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**Please ensure all articles, for inclusion in the  
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Kathy before;**

**JANUARY 15TH 2018**

**Please note any articles received after this date will be not be included  
and will be saved for the next issue.**

**THE WOLDS AND TRENT CIRCUIT  
OF THE  
METHODIST CHURCH IN  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**LINK**



**December 2017-  
February 2018**

## Pastoral Letter

I wonder which is your favourite time of year? For some people it's the long and hopefully warm sunny days of summer, others like the promise of spring, or the glorious colours of autumn, and for others it's the crisp, bright, chilliness of winter which gives them energy. You may have guessed from what I've written that there are aspects of each of the seasons which I enjoy and which inspire me. For me, each season has more challenging aspects too, but let's not dwell on these!

This edition of our Link magazine sees us not only moving into winter but also into the periods of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Covenant and the beginning of Lent – that's quite a lot to squeeze in to just three months! Just as the different meteorological and calendar seasons prompt us to think about particular events and activities, so too do the seasons of our Christian year. The cycle of the seasons is also helpful in developing and maintaining the spiritual rhythm of our lives as individuals and as church families, something we're exploring throughout the year as a Circuit, focussing on the practices of pray, give thanks, keep silence, read and reflect, and act and it is the last of these which we will focus on in our Circuit Advent Service.

I really enjoy Advent with its sense of reflection and anticipation, and of course preparation, but not in the sense of writing hundreds of lists of things to do and to buy in order to ensure that Christmas celebrations are complete. Whilst I am a big fan of lists the preparation and anticipation of Advent is something quite different: A time to learn, or re-learn, what it means to wait and, as Paula Gooder so eloquently expresses it, in so doing to "live deeply and truly in the present moment [so that we can be] joyfully and fully present in the now."<sup>1</sup> When we can do that I think we can be most truly aware of God's presence, God's love and God's promptings.

Whether this is a time of year which brings you joys, challenges, indifference or even a little of all of these, I pray you will know God's love for you afresh each new day.

Sarah

## PUZZLE PAGE- PANTO PUZZLES

At this time of the year theatres produce PANTOMINES for our entertainment and it's great fun to sing and shout out with younger family members.

They also give stage experience to TV personalities although many modern storylines bear small resemblance to the FAIRYTALES they represent. I'm sure you will soon unscramble these below-

Oh, yes you can!

1. CRADLE NEIL (10)
2. KNITTING WITH DOC (4,11)
3. IS NO BUS-STOP (4,2,5)
4. HAS BLANKET AND JACKET (4,3,3,9)
5. NAIL DAD (7)
6. PAN BEGUILLES YET (8,6)
7. DID HE RING DOOR? (3,6,4)
8. ED, THE BABY EATS A NUT (6.3.3.5)
9. WHEN DO BOAS BITE? (5,2,3,4)
10. THE FAT LADY HAS BOAT IN BREIVIE (3,4,3,3,5,7)
11. OOH, MET OGRES (6,5)
12. F.T. WEATHER NEWS- DEVON HAS WINDS (4,5,3,35,6)

Don't forget to use your scrabble tiles to help your solving. Good Luck!

CMS

**PUZZLE PAGE-**

**WORDSEARCH – O COME LET US ADORE HIM**

C	H	R	I	S	T	I	N	G	L	E	E	R	T
H	O	M	I	N	I	S	T	E	R	A	T	S	I
U	X	N	O	I	T	C	I	D	E	N	E	B	P
R	O	R	G	A	N	Y	N	R	E	T	C	E	L
C	H	O	I	R	E	A	D	E	R	R	P	L	U
H	B	I	B	L	E	S	P	F	A	E	I	D	P
W	R	A	T	L	A	G	S	O	C	Y	H	N	P
A	A	M	E	H	T	N	A	N	I	A	S	A	E
R	C	C	J	B	Z	O	L	T	V	R	R	C	W
D	R	A	W	E	T	S	M	Y	I	P	O	R	S
E	O	R	S	L	E	P	S	O	G	O	W	I	N
N	S	O	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	X	N	B	M
Q	S	L	V	S	O	F	F	E	R	T	O	R	Y
H	A	S	S	O	C	K	O	O	B	N	M	Y	H

Imagine that the square above is a chapel or a church. Inside are 34 SIGHTS and SOUNDS that you can see and hear during this Advent period of worship and finally celebration. Wishing you all a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

And is it true? And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all  
Seen in a stained glass window's hue,  
A baby in an ox's stall?  
The maker of the stars and sea  
Became a child on earth for me?

From Christmas by John Betjeman

**NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT**

**Brookenby**

**Church Contact:** Mrs M Nicholls 01472 398364

**Caistor**

**Church Contact:** Mr Ian Short 01472 852517

**Youth Club** (in the church Wesley room) for school years 3 (age 7/8) and above.

Wednesdays 6-7.15pm; optional Bible discussion 7.15-8pm.

**The Rambling with God Group.** – [No walking involved just verbal rambling] – meets

Tuesday evenings, Fortnightly. (contact Kate Kelly ☎ 01652 628001 or Bridget Andrew 01652 628586)

**Thursday Group.** – Meets Fortnightly at 2:00PM. (contact Yvonne Woolston ☎ 01472 852337)

**Men's Group.** – Fortnightly, Tuesday evenings. (contact Paul Collins 07843 755002)

**Church Band/Music Group-** We meet on a Monday evening at Church. We welcome any who want to play and/or sing with us. Contact Kathy for more info 07398 711730 kathy\_link@hotmail.co.uk

**Express**

According to recently published statistics, most families only eat together once a week, and 60% of meals are eaten watching television. Add to that the high levels of people living alone in the UK-and eating along everyday-there are a lot of people missing out on the community built around a meal table.

Express is a weekly service at Caistor Methodist Church where eating together is a vital part of the time spent together. We meet at 4.30pm, have a drink together as the service starts, and spend roughly half an hour storytelling, creating through drama, dance or playdough, we make music and explore how we could serve our community in fresh ways. Then, downstairs to eat tea together, where over table-laying, washing up and chocolate cake we catch up on each other's weeks and children race around the yard on scooters ad bikes.

Express might look a bit messy...Playmobil is nearly always involved. Some weeks children (and adults) are tired and grumpy. There's quite a lot of washing and drying up when 25 people eat lasagne and strudel with ice cream. But intentionally spending this time together each week is special. We are learning to care for each other, we're noticing what gifts people have that we hadn't seen before, we are recognising that including everyone at Jesus' table is sometimes difficult, sometimes rewarding, always vital.

Come along and join us-all Sunday's at 4.30pm (except 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month)

## Gainsborough

**Church Contact:** Miss S Forsyth 01427 311494

Website: [www.gainsboroughmethodist.org.uk](http://www.gainsboroughmethodist.org.uk)

Well where has the year gone it's hard to think, I'm sat here writing December to February link already.

We have all been busy in Gainsborough, knitting and crocheting Christmas Angels to take out to the community and tie to fences, park benches and spread some Christmas cheer. We will even get the men involved to by printing out some lovely labels to tie to our angels.

On Wed 29<sup>th</sup> November we will have an afternoon of stuffing and tying labels to the angels, not forgetting tea, coffee and cake to help us along too. Many thanks to all our helpers



10<sup>th</sup> December Commissioning of the Angels at the Community service at GMC 3pm  
all welcome  
24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve service 6pm

### **A Recipe for a Happy New Year**

Take twelve whole months

Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate and jealousy.

Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.

Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty, thirty-one different parts, but don't make up the whole batch at once.

Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part of faith, one part of patience, one part of courage, and one part of work.

Add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity and kindness.

Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation, and one good deed.

Season the whole with a dash of good spirit, sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play, and a cupful of good humour.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love.

Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile, and serve with quietness, unselfishness, cheerfulness.

You're bound to have a Happy New Year!

Shona

## **Fundraising for The Nomad Trust**

Many thanks to all of you who have continued to support The Nomad Trust by sending donations of both Harvest Gifts and money.

My apologies for not reporting back to you for some time, but I can now inform you that, at the end of December 2016, the overall total raised by the Wolds and Trent Circuit was **£3045.41**

We have therefore now exceeded £3000 since the project commenced. In addition to this, we have also raised a further £318.24, up to the end of September 2017, making a current total of **£3363.65** to date.

This would not have been possible without those members of the churches in our circuit who continue to contribute, and others who also support us. I know that all your gifts are greatly appreciated, especially as Winter is now upon us and the demands on The Nomad Trust are likely to increase, particularly if the weather is bad.

On its website, The Nomad Trust says that: *"Our Night Shelter on Monks Road offers direct access emergency accommodation for those who are extremely vulnerable, homeless and sleeping rough. Last year we met the needs of nearly 300 individuals. Our service is available 365 days a year."*

On behalf of YMCA and The Nomad Trust, I would like to offer their best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

Ian Hardcastle

## Desert Island Hymns

This is a new regular feature for our Link Magazine. Choose your “Desert Island Hymns” and maybe include some reasons for your choices. Send them to the Editor via email or post (contact details are on the back page)

‘**Jesus friend of little children**’ – very first hymn I played on the organ at NKMC !

‘**Love Divine**’ (Blanwern) and ‘**For the beauty of the earth**’ (Noricum) – both sung at our wedding

‘**Jerusalem**’ – WI has threaded through my life from a very early age and have sung it in many places from local WI meetings to the Royal Albert Hall in London.

‘**Great is thy faithfulness**’ (Faithfulness) – one of my Mum’s favourite hymns when it was first introduced.

‘**Make me a channel of your peace**’ – Prayer of St Francis

‘**Lord Jesus Christ**’ (Living Lord) - great favourite

‘**The day thou gavest Lord**’ – always enjoy singing this at the Women’s World Day of Prayer Service each year.

‘**Come thou fount of every blessing**’ (Nettleton) – this hymn never fails to send a tingle down my spine especially when singing it in Lincoln Cathedral with a visiting Choir from America some years back – the organ backing and a few key changes gave it added dimension !

‘**Lord of all hopefulness**’ (Slane) – a hymn for life itself

‘**The Lord’s my Shepherd I’ll not want**’ (Stuart Townend version) – singing this to its modern setting in Coventry Cathedral recently (Sarah’s Ordination Service) with hundreds of other people was my most recent tear-jerking experience ! The organist also gave it an extra dimension - I think Geoff Taylor will second this choice !

A very enjoyable exercise - thank you !

Midge Thomas

## Glenthams

**Church Contact:** Mr T Faulkner 01673 818718

Angels

Following the inspiration of Whitley Bay & North Shields Methodist Circuit many Glenthams Chapel members and friends have been busy knitting angels ready for commissioning at our United Carol Service on 10<sup>th</sup> December. It is our hope and prayer that through these angels we will be able to share God’s love and bless our communities this Christmas.

Of course we are getting closer to Halloween or All Saints and the question is what do you do as a parent? Allow the children to dress up as ghouls or witches or something similar believing it is all a bit of fun. . But you must ask your self Is It??

Where did we take ours?? to the Bright Light Bash at Caistor!!

Great times are had on the God Pod every couple of weeks at Hemswell Cliff with quite a number of children, some teens and the occasional adult coming along to enjoy stories of Jesus and look at life as a teenager or simply enquire about faith. It is such a privilege and a pleasure. Talking of Hemswell it is Carol singing at 4pm around the tree, followed by Nativity and Carol service in the School Hall on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, please come and join us!!!

For the past few weeks we have been helping our Anglican friends with TWAM (tools with a mission) collected loads to help those in Africa with so little. Doesn’t God bless us with so much!!

Today was Harvest at Chapel and really enjoyed our messy time with lots of children and adults bringing gifts and shoe boxes full of small gifts for so many children who have so little.

God bless  
love  
Jenny & Peter

**Sugar & Spice**  
**January 20<sup>th</sup> and February 17<sup>th</sup>**  
9.30am at The Willows, Glenthams  
Women gather for food and friendship (Open menu)  
All Ladies Welcome

**Men's Breakfast**  
**December 9<sup>th</sup>, January 13<sup>th</sup>, February 10<sup>th</sup>**  
9am at The Crown, Glenthams. £5.50  
A different speaker each month.  
Please contact Peter Atkinson to book.  
All welcome

**The Link needs you!**

After 7 years, I have decided that it is time to pass on the role of Editor of the Link magazine.

If you are interested in taking on this role, please email me on [Kathy\\_link@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Kathy_link@hotmail.co.uk) or call me on 01472 851606 and I can give you information, such as what the role entails.

Kathy

**LYM**

The LYM youth workers have been very busy in an around the circuit. The Youth Club at Caistor has continued and is going brilliantly with young people coming every week to take part in the activities provided. We follow this with a Bible Study and four members of that Bible Study group will be attending 3Gennerate a youth weekend run by the Methodist Church in Southport in November.

Work in Market Rasen is also flourishing the youth club still going well and has become a real safe haven for the young people that attend. Work in the primary school goes from strength to strength with regular assemblies, the weekly Frog Club and also work with the worship council to create a prayer space every half a term. Work has also happened for a inter denominational Youth Church to start once every half term and this started well and needs much prayer as that begins to take root

In Lea, Marton and Misterton Schools work also continues with Assemblies Frog Clubs and a new club called Pathfinders where we explore Bible Stories using multi-sensory ideas and asking questions of the children encouraging them to put themselves in the story, this runs at Marton and has proven to be very popular in this first half term. We have also recently had Misterton and Marton visit there local chapels for Harvest celebrations.

Marton Youth Clubs continue to grow and be successful. However prayer is needed for the children's club which has seen a drop in numbers this half term.

Finally work is continuing on the God Pod in Hemswell and on the St Giles estate in Lincoln. This is a great service and a fabulous ministry and opportunity to share God with those communities.

Please pray for all the leaders and volunteers involved in God Pod for god's strength and protection as they go about providing this imperative but difficult ministry.

Gareth Sherwood

### **Marton Open Church**

Marton Open Church launched in June of last year and has been going really well. Every week 15-20 people come to experience church. They are a mix of ages and at different levels of faith. Some come with no faith some as full Disciples of Christ. Each week we have a theme which through preaching, discussion, games, Multimedia and interactive prayer we explore together. We have recently been exploring the theme of Gods Prevenient, Justifying and Sanctifying Grace. It has been brilliant to discuss, learn and grow with one another. It has also been a wonderful challenge to try and take God back to basics in terms of language and understanding. Going forward your prayers would be welcome particularly for the young people of the church who have yet to encounter God's Spirit. One thing we would love to see is young people encounter Christ but as leaders we can only do so much the rest comes from God and from them so your prayers that this will happen would be of great help.

### **Marton Messy Church**

Marton Messy Church had its first regular service in October and looked at the theme of Harvest and all God gives us. We had families come together making lots of mess through Pizza Making, Harvest Collages and making SuperTatoes (it's a potato made to look like a super hero). All the while learning a little bit about what great blessings God gives us. Please pray for this new ministry especially for our next service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November where we will be looking at Jesus Light of the World.

### **Lea**

**Church Contact:** Mrs M Lilley 01427 615933

### **Village Guild**

Monthly on Thursdays at 2.15pm

**21<sup>ST</sup> December**

Members Christmas event

**18<sup>th</sup> January**

Members annual lunch at the Ferry House

**15<sup>th</sup> February**

Tim Smith- Schooldays

### **Prayer Shawl Fellowship**

The Prayer Shawl Fellowship will meet on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 10am for fellowship, prayer and knitting shawls etc  
For further details please ring Margaret on 01427 615933  
or Pat on 01427 629250

### **Marton**

**Church Contact:** Mrs D Kitchinson 01427 718634

### **Misterton**

**Church Contact:** Mr S Bilton 01427 810866

Regular meetings are:

**Womens' Fellowship  
1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 2pm.**

**Thursdays 10-11am Drop-in Coffee Group**

## Middle Rasen

**Church Contact:** Mrs Moira Nicholls 01673 880206

We're approaching a busy time in the Church calendar beginning with harvest time. We have had our Harvest Festival, supper and entertainment, all of which went down very well. As usual, we donated our gifts to the Nomad Trust in Lincoln who were most appreciative.

We are now collecting tools of every description to donate to TWAM (Tools With A Mission). Such a good idea! They will help those who are much worse off than ourselves to have tools to work with; make a living for themselves and help other people to provide for their families. I have hundreds of tools that I will never use and, instead of taking up room in my garage, they can be used for a good purpose elsewhere.

News of our new proposed extension is not very good. The plans went to West Lindsey Planning Department and have come back with suggestions that we do not think are feasible, so the proposed extension is not likely to take place in the near future, but we shall not give up. God is on our side!

What we have done to keep the Chapel in good repair is having much of the walls re-pointed – they were getting in quite a bad condition due to wind and rain over the last hundred years or so. We are hoping to lengthen the ramp up to the back entrance to the Chapel so that it is not quite so steep.

Women's Own is back after the summer break and meetings are held on Wednesdays at 2.30pm. Guild begins after the long summer break on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, opening with a "devotional" service by the Rev. Anne at 7.30pm. All are very welcome to both.

I like the idea of "Desert Island Hymns". I would like to take part some time. As many of you know, we have community singing once a month for a quarter of an hour before the service when we have "the Leader's" favourite hymns or practise new ones.

## **MARKET RASEN & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY**

I take this opportunity to tell you of our Choral Society events in the lead up to Christmas :-

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

at 2 00pm

Market Rasen Methodist Church

Tickets £10

Handel's Messiah (part 1) and Vivaldi's Gloria with organ accompaniment.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

at 2 00pm

De Aston School

tickets £8

Wassail with Market Rasen Primary School pupils  
community carol-singing and including refreshments.

## Thank you

Many thanks for all the donations given for Methodist Women in Britain; £110.60 and Easter Offerings for World Mission Fund; £543.80.

Christine Waite



**North Kelsey**

**Church Contact:** Mrs M Thomas 01652 678365

Christmas Blessings to you all from everyone at North Kelsey.

**“WITH CHRISTMAS IN MIND” EVENT**

SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER is the date for your diary/calendar as we hold our regular Christmas-themed event ‘With Christmas In Mind’ when everything has a Christmas slant and we can enjoy time together not to mention the homemade soups and breads along with fruit crumbles and Christmas Pudding ! We look forward to seeing you again. Open from 11 30am – 1 30pm.

**OPEN HOUSE – EVERY 2<sup>nd</sup> MONDAY 2 30 – 4 00pm**

We are always happy to welcome folk from the village and around who come for a chat over their tea and homemade cakes. We are usually joined by friends from All Hallows as well as regulars from our own congregation.

**HARVEST FESTIVAL 2017**

We were delighted to welcome Mr Brian Smith of Grimsby to lead our Harvest celebration along with friends from All Hallows and relatives of some of our regular members. The church was beautifully decorated with Harvest produce and flowers and there was a good selection of tinned and dried goods which were collected for delivery to the local Food Bank Centre in Brigg. Most of us stayed for a delicious lunch of hot casseroles and puddings which was prepared by our regular F Team.

Midge Thomas

**Upton**

**Church Contact:** Mrs Julie Barrow 01427 838729

We had our Summer Fair as usual in July to raise funds for Chapel. On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September, we had our Macmillan Coffee Morning organised by our “Coffee, Cake and Chat” team when well over £500.00 was raised. As well as cups of tea and coffee, we had a laden stall with cakes of every description for sale, a “chocolate” tombola; a huge raffle and various games – a most enjoyable morning. Beautiful tea-services were borrowed which added to the attraction of the occasion – I hope none got broken!

On 15<sup>th</sup> October, we had a cafe style tea-time worship at 4.00pm which was a nice idea and a change from ordinary services. It is nice to have a change. On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October, four members of the congregation talked about their journey of faith – it was organised by the Stewards. Each person then chose a Bible reading and a hymn – it was a service with a difference and also meaningful.

From now on, everything will be geared towards Christmas! Faldingworth Chapel closed some months ago, but we are having Community Carols there led by the Rev Anne at Faldingworth Village Hall on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. All are welcome as usual.

It only leaves me, on behalf of Middle Rasen, to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Liz Margarave

**Market Rasen**

**Church Contact:** Mr Geoff Taylor 01673 843939  
[glta332@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:glta332@yahoo.co.uk)

By the time you read this the Harvest Festival season will have been and gone, what a difficult time it's been for the farmers with all the rain. Will all be safely gathered in? I'm sure it will because as we read in Genesis ch8 v22 the promise of Jesus to Moses. While the earth remaineth seed time and harvest cold and heat, summer and winter and day and night shall not cease. There's a saying amongst farmers that the only harvest not got is the one you're just getting. But of course, harvest is not just the few weeks of the cereal harvest. Crops are being harvested all the year round. What a wonderful part of God's world we live in when we can see such a bounty of food produced for our needs.

We have been privileged to have Rev Stuart Gunson lead our morning harvest service. Followed in the evening by a Songs of Praise led by our minister Rev Anne Coates. Monday Supper and Auction led amusingly by Auctioneer Nick Sharpe.

Our chapel was bulging that weekend because also a group of volunteers were covering and filling Shoeboxes for our annual appeal. 120 boxes were filled and will be sent off to bring a bit of happiness to children in parts of the world who have nothing.

Regular events continue to be well supported. Holiday club was a great success 50+ children registered for the week, it was wonderful to see the place alive with so many young people taking part in the "Big Top" challenges. We also had a return visit from Irish country singer Frank McCaffrey fans travel long distances to support and enjoy his concerts.

With Christmas approaching a number of our and community events will be taking place in our chapel. Sunday 26th November M R Choral Society concert Vivaldi Gloria and part one Messiah. 3rd December Christmas Tree Festival. 24th December Evening Community Come and sing carols service. Fancy writing this at the beginning of October and preparing for Christmas. But has Christians shouldn't we be constantly celebrating the birth of Christ, not just on 25th December ?.

Geoff Smith.

**Nettleton**

**Church Contact:** Mrs Jean Field 01472 852056

Nettleton Chapel would like to wish all our friends around the Circuit a blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

**MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>-Joint Churches Bazaar 2pm-4pm  
January 6<sup>th</sup> and February 3<sup>rd</sup>  
10.30am to 12 noon  
All welcome

**NETTLETON JOINT CHURCHES**  
**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Cakes, Mince pies and other goodies to eat.

Christmas Gift Stall

Grand Raffle – Tombola – Bottle Stall

Father Christmas with sweeties for the children  
Come and see what we have to surprise you with.  
Refreshments available all afternoon.

SEE YOU ALL THERE  
ALL WELCOME