

Brightstar



February 2010

The Trinity Players present

**Katherine
Howard**
By William
Nicholson
Directed by Julia
Middleton



The intriguing and dramatic story of Henry VIII's fifth wife.

7:30pm Thursday 18 February 2010

7:30pm Friday 19 February 2010

7:30pm Saturday 20 February 2010

Trinity Methodist Church Hall

Adults £7

Programmes available from ...

Anne & Ian Clarke – 01394 285305

Barry Middleton – 01394 280506

Roy Yates – 01394 278643

An amateur production – all profits go to Level 2

Fairtrade Fortnight in Felixstowe

The Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum has worked hard over the past two and a half years in their bid to obtain Fairtrade Town status. Their efforts have been rewarded as Felixstowe has recently been recognised as a Fairtrade Town. We at Seaton Road have helped gain this accolade as we are a Fairtrade Church using only Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar and promoting the use of other Fairtrade goods.

Nationally, Fairtrade fortnight 2010 runs from 22nd February until the 7th March. If you are not familiar with Fairtrade goods please take this opportunity to see the vast range of goods, all displaying the Fairtrade blue, green and black logo, now available in our supermarkets. As part of Fairtrade Fortnight there will be a Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodist Church on Saturday 27th February from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

For more information visit the website at www.felixstowe-fairtrade.org.uk or speak to Robin Pattinson.

All Welcome

As I started to think about what I could write for the magazine it was a very dull, dank January day, the sort of day that make you feel a bit fed up and wish that life was a bit more cheerful. The colourful, twinkling lights of Christmas have been put away for another year; even the snow that brightened the countryside for a day or two has melted and left a lot of plants looking very sorry for themselves and winter is still stretching ahead of us. For some, I guess, a visit to the shops to find a bargain would help and others might think about booking a summer holiday but these things cost money and are not an option for everyone, this set me thinking about what cheers you up but cost nothing, a nice walk in the sunshine, a chat with a friend, reading a good book, but what always cheers me up is a friendly smile and this reminded me of a poem by Helen Steiner Rice.

There's sunshine in a smile

Life is a mixture of sunshine and rain,
Laughter and pleasure, teardrops and pain,
All days can't be bright, but it's certainly true,
There was never a cloud the sun didn't shine through-
So just keep on smiling whatever betides you,
Secure in the knowledge God is always beside you,
And you'll find when you smile your day will be brighter
And all of your burdens will seem so much lighter-
For each time you smile you will find it is true
Somebody, somewhere will smile back at you,
And nothing on earth can make life more worthwhile
Than the sunshine and warmth of a *beautiful smile*.

I hope that through the remaining days of winter, if you are feeling a little blue, you will remember that God is with us, whether we are happy or sad, wherever we are, whatever we are doing, and try smiling at someone if you can, I'm sure, as the poem suggest, that they will return the smile and perhaps make your day just a little more cheerful.

Every Blessing,
Rosemary.

Preachers for February

February 7th 9.45a.m Rev. David Kemble
Service to include
Holy Communion (Coffee will be served in the church
hall after this service.)

February 14th 9.45a.m Mr. Chris Finbow

February 21st 9.45a.m Café Worship
(Breakfast from 9.15a.m) 1st in Lent

February 28th 9.45a.m Mrs. Sally Laws
2nd in Lent

REMEMBER

ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL

**MUSEUM STREET METHODIST CHURCH,
IPSWICH.**

SATURDAY MARCH 27TH 2010

**ENTRY FORMS TO ROSE OR MARY BY 14TH
FEBRUARY**

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God
Prepared by Christian Women of Cameroon

Friday 5th March 2010 at 10.30am

at St John's Anglican Church, Orwell Road, Felixstowe
Speaker : Mr Ray Wilson (Circuit local preacher secretary)



followed by Christian Aid Lunch

All Welcome



Felixstowe Town Pastors

The Felixstowe Town Pastor scheme was launched on 16th January at Trinity Methodist Church, the church which will be used as a base for the Pastors when they are out on the streets.

For the scheme to be successful it needs people, from all the churches in Felixstowe, who are willing to go out as Town Pastors, pray at the prayer base and pray in their own homes. Recruitment for all these positions is now taking place and if you are interested please see the notice in the church vestibule or have a word with David Kemble or Mary Pattinson. Training will be given to all those offering their services. A promotional video has been made, starring our own David Kemble, if you would like to know more about the work.

Even if you feel you are unable to get involved directly, please remember this project in your prayers.

Christmas

Thank you to everyone who participated in the church Christmas post scheme. The 'sorting office' didn't go on strike and a record number of cards were sorted and distributed, resulting in £25 being raised for the work of JMA.

Thanks also go to everyone who helped decorate (and take decorations down) in the church for Christmas and to those who provided mince pies and refreshments for the Carols by Candlelight service. Once again it was good to see so many people at the Christmas Café Worship, the Carols by Candlelight and the Christmas morning service and share worship and fellowship with everyone.

The Christmas period this year was rather fraught with equipment breakdowns etc. Firstly the projector stopped working and then the church heating system developed various faults which resulted in a cold church on several occasions. This meant that a lot of extra work had to go on behind the scenes (sometimes at very short notice) – testing and borrowing equipment, arranging for engineers to come out and being on the premises while they were there, moving equipment, setting up the hall for services etc. and I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard in order that we were able to continue with Carols by Candlelight, Christmas morning worship and Sunday services during this period. The heating has now been successfully attended to, although it does still need further work, and a new projector has had to be purchased so again thanks go to those who have put considerable time into making these things possible.

Mary Pattinson

Circuit Arts and Crafts Festival 2010

The Circuit Arts and Crafts festival is now only a few weeks away. This year it will be held at Museum Street Methodist Church, Ipswich on Saturday 27th March.

The schedule is on the church noticeboard. Copies are available from the church website www.seatonroad.org.uk. If you do not have access to the website and need a copy please have a word with Rose or Mary.

We do not need to have the actual entries until the festival itself but we do need to know what people will be entering by **14th February**, in order to get them to Maggie Finbow by 19th, so if you have not already looked at the schedule please do so NOW. There is something on the schedule for everyone so please don't leave it to just a few.

As well as individual entries we are hoping to enter a singing group. If you would like to take part in this, or would like to find out more about it, please have a word with Heather Farthing.

Have fun working on your entries and if you have any queries please ask Rose or Mary.

Seafarers' Centre Service

We, as a church, are again responsible for leading an act of worship at the Seafarers' Centre at the Port on the first Sunday evening of April at 6.30pm. This year it happens to fall on Easter Day, April 4th so if there are vessels in port more Seafarers may want to attend a time of worship. Please book the date now. If you would like to take part in this service please see Rosemary or Mary and if you would like to come along everyone would be most welcome.

Count your Blessings

If you would like to do something for, or think of, those less fortunate than ourselves during Lent this year you may like to look at Christian Aid's 'Count your Blessings' scheme. Each day it gives you a situation that many in the Third World find themselves in and gives us an opportunity to give thanks for our own riches. It suggests donating small amounts of money to Christian Aid but even if you were unable to do this the leaflet could act as a useful daily prayer resource for Lent (starting on Ash Wednesday 17th February). A copy of the leaflet is on the noticeboard. There also a children's version 'Up for the challenge?' If you would like your own copy please ask Robin or Mary or download it yourself from www.christianaid.org.uk/lent

Sponsored Walk

Trinity Methodist Church have suggested that the four churches in the Felixstowe Mission Area could join together for a sponsored walk along the promenade on Saturday 17th April. Anyone could take part as you could set your own distance and pace to suit your own needs. Sponsorship could be collected for your own church. The walk would start from Trinity at 10.15am and there would be refreshments on your return.

Before this idea is taken further we need to ascertain how many people would be interested in taking part. If you are interested in joining the walkers (no commitment at this stage) please see Mary Pattinson as soon as possible.



Infant Baptism

We were pleased to welcome Hannah and Gavin Ostler to Seaton Road as they brought their baby son Jack Kevin to be baptised during the morning service of January 24th.

The Baptism, conducted by our minister Rev David Kemble, was witnessed by a full church made up of Jack's family and friends, including big half-sister Maisey, as well as our usual congregation.

Jack slept through the actual Baptism and didn't seem to mind David pouring the water on him or taking him for a walk around the church to be shown off to his family and introduced to his new church family.

Jack is Robin's great nephew so when he is a bit older will no doubt have fun playing with his great uncle!

We welcome Jack into the Seaton Road church family and hope we will see him as he grows up. We give thanks for his safe arrival into the world, ask God's blessing on his life and pray that Hannah, Gavin and Jack's godparents may experience the love of God as they love and nurture him in the days ahead.

Dear Friends,



I am writing this article at the same time as I am listening to news reports of the utter devastation to life and property in the small country of Haiti caused by a massive earthquake the likes of which is unknown to such an area of the world. I cannot, as I suspect many of you will acknowledge, try to imagine what it must be like to lose so many dear friends and members of one's own family literally in seconds!

I am listening to the cries of those who mourn as they see the bodies of their loved ones stacked up in the middle of a crowded main street. Their wails are constant as the full scale of the tragedy is becoming clear that over 250,000 people have lost their lives.

I am listening to the cries for help muffled under heaps of bricks and concrete realising it will be many days, probably weeks before sufficient aid will arrive to release the owners of these voices and by then it will be too late – in a few hours the place will grow silent and with it the last thread of hope for some will have broken.

I am listening to the sound of empty stomachs and reports that many more lives will be lost as a result of malnutrition and lack of clean water - of the need for shelter from the burning rays of a scorching sun bearing down on a desolate landscape with hardly a habitable building left standing. Soon it will be the rainy season followed by hurricanes – what then for the Haitians chances of survival?

I am listening to the voices of community leaders including Church ministers who try, without much success, to explain the big question

of why this phenomenon should strike a small country containing already desperately poor and struggling people.

I am listening to the people of Haiti who say life will never be the same again!

I am listening as I'm sure many of you will also be listening to an inner voice asking what I possible can do to assist my neighbours from across the other side of the world. Yes I can give much needed money but what else do they desperately need from their Christian brothers and sisters?

I am listening to the voice of hope rising through a child rescued from under a pile of rubble many feet deep. Many people look on in the desperate hope he might belong to them. For one mother her emotions overwhelm her, as she realises this small child is all that remains of her once beautiful family – she and those around her continue to pray to God for his mercy!

Our prayers are vital to enable the immense operations that are taking place and will increasing take place over a very long period before some kind of normality to life can return to Haiti. I would also encourage you to pray for more change to take place in the country - politically, socially and economically. Pray urgently and earnestly for action to alleviate exploitation of children, decent wage for adults, a stable government, cancellation of debts owed by Haiti to western countries. That the money given to Haiti to rebuild their lives is a grant and not a loan!



Prayer for Haiti

Loving God, as followers of Jesus may we remember that he was first and foremost a healer. Jesus brought life to those experiencing social

alienation. May we do the same. Jesus reached out to those in desperate situations and allowed them to know firsthand the compassion of the divine. May we do the same. Jesus challenged the attitudes and structures that caused misery in his own time in order to bring God's love to those in need. May we do the same. When the world informs us that we too can choose to be healers may we respond with the heart of Jesus by saying, "I do choose."

The people of Haiti cry out from the agony of death, broken limbs, hunger, thirst, unemployment, environmental destruction and political instability. We pray especially for the following:

- That the plight of those experiencing the pangs of hunger and hurt in Haiti will not be forgotten.
- For the healing of the Haitian environment, which has undergone a tremendous amount of destruction and exploitation.
- That the people of Haiti may have their voices heard throughout the country.
- For all of the children living in crowded orphanages, on the streets, and in other inhumane situations.

May we as people of faith respond to this injustice by reaching out to help. In the name of our Lord's spirit of love, compassion, and justice we pray these things. Amen.

David

Seaton Road Methodist Church



Baby and Toddler Group

Play, Craft, Activities & Singing

Friday 1.30 - 3.00pm

We have changed toddler group from Monday to Friday afternoons as this is a better day for helpers and doesn't clash with any other groups held locally. We'd like to thank Nicky for all her work in leading the Monday group.

Any offers of help on Fridays would be very gratefully received on either a regular or occasional basis. There is a 'rota' in Church to fill in or please see Kathy or Elizabeth (0758010737) for more information.

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