

Brightstar

October 2011



Brightstar is the newsletter of Seaton Road Methodist Church
Felixstowe, IP11 9BT
Contact our minister, Rev David Kemble on 01394 282023
or email through our website at www.seatonroad.org.uk

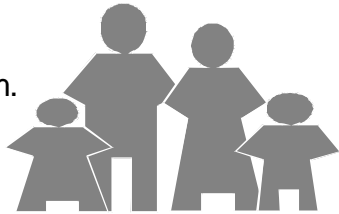
Services for October:

October 2nd Rev Barry Middleton
9.45 a.m. Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion
Coffee will be served after this service

October 9th Mr Bryan Nichols
9.45 a.m.

October 16th Café Worship!
Breakfast from 9.15 a.m.

October 23rd Rev David Kemble
9.45 a.m.



October 30th Mr Peter Crick
9.45 a.m.

Remembering Service

The Mission Area's annual Remembering Service will be held at Trinity on 6th November at 6pm. This service gives people an opportunity to remember loved ones, who are no longer with us, by lighting a candle as their names are read out.

If you would like to have someone remembered please give names to Heather Bentley, David or one of the church stewards as soon as possible, as an alphabetical list will be drawn up before the day.

Dear Friends,

Recently I enjoyed watching a nature television programme where the presenter was watching guillemots caring for their young on a sheer



rock face in the Shetlands. A pair of guillemots only raises one chick a year and when it is three weeks old, still covered in down, the father leads his young to the edge of the cliff. There he encourages the baby to take a leap of faith and jump 50ft down into the water below. It really is a leap of faith since the chick has no feathers and therefore cannot fly. Once father and chick guillemot are in the water they set off on a 200 mile journey to the coast of Norway. A journey that will take them many weeks. On the way the chick will grow feathers, learn how to hunt for food and how to survive. All the time its father will be alongside as teacher, carer and protector.

Such devotion led me to think about our journey with Jesus. There are times when He asks all of us to take a step of faith. It will not be off a 50-foot cliff but it might be something we find equally frightening. Yet we, like that chick, can have the confidence that our heavenly Father is with us every step of the way. Through Jesus and His love we need not be afraid of the future whatever it holds. In Matthew Chapter 6 we are told by Jesus that

God our Father knows all our needs and will supply them because we are precious in His sight. Therefore we should not worry about tomorrow as tomorrow will worry about itself.

A short time ago I came across the following quote: *“Worry doesn’t rid tomorrow of its sorrow, it only robs today of its joy.”* How true that is.



Offering our worries to God, putting our hand in His and taking that leap of faith He might be asking of us will never be easy but it is worthwhile. The worries will probably not disappear completely but they will get

smaller and be far easier to cope with. So why not put your hand into God’s and trust Him to lead you today and into the future. Who knows what adventures He might have in store for you?

May God protect you and guide you today and always.

David

Harvest Thanks

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

On the Saturday morning the church was a hive of activity with people arranging flowers and hedgerow material, decorating windowsills, moving furniture and setting up for café worship the following day.

The harvest service itself saw us thanking and giving as we learnt more about, and supported, the work of Tools with a Mission. We used clay, sewing, money box making and nail and string art to remind us that we can all be God's tools for mission.

We collected a splendid array of tools, knitting and sewing equipment, and stationery items for schools which have already been collected and taken to TWAM's headquarters at Sproughton for renovation, sorting and packing before being sent off to Africa to enable the people there to support themselves.



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

Thank you all.

Mary

From the Vestry Stewards.....

A heavenly host.

While I was sitting in the church vestibule waiting to sign cyclists in from the Suffolk Historic churches cycle ride I was suddenly aware of a very loud cacophony of bird song coming from outside. On going to the open door I was surprised to see several starlings sitting on an electricity wire crossing the church lawn. As I studied the sky it was full of black spots swooping downwards as an immense rustle of more starlings arrived to land on the row of houses across the road, the chattering getting louder by the second. Within a very short time every roof top was packed with starlings – 50 to 60 on each roof line, plus extras on the aerials and electricity wires. A quick calculation, using my 50 times table (they do teach me something at school!!), I estimated the flock of starlings numbered at least five to six hundred. When I thought they couldn't possibly squeeze any more on to a roof they must of somehow shuffled up a bit because, as more starlings swooped down, the black line got more and more dense and the noise escalated. I stood and watched quite spellbound.

After a few minutes of my watching, one or two of the birds started to fly off, followed by a gradual trickle of their departing companions. I was still gazing upwards when four cyclists arrived at the church gates to be signed in. They were equally amazed by the sight but by this time a good three quarters of the birds had disappeared. I'm sure the riders didn't believe me when I said there had been hundreds more a short time earlier. The five of us stood and watched for a further couple of minutes by which time all the black lines had disappeared, the roof tops had cleared, there wasn't a starling to be seen anywhere and the air was quiet once more.

This murmuration of starlings was small in comparison with some of the roosting sights seen in parts of the country at dusk in the Spring or Autumn when they can number up to 100,000 birds in one group. Apparently, recent studies show they only react to the closest seven birds and yet they gather in huge numbers for safety, to keep warm at night and to exchange such information as good feeding areas.

Not only was this a magnificent sight of God's wondrous natural world it also set me thinking that we can learn a lot from these birds. One lone starling is quite insignificant and yet en masse they provide an unforgettable experience. Can we as a church be like this? God has made us all as individuals and yet when we meet together, however small a number, we have more impact on our surroundings.

Apart from a murmuration, a group of starlings can be called a congregation or chattering (I did also find reference to them being called an affliction, clutter or scourge but that doesn't fit in with my parallel so we will ignore these!!!).

We, as Seaton Road's 'congregation' all have our part to play in spreading God's word to those around us. We already have a good ethos for looking out for each other and whereas we can't all be ministers or preachers, we can all show His wonderful love in our everyday lives, to our closest seven 'companions' (neighbours, work colleagues, friends etc) and we can certainly tell everyone of a good source of nourishment. I don't suggest we crowd onto the rooftops and shout our loudest (most of us would have a problem getting up there and an even bigger one getting down!!) but we can all play our part in taking Seaton Road Methodist Church into the heart of our community.

Mary

Trimley

Our friends at Trimley Methodist Church are holding an open afternoon for tea and chat on Saturday November 12th from 2.30pm onwards, and would be pleased to welcome anyone from Seaton Road if they would like to pop in.

DATES

October 4th Tuesday – Kids' Club 6pm

October 9th Sunday – Mission Area evening service at Trinity 6pm – Rev. Rob Anning will be leading this service as part of Trinity's harvest services.



October 12th Wednesday – Church Council 7.30pm. All welcome.

October 28th Saturday – Lance Pierson Concert, 7.30pm at Maidstone Road Baptist Church (organised by St Mary's)

November 1st Tuesday – Kid's Club 6pm

November 6th - Methodist Homes Sunday

November 6th Sunday - Mission Area Remembering Service at Trinity, 6pm.

November 12th Saturday – Trimley's Tea and Chat afternoon from 2.30pm

Nov 25th Friday – Mission Area event. Supper (6.15pm) followed by a concert for which each church will be supplying 2 'acts'

Dec 3rd Saturday – Seaton Road's Christmas Bazaar 2 – 4 pm.

Dec 3rd and 4th – Trimley's Crib Festival. 10-4 Sat. 12-4 Sunday

2012

9th April - 8th July – David's Sabbatical.

Brief minutes from the Circuit Meeting held at Woodbridge Methodist Church on 15th September 2011.

Rev. Alan Taylor led the opening devotions on the theme of 'Purpose, Vision and Community'.

Personal References:

Letters were sent to:

- Alyson Ellis thanking her as she comes to the end of her 6 years as Circuit Steward
- John and Pam Hulford who, following health issues, have moved into Norwood Methodist Home in July.
- Bill Brown who continues to suffer ill health

Welcome to new members

Rev. Beverley Barclay and Deacon Georgina Brooks were welcomed to the meeting.

Matters arising

- Graham Hart's update on walking the Lakeland fells. He has now completed 200 peaks. Further information from MRDF website and Graham's blog - mountainsformoney.com
- Alan Taylor expressed thanks to everyone who helped make the recent visit to the circuit so enjoyable for the Methodist minister from Krakow, and his family.
- Rev Andrew Royal has now taken over as chaplain of Norwood.

Superintendent's Report

Alan asked 'If God has a purpose for the Ipswich Methodist Circuit, what practical steps are we taking to fulfil this?'

In 2008 the Circuit Policy 'At heart of community' was commissioned. It is now time to review this.

Alan is delighted by the work of the **Felixstowe Mission Area** as since then they have appointed a Children and Family worker, are working more closely as a Mission area and also working on the Parish Nursing project.

Ipswich Urban Mission Area : Landseer Road now have a wonderful set of premises - a new hall for their playschool, new

roof, gas central heating throughout the premises. Working with other Methodist churches, District and the Local Authority they have covered the cost of the £240,000 project. Georgina will do new work here and the new building will allow multipurpose use so a very exciting time for them.

Central services: Mike Stock and Brian Loader are working in partnership for circuit finance and Chris Finbow and Sandy Hamilton for property.

Conversation is ongoing about the **Woodbridge Mission Area** covering such a vast area.

Talks are ongoing as to the best way forward for the **Ipswich Rural Mission Area**.

Next year the circuit will be profiling for a new Superintendent Minister so it is important to know in which direction we are heading. The District has issued a card about discipleship to every member of the church family – Gateways to God written by Jack Lawson – the full document can be downloaded.

At the Vision day on 14th May it was asked 'Where next?' This document is to go on Church Council agendas and then Mission Areas are to organise own discussion. At the March 2012 Circuit mtg each church should know 'where is God leading us'?

Report from District Synod

Sylvia Mclean gave a brief report from Synod recently held at Dereham.

- Rev Graham Thompson spoke about relationships based on Romans 12. We can't build up our churches if our relationships aren't good and it is good to have social events as well as building good relationships with God.
- Rev Matt Finbow spoke on making good use of Social networking
- Rev Jenny Ellis spoke on Rev Martyn Atkins' (General Secretary of the Methodist Church) report to Conference on 'Discipleship' (*can be downloaded*)
- The Methodist Church in Fiji is experiencing great problems as the government has banned all Methodist meetings apart from Sunday worship. *We are asked to pray for Fiji on 25th day of the month.*

Circuit Stewards' Report

- Rev Beverley Barclay and her husband Chris, and Deacon Georgina Brooks and her husband Richard, and their families, were welcomed to the Circuit.
- Profiles have been completed to make an application for a probationer presbyter in the Ipswich Town (Urban) team Ministry in September 2012.
- Sue Hockenhull was thanked as she continues to edit The Ipswich Round which now includes the Preaching Plan.
- Alyson Ellis was thanked for her 6 years as Circuit Steward. Marilyn Watsham (Elmsett) joined the team in March and Judy Read (Bramford Road) has been elected from September.
- Alison Davies was appointed as convenor of the support group for David Kemble's sabbatical next year. This was approved.

Finance

Detailed finance reports were issued and approved. *(These can be seen in the Blue Folder in the church vestibule)*

Property

- Circuit stewards made the recommendation that the Westwood Avenue Manse (from which Peggy Heim has recently moved out) should be sold because of lack of parking space, a very large garden and no downstairs study which makes it impossible to keep the upstairs family area private. It is hoped to buy a more modern, better located manse before the new presbyter arrives in September 2012.
- The sale of Stutton Chapel looks to be going through and will hopefully be completed by the end of September.
- A Circuit Manses' group has been set up to ensure that the manses are kept in a good state of repair.
- Rev Andrew Dawes asked to speak to the meeting saying he was disappointed that jobs he had asked to be done to the Capel manse when he moved in had not yet been done.

Local Preachers' Report

- Results from the worship audit of Oct. 2010 had been disappointing as only 17% of people had replied. (*for full copy of audit results see blue file in the vestibule*)
- Liz Cope, Jackie Howes and Jane Paterson have had good reports and will remain 'on trial'.
- Stephen Tuthill will continue 'on note' with Rev Andrew Royal as his mentor.
- Satisfactory reports had been received on all Worship Leaders so they will all be re-appointed for a further 3 years
- The new Methodist hymnbook 'Singing the Faith' would be published on September 30th according to Methodist Publishing.

Mission in Britain

- Last year the Umbrella Trust was chosen as the local charity to support out of MIB donations or in addition. This year Talitha Koum, a Christian Therapeutic Community, bringing healing, Christian hope and practical support for women caught up in addictive behaviour, has been chosen.

Training

- Next year the emphasis for training is to be on worship. Days in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambs have been arranged. The Suffolk day will be in Ipswich on 21st April. There will be a range of speakers and workshops highlighting that worship and discipleship go hand in hand (*please book the date now*)

Safeguarding

- The Methodist Conference says that certain office holders who have not been trained on Module A or Foundation Training, by August 2012, will be asked to stand down by the Church Council. Courses are to be held on Saturday Nov 5th

at Landseer Road and Wed. 30th Nov at Museum St. (See *notice on church n/board for further details*)

- A 'Passport to Fellowship' has been introduced. This is a new protocol for churches to have with working with ex-offenders.

Circuit Arts and Crafts Festival

- Some churches always enter this and some never do. Next year it is proposed to have a creative art workshop day which will provide an opportunity, in an informal way, to learn new skills. This will be instead of the usual Arts and Crafts festival, with the hope that more people and churches will be encouraged to enter the following year (*further details in due course*)

Brantham Environmental Project

- Work is still being carried out into looking for Brantham Methodist Church to be used as an environmental centre.
- Ian Gardner needs volunteers to help with the project in order to release some of his time.
- Ian has decided to seek a new appointment outside of the circuit from Sept 2012.

Olympic Games

- Ian Gardner showed a short clip entitled 'More than Gold' in which churches were asked to think of ways in which they could help in next year's Olympic Games. e.g. the churches in Atlanta provided free water outside their Olympic stadium (*for more information go to morethangold.co.uk*)

If you would like further information from the meeting please see the Blue file or speak to one of Seaton Road's representatives- Malcolm Bentley, Kathy Fullick and Mary Pattinson.

Seaton Road Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 3rd December 2-4pm

Christmas is coming and once again we are holding a Christmas bazaar. We shall need plenty of help on the day - please put the date in your diary. It helps if you let the organising team know you will be there and what you would like to do.



We have started collecting items for the tombola - toiletries, groceries, etc. Please put items in the boxes that will be appearing at the back of the church. We are also on the lookout for CDs, DVDs, toys and jigsaws. We shall need bric-a-brac - so start looking stuff out now - but if you can please hold on to it until nearer the time.

There will be a cake stall so consider baking and freezing to avoid a rush nearer the time.

There will be a planning meeting during October - look out for details. Everyone is welcome to come along and share their ideas to help us raise money.

Please note that all contributions for the November edition of Brightstar should be with Robin and Mary by Saturday 22nd October. Thank you!
email: robin.pattinson@btinternet.com

**Seaton Road, Trimley, Kirton and Trinity
Methodist Churches**

**'MISSION AREA SUPPER
AND CONCERT'**

**Venue: Trinity Methodist
Church**

Friday 25th November 2011

6.15pm

**Come and enjoy an evening of fun and
fellowship**

Everyone welcome

**A list will shortly be displayed.
(Please place your name on the list for catering
purposes).**

Heather Carpenter, tel: 01394 278239

The Bible in Voice and Verse

**A concert by Lance Pierson with Belinda Yates and
Heather Chamberlain**

**Friday 28th October 7.30pm
At Maidstone Road Baptist Church, Walton**

2011 is the 400th Anniversary of the publication of The King James authorized version of the Bible and to mark the event "In Voice and Verse" have created a unique presentation. The concert aims to celebrate the impact of the Bible in words and music. Lance recites key passages from the Bible interspersed with performances of famous pieces of music which those words inspired, sung by Belinda Yates. The music will include excerpts from Haydn's 'Creation', Handel's 'Messiah', Mendelssohn's 'Oh for the Wings of a Dove' and SS Wesley's 'Blessed be the God and Father' amongst many others.



This is a Walton Churches event and free tickets are available from Maidstone Road Baptist Church, St Mary's Walton, and Seaton Road Methodist. We ask for donations to cover costs and to support the Seafarers Chaplain's Bible Fund in Felixstowe. A warm welcome to all.

**Short Minutes of Combined Annual General Meeting
and Church Council
Wednesday 22nd June 2011 at 7.30pm**

Rev. David Kemble opened meeting with reading from Genesis explaining how the rainbow after the flood was a sign of the covenant between God and mankind and how God is always with us to support and encourage us (a rainbow had appeared outside before the meeting commenced). David then led the members in prayer.

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of February meeting – accepted and signed
3. Matters Arising - None
4. Notice of items for Any Other Business - None
5. Finance: Treasurer’s report – Malcolm Bentley.

Regular envelope giving and ‘loose’ collections had risen. Money received from rentals - down slightly. Malcolm asked if anyone knew of any groups who would rent church hall premises on regular basis.

A message was received from Archie, thanking the computer group for doing tea at the ‘Hut’ to raise money for stair lift.

6. Property - Is hoped to decorate hall, stairs and landing in church hall during the summer.

7. Election of stewards

David proposed grateful thanks to all stewards for their work during the past year.

Kathy Fullick and Rose Cross both asked to “step down” after nine years service. No further nominations had been received but new stewards will be needed before September 1st - David asked members to give this their prayerful consideration. Remaining five stewards – Howard Fotherby, Heather Bentley, Mary Pattinson, Nicky Wright and Liz Benyon- re-elected, (proposed by Robin, seconded by Rose).

8. Stewards & joint stewards report.

Dates from Mission Area – July 23rd – Catriona Bentley giving a talk on Uganda – Seaton Road 6.30pm

Aug 3rd – Kirton Fun Day

Aug 6th – Trimley. Jenny Smith's garden party 28, Spriteshall Lane 2.30 – 5pm

October 9th – Mission Area evening service at Trinity 6pm - Rob Anning as part of Trinity's harvest services.

Nov 25th – Mission Area event. Supper followed by a concert for which each church has to supply 2 'acts'

Rev David Kemble will be taking his 3 month Sabbatical next year between Easter and July.

Mission Area Fund; each church has been asked to contribute £50 to start a fund for publicity, refreshments etc for Mission Area events.

This was discussed and the suggestion was proposed by Robin and seconded by Rose, it was carried by a show of hands. An explanation of term 'Mission Area', a name for the work that the four Methodist churches in Felixstowe do together, was given.

Seaton Road stewards reported Harvest Festival on September 18th, a Cafe service. 'Tools with a Mission' suggested as harvest charity, including collection of old tools of any description to send to 'Tools with a Mission' depot in Ipswich for distribution overseas. Mary asked if various organisations could decorate church windows involving the theme of 'Tools with a Mission'.

Each church in the Ipswich Circuit has been asked to review itself and its place in its own Mission Area. The stewards have discussed this and the results are being collated. In October 2010 Local Preachers distributed a worship survey and the results of this have also recently been collated.

Malcolm asked for suggestions for the annual church charity – Macmillan Nurses was suggested by Eric and agreed by the meeting.

9. Pastoral Matters - None

10. Life and Mission of the Church

David suggested that the rest of the meeting should be dedicated to Walton Parish Nursing, Felixstowe and to the decision that needed to be made concerning the involvement of Seaton Road in this project. Background; Parish Nursing is an international organisation which enables registered Christian nurses paid by churches to combine traditional nursing with a spiritual brief. They can pray and read the bible with patients if needed or requested to. Maidstone Road Baptist Church in Walton employs a Parish Nurse who works for 2 days a week. Some time ago the Maidstone Road Parish Nurse was seconded to Aldeburgh, and Nicky Wright then took over her role in Walton. A decision has been made to try and extend the service all over Walton, working with young people as well as the elderly. The project needs to have charitable status with trustees on a steering committee. David Kemble (or whoever is minister at Seaton Road) would become one trustee, with one or possibly two others from Seaton Road needed. The steering committee would need to interface with the Charity Commission by making a financial statements etc. Heather Bentley suggested having a break in the meeting to have a quick chat about the issues involved. After a short break, David asked for feedback and the following points were discussed –

- If a new Parish Nurse was needed how would a replacement be found and do they have to come from this church? - ideally they would come from within our church family but the post could be advertised to recruit a Christian from the general public as long as they worship in the church they work out of once a month.
- Management team – meets every 6 weeks to deal with day to day issues. It needs the following members; chairperson, secretary, treasurer, professional mentor, spiritual mentor, fundraising, publicity. This would therefore mean 3 or 4 people from each church using their gifts.
- What is expected from our church members? – prayer support and encouragement, and help with committee roles.

- What do the ‘volunteers’ do? – they can help with ‘chair-based’ exercises and they are available to chat to people at coffee mornings. They can be trained.
- How would church people be referred to the PN? - probably by church stewards.
- How are the professional boundaries decided? - Parish nurses have line managers to ask.
- How are the dressings paid for? -not by Parish Nursing -can be referred to NHS.

David then asked the meeting to vote on the proposal that Seaton Road Methodist Church should proceed to set up a joint ministry with Maidstone Road Baptist Church to form Walton Parish Nursing, Felixstowe. This was carried by a show of hands with one abstention. As the committee positions will need to be filled by the end of July the meeting agreed that David could put names forward if volunteers were found. Sue Hockenhull reported that the East Anglia District of the Methodist Church has granted Seaton Road £20,000 to fund one Parish Nurse for one day per week for 3 years, as a pilot project, provided the church can raise £1000/year. They also indicated that if a further £16,000 was raised by the project, they would donate another £4000 to fund a second day/week. This would need to be discussed with Maidstone Road. Daryl proposed a vote of thanks to Sue Hockenhull, Heather and Malcolm Bentley and David Kemble. David felt the project has been led and inspired by a ‘higher authority’.

11. Matters referred to or from the Circuit. - Ian Gardner has decided to look for a new appointment from September 2012. The circuit is therefore now looking for a replacement.

12. Any Other Business -none

13. Dates of next Church Councils - Oct 12th and Feb 8th 2012 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 21.35 with a shared grace.



*Angus & Dylan on their recent 54 mile walk
along the Yorkshire coastal path*



Connor O'Reilly at his recent Baptism



Maria & Ian Gibbs



Sheila & Terry Tall

*Church
Family
Summer
Weddings*

