccable. Although the old chapel had been standing on the site for 100 years it was built in front of an original chapel part of which is still used for storage and access to the kitchen and toilet.

Brooke Methodist Church has had a somewhat checkered history with a first recording of a licence for worship in 1775 in a 'tenement or building'. This gathering did not last long. A society associated with the Primitive Methodists made a very brief appearance in 1830-1. It was back on the plan in 1837 and two years later a class of 12 was meeting on Sunday afternoons in a house which was also used for preaching. This society lasted for three years. Other attempts were made to form a society in later years but all failed to make headway.

Although no mention is made in the circuit minutes of a chapel, the first build-

ing must have been completed by 1919 when the circuit meeting met at Brooke. Looking at these time lines and the trials and tribulations of forming a chapel it would appear that within five years numbers grew and a larger chapel was needed. The chapel was quickly built [6 months from foundation stones laid to opening] with £250.00 secured by a mortgage.

The chapel was built by Wynes Brothers of Thurlton, very much respected within Methodist circles and beyond, often carrying out work without charging as they felt it was part of their service to God. We were privileged to have as our guest at the June 9th service Mr Peter Hart, the Grandson and Great-nephew of the Wynes Bros builders. Peter gave us an insight into the family Wynes with many fond memories awakened of time spent in the company of his grandfather and uncle.

Brooke Methodist Church has much to thank those of the past for their vision and commitment who have paved the way for us who follow in their footsteps, thanks to the support from the circuit, our ministers and preachers who serve us week by week. But above all we give thanks to God and as the hymn writer Joseph Hart wrote,

We'll praise him for all that is past,
And trust him for all that's to come.

Kevin Parfitt and the Fellowship of Brooke MC.



Old Church



New Church

**Centenary Celebration Service for Brooke
Methodist Church
June 9th 2024 at 3.00pm**



Led By Rev. Matthew Olanrewaju

**and
Kevin Parfitt**

Contributions by

Mr. Peter Hart and Previous Ministers

Sermon By The Superintendent Minister Rev. Andy Burrows

Kezia (Kezzy) Wesley

by Joy Southam

John Wesley's youngest sister was born in 1709. She was six years younger than John. She was the last child born of Susanna and arrived when Susanna was 40 years old. Susanna began home educating each of her children when they reached the age of five, waiting that long because her first son, Samuel, did not speak until he was five. Kessy, however, began her studies earlier. The older children were tasked with teaching the younger children and it is thought that John had a lot of responsibility for Kezzy's education.

She was a carefree and independent child. She enjoyed Ol' Jeffrey (the family ghost) and tried to frighten her sister Patty by coming up behind her and stamping her feet. Kezzy was not as well educated as her siblings but was still better educated than many people so was able to gain work as an assistant at Mrs Taylor's school in Lincoln in 1727. Her letters suggest that she always felt inferior to the rest of her family.

She was very lonely and vulnerable when John Westley Hall arrived on the scene and made love to her. Kezzie was very beautiful and soon Hall forgot about his promise to marry her sister Martha who was in London. Eventually Hall did marry Martha, a fact that did not seem to disturb Kezzie at all

In 1735 when her father died, Kezzy found herself homeless and she went to stay with the Halls much to the disgust of her brothers. When John returned from America, he arranged for her to live with the family of his friend Revd Henry Piers, Vicar of Bexley. These were the happiest years of her life.

Her health was poor most of her life. She enjoyed reading and using snuff. Charles was appalled and thought snuff was evil. When Charles fell ill, it was Kezzy who nursed him back to health from a serious bout of pleurisy

She died at the age of 32. Charles was with her when she died and stated that, full of thankfulness and love, without pain or trouble "she commended her spirit into the hand of Jesus and fell asleep."

350th anniversary of the birth of Isaac Watts

A few words in praise of the Congregational minister who gave generations of Christians wonderful words to 'Praise our maker while we've breath'

Vivian Tam, one of the Organists and choir member at Bowthorpe Road Methodist Church 諾域治華人循道會 Norwich Chinese Methodist Church.

When I had to search for the background of "I Survey the Wondrous Cross" in order to share with my church choir, Isaac Watts' life came vividly in my mind. He was not only a talented and prolific hymn-writer, but he was a radical follower of Jesus Christ in his era. He wrote hymns and spiritual songs for the church, when he found the traditional hymns were not good enough for nurturing the congregation spiritually.

As a teacher, I appreciate him so much for writing hymns and poems for children. For instance, "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" is the content from Jeremiah 10:12-13. This children's hymn makes it easy for them to understand the Lord's almighty power. 'Joy to the World' would be their favourite or the only hymn the young ones know as it is often sung as a carol at Christmas. In fact, some Christian musicians have used folk melodies to replace the old tunes in order to make Isaac's hymns popular again. For example, the tune 'O Waly Waly' has been used in "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

John Saunders, former church organist including Morley and Forncett.

The preface to the 1933 Methodist Hymn Book tells us that 'Watts's great hymn 'I'll praise my maker while I've breath' was on Wesley's lips as he lay dying.'

Isaac Watts was certainly an inspired wordsmith, with such memorable lines as 'Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore

Till suns shall rise and set no more.'

Several Watts' hymns have been set to tunes which are easy to sing (and play) and which seem just right for the words. A particular favourite of mine is 'Come let us join our cheerful songs,' set to Nativity by H. Lahee.

Jesus is worthy to receive

Honour and power divine

And blessings more than we can give
Be, Lord, for ever Thine.'

John Howe, recently retired local preacher. Framingham Earl.

Before I became a preacher I was a choir member where I learned the tenor and bass parts from the 1932 Methodist Hymn Book and the stand-out hymn writers were Isaac Watts, Charles Wesley and others

Years later when I became a local preacher I valued them even more. They helped both in my preparation and presentation. A minister in Newmarket once said to me, 'Never go into bat without a Charles Wesley or Isaac Watts Hymn in your service - if they do not understand you, they will get a lot out of one of those'.

I have always enjoyed singing 'Joy to the World' in Advent and Christmas, which tells us how lovely that our God came to earth to live and work amongst us as the Son of God.

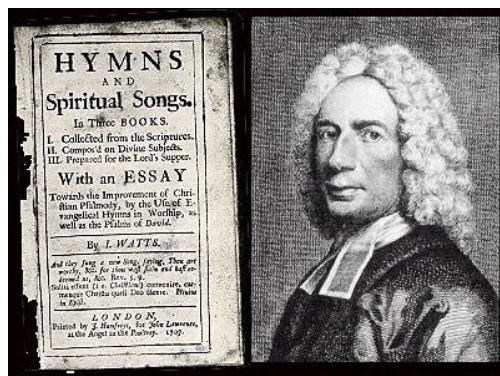
Like many other people my real favourite is his wonderful hymn 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross' to the tune Rockingham. I read in The Illustrated Family Hymn Book that Isaac Watts 'seemed guided in his verse by Galatians 6:14'.

I do wish that to try to be modern, the words in some of these wonderful and thought-provoking hymns have been changed, even when there was nothing wrong with them in the first place.

Elisabeth Traverse, singer and musician, worshipper at Chapel Field Road.

Revd Isaac Watts Some of the best hymns ever written! I think that my favourite is 'Joy to the world' - I really look forward to singing it every Advent.

Watts is regarded as the Godfather of English hymnody. The hymns are so well written from a literary point of view, but also they fit really easily musically



Women in the ministry

Two significant anniversaries have been celebrated in 2024.

The 50th Anniversary of the first ordination of women as presbyters in the Methodist Church in 1974, has been celebrated this year.

Seventeen women were ordained in 1974 and the only surviving member of that group is the Revd Jennifer Lunn, who had been an ordained Deaconess previously. She has given up preaching this year and although her mobility is poor, on the phone she sounded as lively and interesting as ever.

Those first seventeen led the way and hard on their heels was Revd Elizabeth Bellamy from Chapel Field Road who was ordained in Nairobi, Kenya in 1978.

The Norwich circuit has been welcoming and blessed by women on the circuit staff and we thank God for their ministry and hold in prayer those whose names appear on the current plan. The new Chair of District, Revd Helen Hollands. Mary Sachikonye, Sharon Willimott, and Wendy Saunders, and supernumeraries Mary Cousins, Helen Nice and Pauline Wrenn.

The Revd Helen Cameron is the tenth woman to be elected as President of the Conference since the first presbyters were ordained in 1974. She took up the office at the Conference in Leeds in June.

The Church of England celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the ordination of the first twenty women as priests in Norwich Cathedral in April 1994, and a national service of celebration will be held at St Paul's in October.

There is so much to be thankful for. We celebrate how the ministry of those first women ordained in 1974 and 1994 in the Methodist Church and the Church of England, paved the way for so many others to fully explore their call to ministry.

We celebrate the ministry of all women and men serving God alongside one another in ways that welcome others in, no matter who they are.

We give thanks to God for the hope we have for the church of tomorrow, full of grace and love."

[Based on the words of the Revd Canon Julie Boyd the Bishop's Adviser for Women's Ministry.]

Ann Waterhouse

Praise and Protest 2024/2025



Don't forget to order your copy of the new Prayer Handbook which contains prayers on how the Church can "learn to do right; seek justice and defend the oppressed" (Isaiah 1:17a, NIV). To engage in God's mission and be part of that transformation, we believe the Methodist Church is called to become an increasingly evangelistic, inclusive and justice-seeking Church.

Listed on Day 8 of the current Prayer Handbook *Hidden Treasures* are the Revd Dr Daniel and Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman, Kwame, John, Anna, and Ewuradwowa.

In September Daniel will become Senior Tutor in Theology at Wesley House, Cambridge, and comes to this appointment from his recent roles as a mission partner in Uganda, Italy and Cameroon. As they move into this District and face all these changes let us continue to hold them in our prayers

Reflection

REFLECTION AND PRAYERS ON KINDNESS

In a recent Methodist Recorder Peter Howdle, Emeritus Professor of Clinical Medicine, local preacher and former Vice-President of Conference, ponders change in church life and in medicine. He suggests that perhaps clinical medicine should be practised in a pastoral way, and recounts his surprise when he was reminded of how he had helped a former patient with a complicated medical/admin problem, and later wrote to the family telling them what he had done.

‘The point was that I had taken the trouble to write to them, the letter was kept in a special place in the dressing table drawer. I was embarrassed and humbled.

It was William Blake who reminded us that
‘He who would do good to another must do it in Minute Particulars’

Or in Philip Larkin’s words
..... we should be careful
of each other, we should be kind
while there is still time.’

Pastoral care is, I believe a missional imperative. I had an uncle, who was a Methodist Minister, trained in the 1940s. He was always quoting his college principal, whose parting advice when they left college was preach the Gospel and love the people. I remember only too well that he did that all his life. As a supernumerary minister he was still a pastor to so many. All of us must show that kindness which is of Christ; we may never know the grace which will be received and the witness to the Gospel which we have shown.

Children used to sing ‘Have you had a kindness shown? Pass it on.’
And growing up sang hymns reminding themselves that ‘In loving- kindness
Jesus came.’

The Bible abounds with guidance:

Be kind to one another tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Eph.4:32

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Luke.6:3

O Lord, Give me strength today to show kindness in all that I do. Help me to open my arms to those less fortunate and extend my hand to those who may need it, so that they may see You in my kind words and actions. Amen.

Ronald Blythe wrote that he had seen an obituary of a farmer who had died in 1930. It was written in the form of one of the farmer's fields saying farewell as the cortege passed by, the coffin on a flowery wagon, the Suffolk punches be-plumed. 'I have been a field for nigh on a thousand years, and I know men. some are clever. some are kind, but very few are clever and kind, but he was and I am sorry that all the other fields of England - who need him so much in these days - will have to go on without him.'

The world is blessed when kindness between humans abounds.
The earth is blessed when it is treated with kindness by those who care for it.

A hymn to read and reflect on as we celebrate Harvest in our churches:

Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

Shirley Erena Murray (729 StF)

IT IS A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR, and we recall Jesus, the 12-year old

boy, who was found by his parents in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

We remember too Jesus the teacher, who stood up and taught the people, and identified himself as a teacher: ‘You call me “Teacher” and “Lord”, and rightly so, for that is what I am’.

Lord, at the start of the Academic Year we pray for pupils especially those attending school for the first time, those in a new school, and those who are moving into the college system, often away from home and family for the first time.

We remember too those who teach them across the whole range of education especially those in their first teaching position or in new appointments.

And we pray that kindness is a common currency in those places and people, pupils and teachers.

Ann Waterhouse



Clifford Dann, ARIBA, 1899-1979

The life and work of Methodist Architect Clifford Dann has been celebrated in The Methodist, with a biographical piece and Norma Virgoe's article 'An Architect and a Sunday School' (CFR, 1954).

This final part is about his visible legacy, his churches.

Methodist Churches still in active use:

Trunch 1938

Bowthorpe Road 1948 and 1974

Wroxham Road 1958/9

South Lowestoft 1963

Costessey 1964

Diss 1964

Wisbech 1970

Downham Market

Gorleston Magdalen Way,

Horsey

North Lynn

Potter Heigham

Churches which are no longer places of worship:

Aldborough now a Community hall.

Aslacton and Salhouse are now houses.

Heartsease Lane first in a wooden church, then a Nissen Hut closed after 78 years of worship. Mr Dann's brick building opened in 1954 and held its final service in January 2023.

Church of England: (3) In Norwich, St Anne's, St Thomas' and St Martin's, Cromer

Unitarian Church: Great Yarmouth

Congregational Church Jessop Road.

PROFILES OF FIVE CHURCHES.

TRUNCH. This was the first church Clifford Dann designed in 1938. A church which is still used today and is kept up very well. When it was opened they were short of money by £20. A Sale of Work and Tree Planting soon raised the money. The church cost £1700. An anonymous donation was actually the Architect's fee which he had donated to his first church.

GREAT YARMOUTH UNITARIAN. A meeting was called which Clifford attended, and after 15 minutes all was decided, plans approved and Clifford was asked, 'When can you start?' That was the only church that took so short a time to decide. Beautifully kept church.

JESSOPP ROAD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 1969. Now known as St Peter's Jessopp Road URC/Methodist Church. This Church is in the shape of an octagon with a beautiful stained glass window given by the King family. (G. King & Son, Lead Glaziers of Norwich 1927-2003). The church sanctuary was added to the buildings built in 1948. A large hall was used for the church and side rooms held the Sunday School children.

St Peter's Park Lane joined 10 years ago and the church is now a LEP. There is no Sunday School now but a thriving coffee morning on Wednesdays brings in people from the Community.

WISBECH. This church was built in between shops. The church has a lot to offer. It is a caring church with lots going on. The church is upstairs and has a lift, the first one that Clifford had designed. There is a community centre with a coffee bar and refreshments, a large library and a birthday chair for a child to sit on on their special day. Their aim is to serve the community and maintain the Methodist witness. A beautiful church. I saw it being built from the beginning as I used to travel with Clifford and watch his designs being fulfilled.

BOWTHORPE ROAD. A Nissen hut was used from 1948 and many plans were submitted. It was Clifford's dream to build a church where he worshipped. The opening was addressed by several people and dignitaries. The church members collected newspapers each week and the money raised went a long way towards the expenses. A round stained glass window has a Bible, a dove and the communion elements in its design.

The church is now the home of the Chinese Methodist Church. They have over 200 members and new buildings have been built on the side of the original church to accommodate their congregation. It is very well maintained and

people are made very welcome.

Clifford did not keep the fees from his first church at Trunch and there were no architect's fees for his last church as Clifford had realised his dreams.

His funeral was held in 1979 and in the address the minister said, 'Look around East Anglia and you will see Clifford's Memorial';

Margaret Dann
Daughter-in-law of Clifford Dann
and member at St Peter's Jessopp Road.

CHURCH ARCHITECTS

Sir Christopher Wren's epitaph on his tomb in St Paul's Cathedral, his greatest work, reads 'Si monumentum requiris circumspice'.

If you seek his monument, look around.

He was buried with great ceremony in St. Paul's Cathedral and was the first person entombed there.

Clifford Dann was born nearly 300 years after Wren, and his funeral was held at Bowthorpe Road, the church he had designed some five years earlier and his Spiritual home.

BOOK CHAT



Recently I have read two books published in 2022 by men with the initials RB, who were born into good working-class homes, and have died since their books were published, one aged 100 and the other 41. One lived all his life in Rural Suffolk, the other in Industrial West Yorkshire. One highly regarded as a ‘man of letters, a man of the Church, and a man of the countryside’ and the other a sporting hero.

Next to Nature: A Lifetime in the English Countryside. Ronald Blythe.
Within three months of the publication of Ronald Blythe’s final book, he had celebrated his 100th birthday, and died peacefully in his beloved home deep in the countryside on the Essex/Suffolk border. He was a lay reader and a lay canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, and this book is a compilation gleaned from his weekly columns for the Church Times, between 1993 and 2017.

Occasionally when I could not follow his train of thought, his use of words and beautiful fluency, his spirituality and love of nature, more than made up for my lack. It has over 450 pages but is easily digestible as they carry about 200 stand-alone pieces following the calendar year and I am one month into reading them one-by-one, month-by-month. How thankful all his faithful readers are that Ronald Blythe lived to enjoy the acclaim the book was given.

Too Many Reasons to Live by Rob Burrows
What a title for this inspirational book written by a top sportsman two years after being diagnosed with motor neurone disease MND, who died two years later in June aged 41.

Rob Burrows, who was far too small to even think of being a top Rugby League player, writes of his stellar career and life, openly and without self-pity and from the outset the reader is aware of Rob living with MND.

This book is obviously far more than a sports memoir, it is all about love. The depth of family love across three generations, and of the brotherly love between Rob and his Leeds Rhino and English team mates, and it shows the best of humanity. In the four years since diagnosis, Kevin Sinfield, his captain, best friend and Marathon Runner Extraordinaire, has raised more than £15 million for MND, and who can forget the photo of him lifting the frail, limp body of

Rob from the wheelchair he had been running alongside and carrying him over the finish line of a marathon so the two could share that moment together. Utterly readable the book (parts of which could be skip-read by non- sports fans if desired) is an astonishing account of the best of human love in the best and worst of times, full of hope and not without a lot fun,

My sabbatical journey

by Revd Mary

My sabbatical journey was full of mixed emotions , joy, sadness and anxiety. I was intending to visit South Africa or Zambia but that did not happen because of reasons beyond my control. Whilst in Zimbabwe I had the opportunity to attend Harare West Synod with my colleagues from East Anglia District namely Julian, Nick, Elaine and Deniz. It was a time of learning and reflection as we observed the proceedings.

As a team we visited many places in Zimbabwe including urban and rural circuits which was an eye opener for the team. There is a lot that we can share and learn together as partner districts. After the team had left Zimbabwe I worked with children and families living on the streets of Zimbabwe. It was a very emotional time as I saw children as young as seven months growing up on the streets. Upon reflection, I had more questions than answers in my mind.

Whilst engaging in this project, my mind was I anchored on Matthew 25:35-40 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.....’

I endeavoured to engage with church and community leaders most of whom were hesitant to comment because of the political and economic situation in Zimbabwe. I am a bit disappointed that I could not go to neighbouring countries to compare the level of homelessness to Zimbabwe. However, I found the

experience thought provoking and challenging to the church. When we preach do we remember the homeless who might not even think of attending church because it's at the bottom of their priorities? How do we bring the presence of God to a person sleeping rough with an empty stomach?

Besides working with families and children on the streets I also visited Lochinvar Primary school, a school that the circuit is helping to buy chairs. I am just realising that the person I asked to take photos has taken more videos than chairs. As a circuit we committed to help the school to buy chairs. The school required 500 chairs and so far we managed to buy 400 but sadly some of the chairs we bought were broken upon my visit because of cheap material that was used to make them. The number has unfortunately increased from the balance of 100. The school also needs computers for the computer lab where the children learn to use the computer.



News items

OLYMPIC GAMES

Shortly before the start of the 2024 Games in Paris, the film ‘Chariots of Fire’ was shown on television, a timely reminder of Eric Liddell, Scottish athlete and devout Christian, who withdrew from the 100m in the Paris Olympics of 1924, when he discovered the heats were going to be held on a Sunday. He switched events and as he was about to run in the 400 metres, he was passed a note that said: ‘He that honours Me, I will honour’ – a quote from Samuel. In the final he won the Gold Medal. In 1925 he went back to China, the land of his birth, as a missionary, and died 20 years later in an Internment Camp, aged 43, five months before liberation.

METHODIST RECORDER 2 August 2024.

Methodist Conference - Some of this year’s Ordinands, 5 men and 4 women, have written biographical pieces of their Journey into Ministry. All were called, trained and have now been ordained to become Presbyters. ‘To serve the present age, My calling to fulfil; O may it all my powers engage to do my Master’s will’.

UK and World Politics - Politically there have been big changes in recent months. The UK already has a change of government, and the United States are building up to an autumn election. An article in the Recorder described the Democratic nomination, Kamala Harris, as having been raised by a ‘Baptist father and Hindu mother and is married to a Jewish man, is said to be at ease with navigating America’s diverse religious traditions’.

NETWORKNORFOLK

August 1 - online.

Trinity United Reformed Church is set to close its doors for the final time on September 22nd, due to falling congregation numbers and the retirement of its minister, but church leaders hope it may become a new place of worship in the future. The Moderator of the URC Eastern Synod, Revd Lythan Nevard, told networknorfolk “As Trinity URC emerged from a no longer used Baptist church there is hope and prayer that this place might become a new place of

worship yet again.” The worshipping life of Trinity URC may be coming to an end but the worship of God and the building of God’s kingdom continues.” We thank God for their faithful witness and their positive looking forwards as they prepare to close. A service of thanksgiving and closure will take place on the afternoon of September 22nd.

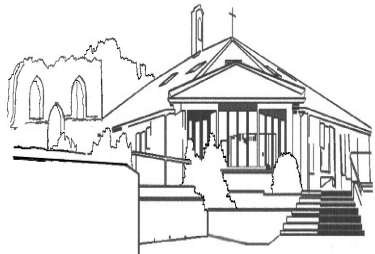
Summer - in print.

Richard Whall. In the summer edition of networknorfolk’s printed magazine GOOD NEWS, available in most churches, is a lengthy obituary to Mr. Whall whose life was celebrated at Soul Church in June. In the headline he is described as Norfolk Police Chaplain and Methodist lay preacher. After a successful professional career as a chartered accountant he took early retirement and had been a Police Chaplain in the 22 years since. The obituary records that he met his wife Gill through the Park Lane Methodist Church Club and eventually became a local preacher, and recounts something of his faith journey.

News from the churches

Bowthorpe

A wedding and five baptisms have taken place this summer, bringing thanksgiving and hope. A monthly youth evening has just begun, starting small but with good potential.



Newly-arrived asylum seekers are coming along to services. Recently we joined with those from another Norwich church in an afternoon of traditional food, fun and football in a local park.

August is always a quiet month when several normal activities take a break. It can be a lonely time for people, especially if they are not having any sort of a holiday away. However, the Wednesday morning service of Holy Communion continues each week, as does the Food Hub with its support groups. Hope Café friendship club opens for some of that time, welcoming children to join their parents or grandparents, and having extra activities for them.

Sally Simpson

Drayton and Horsford

As mentioned last time, we had another craft afternoon before the end of term, with the theme 'All God's Creatures'. The children stitched animal finger puppets, made bookmarks and Hama bead creations amongst other things. We will continue to hold these each half term, not in the holidays, for our outreach project. The next one in October will be 'Under the Sea'. It might well include long tentacled things!

Our boiler has now been replaced, so we are confidently looking forward to a quieter winter. As I write this, the internal decorating is taking place. This gave us an opportunity, while we took everything down off the walls and moved furniture, to have the conversation "why are we keeping this?" I can't imagine it will be finished by Sunday, so we may be having to camp out in the school room or hold the service in the car park. Either way, we will be worshipping God together.

Once a month the Worship Team lead the service, usually following The Vine, but sometimes we have ideas of our own. In June we used the service prepared by MHA and in July, as the next day was a saint's day, Pauline suggested we used Mary Magdalene as a theme. Who knew she was a saint? We learnt some interesting things and dispelled some of the myths that had built up around her.

The end of September, no date set yet, we will hold our Macmillan Coffee Morning. I will send a poster to Martin to distribute when we have decided on a date that won't clash with others.

We continue to grow as a new church family and I would highly recommend to other churches that are struggling, the merging route.

Kim Pike



Mile Cross

Here at Mile Cross we occasionally have a breakfast at the Church before the service. Usually it is when Revd. Mary is leading the service. But this year we

had one when it was not a communion service without a Minister. The event took place on Easter Sunday.

We were able to welcome a man who was homeless and he had a good meal. Another man was welcomed who had been before and had occasionally been to a service in Church. If desired there was a full breakfast for anyone who wished to come. The Easter service was led by Kevin Willimott.

We had a “garden party” on July 9th not in a garden but in Church which included a cream tea.

We have missed Revd Mary for several months due to her Sabbatical. She was working hard in Zimbabwe with street children some of the time. There will be an opportunity for her to speak about her time there at Afternoon Fellowship in September at 2.30 pm, on the first Monday of the month at Mile Cross.

Sadly Pauline Headland who had been a Senior Steward at Mile Cross for many years died peacefully at Cromwell House where she was a resident for a few years. Pauline was also known well in the Circuit through Methodist Women in Britain where she was an organiser. She was very well respected in the Church and was well known for going to speak to any new person who would come through the doors. A Thanksgiving service was held at the Church where the fondness for Pauline was very much apparent.

John Johnson



Rosebery Road

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to celebrating our harvest festival on October 6th.

Preparations are already under way for our Trees and Cribs Festival which will raise money this year for the St Martins Trust. We will be open to the public on December 7th and 8th, 12th, 13th and 14th . We hope that friends from around the Circuit will visit us and see the 300 plus nativities we have on display.



Joy Southam

From the front line in Norwich

by Frances Middleton

I hope by the time you all read this, peace and relative harmony will have been restored across our land. There have been many many gestures of love and unity towards those who have come as strangers to our shores. It has all been a huge tragedy, stemming from an even bigger one....

However, though the waves of unrest may have subsided, the currents remain. All those who work with refugees and asylum seekers in our city, under huge pressure and stress, are feeling it even more now.

It had been increasingly difficult to give homes and support to those who come seeking them, desperately. Such is the problem of working in a situation with not enough of anything, and nothing to give hopeless people, whose lives have already been messed up, except sympathy and a cup of tea. The system, as it stands, is collapsing, and more and more often young men, are arriving at our doors, sad, lonely and destitute. The burden of trying to deal with this every day takes an enormous toll on the professionals; to have to keep saying to those who phone, anxious and worried about sleeping on our streets, that nothing has changed since they last rang....

And now, unbelievably, it has all got worse. There have not been riots in Norwich thank God, but rough sleepers have been woken in the night, shouted at and shaken and thoroughly frightened. Most asylum seekers now are very scared. Those who have offices in the city, where refugees know they can come, are now deciding that it is safer to work from home for a while, because human rights lawyers and others have been threatened on-line in other places.

All this in OUR city! So please, pray for everyone sleeping rough and feeling unwelcome and targeted. And for all those who are trying to deal with the issues and be friends to the strangers. Tell your councillors and new MPs that homes and social support must be an urgent priority for all local councils and our country as a whole. The Home Office need to know this too, and of course not only refugee families need homes.....

Most important of all, don't be afraid to challenge your friends and neighbours who may have the wrong ideas about asylum seekers. Tell them that they are just like us, wanting to work and contribute and do the best for their children. Tell them we are all God's children, no matter where we originate, and we are all welcome at his table, and all deserve the warmth and care of a loving community. Only by changing the still, hostile environment, will we be able to live together in that community.

So, thanks for listening. If you feel you have anything to offer in this challenging world, please get in touch. We need people to volunteer to help in so many ways.

Let us pray that as the summer wanes and we come into the time to celebrate the harvest, we may all be more aware, more informed and therefore can be more loving and kind to the outcasts and the strangers who might be wanting to be part of our lives. What better way to share God's bountiful goodness !

Diary Dates

Wednesday	11 Sept	7.30pm	Local Preachers' Meeting Hethersett
Tuesday	24 Sept	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting
Saturday	5 Oct		MWiB District Day—Histon
Thursday	17 Oct	2.15pm	MWiB Committee Chapel Field Road

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