

Brightstar



September 2013

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 September:

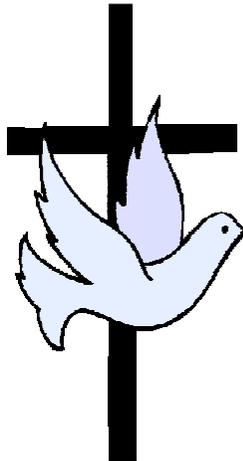
Sept 1st Rev David Kemble – Covenant Service
9.45 a.m. *Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion*
Coffee will be served after this service

Sept 8th Rev Beverley Barclay
9.45 a.m.

Sept 15th Harvest Café Worship!
Breakfast from 9.15 a.m.
Worship at 9.45 a.m.

Sept 22nd Deacon Georgina Brooks
9.45 a.m.

Sept 29th Rev Beverley Barclay
9.45 a.m.



Dear Friends,

The background on my computer screen has remained the same for at least 4 years and my eldest grandchildren often comment “why don’t you change it Pa Pa – its rubbish!” I’m sure they think I should have Peppa



Pig or Spiderman instead but I find the scene of a desert island with golden sands and a bright blue sky helps to transport me on dull and grey days to a place thousands of miles away! It reminds me of holidays and soaking up the sun in relaxed surroundings!

It is lovely to have a break and enjoy peace and quiet but we know that it is for a limited period and then it is back to our normal routine. For most of us the holiday season is at an end and its *‘back to school or work or whatever our normal day holds’!* For some people it may mean going onto a new life, for example a new school, university or a new job and for some ministers and deacons, work in a new circuit. Those of us involved in church life take it up afresh as all the activities begin again.

It is good to have structure and routine as it provides a pattern for our living. It may seem a bit humdrum and even demanding at times, like turning out on a cold, wet evening for a meeting. Yet the regular sharing in fellowship and service is an important way for us to grow spiritually.

We can, however, love the routine so much that it becomes something we do without thinking. A new job, new move, retirement or suffering a loss means a new pattern has to be worked out. Sometimes our church is calling us to new things.

It may mean taking up a new task or letting go of an old one and stepping forward or in a different direction. The Kingdom of God needs people who are ready to create new patterns and so meet the challenge of offering the Gospel to our generation.



The holiday season is over and it's back to normal so let us pray that we may always be open to new ideas and new ways of sharing God's love with our community.

I hope to see you at the welcome service for our new Circuit Superintendent Minister, Rev Derek Grimshaw, on Aug 31st at Museum Street.

Yours as ever

David

Please note that all contributions for the October edition of Brightstar should be with Robin and Mary by Sunday 15th September. Thank you!
email: robin.pattinson@btinternet.com

From the Vestry LIFE OF PI



“Life of Pi”, an acclaimed novel, winner of the Booker Prize is now a successful blockbuster film.

Did you know it's a book about religion?

A year ago its author, Yann Martel, appeared on Book Club, Radio 4 to explain the meaning behind his book.

The book is one set of facts (representing a journey of life) but two stories. You can only accept the first story OR the second story. You can't take bits of both.

The first story is an epic voyage across the ocean of a religious boy with a Bengal tiger, Richard Parker. It's one of loneliness, bravery, belief, survival. It is escapism, implausible, irrational, unbelievable but magical, exciting and satisfying.

As Pi lands in Mexico and has to explain to the authorities what has happened they don't believe his story (it's beyond belief) so he makes up a second story involving humans that is rational and believable but flat, unexciting and not satisfying. Pi has to appease the rationals with a believable story.

The reader is invited to choose which story to believe.

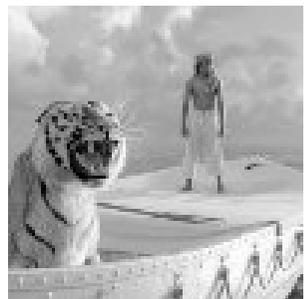
It's hard to accept the second story (the one without religion) once you've experienced the first story (the one with religion).

Religion involves stories. It has the capacity to change individuals (for the better), to redirect lives but isn't rational.

We're only here once so let our lives be exciting and magical without having to explain our beliefs.

Yann Martel is telling us that life is richer if we choose to have God in it.

Sue Hockenhull



Suffolk Historic Churches Trust

Cycle Ride

Saturday 14th September



Please put 14th September 2013 in your diaries as we will once again be participating in the Historic Churches Cycle Ride. If you are planning to ride, see Malcolm for sponsor forms. If you are not riding but can record cyclists as they arrive at Seaton Road, please add your name to the rota on the notice board at the back of the church. Please be generous with your sponsorship of our riders.

Felixstowe Listening Service are organising a 'The Great Inter-Church Quiz' on Friday 25th October at Salvation Army, Felixstowe at 7pm.

If you would like to set up a Seaton Road team (maximum of 8 people) please let Mary Pattinson know so the team can be booked in.

Quiz

Church family weekend

On Friday 12th July twenty six of Seaton Road's church family, ages ranging from 2 to 91, set off to Belsey Bridge Conference Centre, Ditchingham for the weekend. Taking the theme 'What can you see?' we explored ways of seeing including, seeing is believing, how do you see Jesus?, seeing from different angles and how people can see the same thing so differently.

Games included charades, recalling shops in the correct order in Hamilton Road (easier said than done), an alphabet eye spy and the very competitive match stick blowing! One session was spent making an 'eye' from given materials – two groups made eyes but the other two thought outside the box and produced the letter 'I' including the now famous 'Lavini-I'! The craft session saw sun catchers, 'lava'lamps, spying tubes, a 'Jesus' banner and plastic canvas work being produced and for those who chose to reflect quietly a selection of books was available.

If you asked people some of the highlights of their weekend you would probably get answers including friends, fellowship, hot chocolate, swimming, frogs, swings, food, singing, jigsaws and games (frogs and swings may need some explaining – just ask Paul and David!)

Although the weekend is full of fun each day starts and ends with a prayer session, led by different people, during which we can spend quiet time together and with God. On the Sunday morning we also have a prayer walk when we walk around the grounds stopping to pray and sing at various points. Traditionally we always return gustily singing 'We are marching in the faith of God' – hoping we don't disturb the other groups at the conference centre!

We were blessed with a warm weekend so the swimming pool was well used, and enjoyed, especially by the youngsters.

The weekend gives everyone the opportunity to relax with each other and enjoy each other's company. All too quickly Sunday afternoon arrived when we shared in a final act of worship together before packing up our things and wending our way home.

Another fantastic family weekend of fellowship, fun, friendship and food for which we praise God.

We will shortly be looking to book a date for the 2015 weekend (2014 will be a weekend at home) so if you already have anything in your diaries please let Robin know so we can try to avoid those dates.

Harvest Café Worship!

Our Harvest Café Worship is on Sunday 15th September with breakfast from around 9.15 a.m. and the usual informal worship starting around 9.45 a.m.

This year we are supporting the "Soup kitchen" initiative in Felixstowe and, therefore, we are asking for donations of tins of soup (either tomato or chicken varieties please). We are also asking the congregation to each bring along a single vegetable – these will be used during the worship to make some soup – we then invite those who can to stay after the service to share a simple soup lunch, at around 12 noon.

If you would like to help with the decoration of the Church for harvest then the Church will be open during the day on the Saturday for you to bring flowers and place in the available vases.

Steward thanks

August 31st sees the end of my five year period of being a church steward at Seaton Road, the last four years of which I have been Senior Steward.

It has been a privilege to have held this position but I do feel now is the time to take a break.

I am extremely grateful to all my fellow stewards over this time for their help, support and at times encouragement and also for the support from the church as a whole.

I would especially like to thank David, who has been the minister during the whole of this time, for his moral support and friendship. Knowing I would be the steward when David arrived I was part of the team when he and Elizabeth came to 'view' us and it was my job to 'occupy' Elizabeth while the serious discussions were taking place. I was a bit apprehensive as to what we might talk about for half an hour or more but I needn't have worried!

A steward's role is a very rewarding one, and believe it or not, we have had some laughs together as well as the more serious business. It gives you a chance to get to know other stewards and also be involved with the things going on in the church. Please continue to support the 2013/14 stewards, Heather Bentley, Liz Benyon, Howard Fotherby, Sue Hockenhull and Shirl Stockley.

Mary Pattinson

Thank You to.....

David and Elizabeth for all their hard work, enthusiasm and encouragement in making this year's Holiday Club 'Jungle Jamboree' such a success. Once again the church hall, transformed into a jungle scene complete with trees, creepers and all sorts of animals, was full of excited children, and adults, every morning for the first full week of the school holidays.

It was also good to have several of the families joining us at the service on the Sunday for Holiday Club Extra when mums, dads, grandmas and other family members were able to share in some of the fun the children had had all week.

Family History request

At a recent Thursday morning worship session Michael Durrant popped in to see if we could help with his family history.

His dad, Douglas Archie Durrant born in May 1907, owned the bakery in King Street and up until the 1950's donated a harvest loaf to our harvest festival every year. Michael would be very interested to hear from anyone who could recall this or who may even have a photograph.

Also Michael's uncle, Ronald Durrant married Winifred Lamb at Seaton Road on 16th July 1938.

If any of this brings back memories or you have any information please contact Michael on 01473 719523.

LIFT Soup Kitchen – starting soon!

We in the LIFT group – meaning ‘Life in Felixstowe Together’ – are working to set up a winter soup kitchen in Felixstowe, starting on 1st November. Run by Churches Together in Felixstowe, the group has members from many of our local churches.

Would you like to help once a fortnight, making and giving out soup and sandwiches to those in great need? Each group will make their own soup and sandwiches, and then drive to the venue behind Solar for one hour in the evening to distribute them.

We’ve had advice from the Ipswich group, who have been doing this for 21 years. Having started with only a few clients, they now have about sixty people coming each evening for food. We’re not expecting that many – we’ll start by catering for ten each evening.

Please come and hear all about this project. We are meeting on Monday 30 September at 7.30pm at St Felix Church hall, Gainsborough Road. We welcome those who have already committed to helping, and also if you are just finding out.

If you are interested, please talk to your own church’s contact – or to Margaret Condick on: 01394 448576 or: margaret.condick@btopenworld.com

Holiday Club 2013 – Jungle Jamboree!

Every year the children say 'That was the best yet!' This year was no exception and hardly was the last song sung than the question was asked – 'What's the theme next year?'

Jungle Jamboree led us on a journey to Africa with the Watt Family – a journey full of adventure but with a few tricky moments! The drama illustrated the teaching as we heard the parables of Jesus, encouraging us to be daring, not to make excuses and to keep on the right track to reach the great reward.

The hall was transformed into a leafy jungle with almost life-size cut-outs of jungle animals peering through the trees. As usual we had our catch phrase which was repeated to bring the children to the front and signal the change of activities. This year it was the Tarzan call! The theme song was popular as ever – especially as it involved a hand-jive!

We learned memory verses, played games and messiest of all, consigned a leader to the gunk tank each day! David was a popular victim and the choice of gunk? Spaghetti and custard!

There was a craft bias to our club this year – the many rolls and tubes you collected were fashioned into snakes and pen pots. Delicious biscuits, made by Debbie Peck were decorated as lions and jungle scenes were created on canvas boards. We also 'wove' leaves, made CD parrots, spiral snakes and animal masks.

More than 65 children attended throughout the week. Never have we had such well-behaved children! Despite the heat and crowded room everyone remained happy and polite –

they were a joy to be with! It was good to see a number of families joining us on Sunday for Holiday Club Extra.

On the Friday we all had a treat when Mr Bean's Reptile Encounter brought some live snakes and lizards for us to see and hold!

A special note of thanks must go to the fantastic team who worked so hard to make the week successful. Including our own, there were helpers from 6 churches – Trimley and Trinity Methodist, Ranelagh Rd Christian Fellowship, St Mary's Walton and Christchurch – they were fantastic and how great to have a number of young leaders working with us.

Thank you for all your help, support and prayers,

Every blessing

Elizabeth



DATES

August 31st Saturday – Welcome service for the new Circuit Superintendent, Rev Derek Grimshaw at Museum Street, Ipswich 6.30pm.

September 1st Sunday – Seaton Road Covenant Service 9.45am



September 14th Saturday - Suffolk Historic Churches Cycle Ride

September 15th Sunday – Seaton Road Harvest Café Worship

October 1st Tuesday – Mission Area Kids’ Club at Seaton Road 6 – 7.15pm

October 12th Saturday – Mission Area Messy Church at Trinity

October 13th Sunday – Walton Parish Nursing Commissioning service for Marilyn Flower and volunteers 3pm. at St Mary’s Walton

October 16th Wednesday – Seaton Road Church Council 7.30pm.

November 12th Tuesday - Mission Area Kids’ Club at Seaton Road 6 – 7.15pm (please note change to 2nd Tuesday in the month for November only)

December 3rd Tuesday - Mission Area Kids’ Club at Seaton Road 6 – 7.15pm

For other dates see also the Mission Area Dates’ diary for September - November.