

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

LINK



July/August 2014

Pastoral Letter **'Ever old and ever new'**

Do you like new things? Of course you do, everyone likes something new, that is why the human race is obsessed with shopping. Something new is always a novelty, a better something as a replacement, or something we never had but always wanted. The old and familiar is just as important, so we balance our lives with things from yesterday and today.

The Methodist year comes to a close at the end of August and we plan to celebrate our first birthday as a new circuit with a Safari Sunday Tea on the 17th August. We will thank God for our newness as we share food and worship together at Glentham, the centre of our circuit. We cannot be what we are without what we have been and so we will always be grateful for our legacy and heritage.

Methodism has, over the last few years, questioned the role of all its structures and ministries, currently there are discussions about the purpose and future of districts. My answer to any question about the future, is that it hasn't happened yet and it will be what we make of it, by God's grace. The purpose of our structures and ministries is to serve the church in its role of sharing the good news of repentance and new beginnings. If we don't know what we expect from our structures then the danger is that they will simply be self serving and thus a drain on the life of the churches. I see the circuit as a means of support and encouragement; it should never be a drain on the churches.

I hope that our new mission statement will be an encouragement, both to endorse what we are and what we seek to do. It is simple enough to remember and, I hope, thought provoking enough for us to spend time pondering.

- What does it really mean to live by faith and what is the faith that we live by?
- How can we be known by love, how is it expressed in your life in a way that people can recognise it as God's love?
- How can we be a voice of hope and for whom are we hope?

This is not just something to hang on the wall or place in your notice board to inform passers-by, it is to encourage us all to think about what we do and why.

Yes! We all know what faith, hope and love are, but have these things become so familiar to us that they are no longer new every morning? As Sydney Carter's song reminds us, God is, 'ever old and ever new' and part of our travelling with him is about learning from our past to inform the present, not to try to recreate what was, but to be sure of the foundation as we build the future together.

Whatever the future holds it is in our hands and it is up to us to be open to God to discover what new things he has in store.

God bless.

Andrew.

Our **MISSION** *is*
to live by
FAITH *be known by*
LOVE
be a voice of
& HOPE
with JESUS at the Centre of our lives

Wolds and Trent Circuit
part of The Methodist Church

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Brookenby

Church Contact: Mrs M Nicholls 01472 398364

Caistor

Church Contact: Mr M James 01472 851965

We've just gone through Holy Week, Easter, Ascension Day and Pentecost in quick succession (with Trinity Sunday tagged on for good measure).

This time of the year is a strange one in the Church calendar in that the commemoration of these events takes place in more or less the same time-scale as the events themselves. Jesus really did lie in the tomb for two days and rose on the third. Having celebrated his birth last December we move on thirty-three years in less than four months then, suddenly, we move into real-time. Those weeks after Easter were traumatic for Jesus' followers; the meetings with the risen Christ; the realisation that Death had not triumphed. It must have been hard to get their heads around; then the ascension-what were they supposed to make of that? At last came Pentecost-the "Eureka" moment when suddenly they knew what it was all about.

Of course Pentecost was really the birth of the Church. From that moment on the great commission was a reality for the disciples, as it is for us. In the hurly-burly of everyday life it is sometimes hard to keep it real. Because Paul Collins and his family are pursuing that commission in El Salvador, and the news from there has been mixed recently, the Caistor community have a living reminder that the commission is real and ongoing. Our prayers (and we'd like to solicit yours too) for Paul, Maura, Scout, Assisi and Saffi are a very real part of the Church's work in the world. We are called to be active in works, in prayer and in worship. May we not be found wanting.

Ian Short

Caistor Methodist Church

Welcomes you to

Their Annual

Garden Fete

At 16 South Dale, Caistor

2.00-4.30pm

Saturday 19th July

All Welcome

Faldingworth

Church Contact: Mrs C Waite 01673 885249

We were very pleased that David Islip was able to come and take our Chapel Anniversary service. We enjoyed his visit. He had had a very busy week and a well deserved short break away on holiday. His story- the Lion and the Mouse – was very fitting and I am sure that many of you will have come across that fable at sometime during your schooldays.

We joined friends at Middle Rasen for their Anniversary the following Sunday morning. We arrived in good time and what a lovely surprise. Lots of familiar faces and people to welcome us and that lovely start to the morning-the community singing accompanied by Ray Whiley. One gentleman was celebrating his 90th birthday and lovely parcels of birthday cake were handed out to everyone present. It was a real pleasure to be so welcomed on a fine sunny morning.

John Collinson and his wife very kindly came to our Chapel the following Sunday and their visit was much appreciated. It was school half-term so some of us were in Norfolk with Grandchildren-lapping up the sunny days and watching out of the windows of the cottage for the “white horses” which we could see when it was windy.

We shared the following Sunday with our neighbours as we sat in the garden at home. They had been kind enough to look after our house while we were away.

Today being Pentecost, we gathered in our own Chapel. It was good to be back. Our preacher was Mr Time Smith and it was a lovely service. We all enjoyed his visit. We had hymns from the new hard backed edition of “Singing the Faith”. We do not always have an organist even though we have a lovely organ.

Laurie Oxborrow

Gainsborough

Church Contact: Mr M Childs 01427 610057

The major church celebration during June has been Pentecost, of course. Twelve of us joined in the prayer walk before we returned to our service, led by Andrew Gadd.

Charity matters have featured quite prominently over the last month. Kathy Holt does a great deal of work for Action for Children: COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS raised £130.21p and BUILD A CHURCH fun night (Beetle Drive by any other name) raised £80. Also 6th July is the Sunday when we remember particularly the work of Action for Children. We have a Sunday each year with the Leprosy Mission as our focus in worship. We thank Elizabeth Brockbank for organising this service, and leading it at comparatively short notice, with many others taking part.

As we come into July and August, many of the activities with young people will have a holiday. Social activities, men's breakfast, ladies' tea, the social meal and probably more, will continue. The fellowship groups, having followed the Step Forward course, will continue to meet, both on a Tuesday, one daytime, one in the evening.

No doubt September will bring the return of a flurry of activity after the comparative quiet.

Mike Childs

Glenthams

Church Contact: Mr T Faulkner 01673 818718

I am sat here flopped on the settee having returned home from our Annual Father's Day Messy Church and BBQ!! It was great to share with all the families in worship and fellowship. As usual we braved the elements and ate

outside enjoying the beautiful Chapel garden – maybe the sun will shine next year!

Last time of writing we were looking forward to John and Judith Collinson coming to lead Messy Church and what a treat that was! John talked to us about the Prophet Nehemiah and we all had the chance to re-enact the re-building of the walls around Jerusalem whilst under attack! Mark read from Ephesians about the Armour of God whilst Trevor donned the respective items of Armour. Our grateful thanks to John & Judith.

Last week we enjoyed an impromptu Songs of Praise with Rev Andrew Lomax and his guitar!

We now look forward to sharing in Rev Anne's Ordination Service in Coventry and pray God's continued blessing and anointing on her journey.

MegaMakers! Holiday Club time is just around the corner and so we continue to pray for all the children and their families who may be considering coming.

Wishing you all a sun-filled summer

God bless
Jenny & Peter

Dates:
Messy Church 20th July – 10:45am
Holiday Club 4-8th August 10am-12pm
Messy Church & Picnic 10th August – 10:45am

Coffee Mornings – with thanks to Margaret and Maureen
15th July 10:30am – 2 Greenfields, Glentham
19th August 10:30am – 2 Barff Meadow, Glentham

Men's Breakfast

'The Crown Inn', Glentham

12th July & 9th August at 9am

(every 2nd Saturday of the month!!)

Full English Breakfast £5.50 and free chat!!!

Please Phone Peter 01673 878806 & book your place!



Gringley

Church Contact: Mrs P Gray 01427 629250

Things may seem to have been quiet at Gringley of late but that is because we have been busy thinking up fundraising ideas. Firstly we have just had an Open Church event for which the Lord blessed us with wonderful weather. We were pleased to see three members from Glenthams and four from Lea, we do thank you and all those who came for your support, the total of £253 was raised for Church funds.

Our second fundraiser is asking people to support the Church by becoming a SMARTIE SAVER!. The Church gives out tubes of Smarties and once they have been eaten asks that the person then pledges to fill the empty tube with coins that fit ie, £1 coins and 20p pieces and return it to the Church. If anyone would like to take part please contact Pat on the number above.

Our final event is somewhat of a challenge a MINI TRIATHLON!!!!!!!!!!!!!! On Saturday August 16th leaving from the Methodist Church at 11am two of our members will be taking part and anyone is welcome to join us. The entrance fee is £5 or free if the entrant is raising money for our Church. If it sounds too challenging but you would like to help we would be grateful for any sponsorship you can offer. Those taking part from the Church are Veronica Riley (01427891131) & Pat Gray (01427629250).

The Mini Triathlon consists of a brisk 1k walk around Gringley, followed by a 3k cycle ride to Walkeringham, where we will finish with a 3 minute swim in a Flow pool (by kind permission of Veronica). There will then be transport back to Gringley for light refreshments.

Pat Gray

Church Contact: Mrs M Lilley 01427 615933

Saturday 12th July 10-12 noon

Coffee Morning

Cakes, Books, Bring & Buy etc

Everyone welcome

Thursday 17th July Circuit Guild

2.30pm onwards

Strawberry tea on the lawn at the Chapel

Misterton

Church Contact: Mr S Bilton 01427 810866

"Thank you to everyone who has enquired about the knitting patterns for the baby jumpers. Many have already been sent, and a generous donation of brand-new 'seconds' quality jumpers have also been distributed."

"Our regular events are
Wednesdays 1st and 3rd week, 2pm Womens Fellowship
Thurs. 10-11am coffee mornings, every week.
Thurs. lunches at Swallow Court, arranged by Elaine and Gareth."

Steve Bilton

Nettleton

Church Contact: Mrs Jean Field 01472 852056

July 5th – Monthly Coffee Morning 10.30-12noon

August 2nd – No Coffee Morning as we have Special Ploughman's Lunch (see below)

September 6th - Monthly Coffee Morning 10.30am-12 noon

On the day of our Charity Coffee Morning we were awoken by a thunder storm. We prayed that the rain would stop by 10.30am (the start time for coffee morning) and as we all know that God answers all prayers. The rain stopped about 10am and the people came to buy and support this worthy cause. The cake stall did a roaring trade. The raffle draw was picked and winners went home well pleased with their goodies. The sum of £228.25 was raised for Harbour Place in Grimsby which helps homeless people. An enjoyable morning was had by all who attended.

On Sunday afternoon the Christening of Charlotte Grace Smith took place. Charlotte is the granddaughter of Celia (out organist) so it was good to welcome all the Smith family and friends to the Chapel for this special celebration. Tea and Cakes were served after the service.

We pray that she will come to know the Lord as her personal Saviour as she gets older.

Why not join us for
Special Ploughman's Lunch
&

Strawberries and cream

August 2nd from 12 noon

Nettleton Chapel

All Welcome

MRDF – is now called - **ALL WE CAN**

*“Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can.”*

This well known quote from John Wesley is the inspiration behind the change of name for the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. MRDF is now called All We Can – Methodist Relief and Development. The work of the organisation has not changed, only the name, it continues to be our Methodist charity as it has been for over 70 years but with renewed emphasis on working with partner churches and organisations to bring about lasting change in their communities. When you see the name you'll know what it means.

Have you noticed that....

The initials of July, August, September, October and November makes the name JASON

FIR CONE is an anagram of CONIFER.

Market Rasen

Church Contact: Mr G Taylor 01673 843939
gta332@yahoo.co.uk

**Sunday Services; 10.45 a.m.; monthly evening service at 6.00p.m.
Weekday communion; First Friday in the month 10.00a.m.
Weekday activities & other events; See monthly Bulletin**

**Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples:”
Matthew 28 v19 (Good News Translation)**

Have you ever noticed how sometimes, just sometimes, apparently disparate thoughts and events are brought together into one amazing whole? Geoff and I have spent the past six weeks visiting our daughter and her family in the United States. You can imagine how different life is for us in a household of four young people, ages and interests ranging from sixteen to

nine, from lacrosse, volley ball to baseball, from choral singing to trombone to viola. Interesting, hectic, too much ice cream, but such a lot of fun!

We have worshipped in the United Pentecostal Church, pastored by our son-in-law and daughter. This is a church of young people, families, and lots of children, where people of our more mature years are unusual but welcomed with open arms! They make room for us in their weekly small group sessions, in the women's bible study group and in their bi-weekly early morning prayer session, held at 6.30a.m., before everyone goes off to work.

We have been moved to tears to listen to the personal testimonies of fourteen year olds at their graduation ceremony in College Church, the campus Church of Wheaton College, Illinois, Billy Graham's Alma Mater. Geoff has driven two thousand miles in school runs, and all on the wrong side of the road!

We have participated in our daughter's advanced English literature class. Geoff led the group in discussing Shakespeare's history plays. I found myself delivering a lecture on The Plantagenets before we all set off for The Shakespeare Theatre, downtown Chicago, to watch a memorable production of "Henry V". Thank the Lord for the BBC series!

We did think of all the people and events going on in our home church in our absence. Cyber communication makes keeping up relatively easy and of course our wonderful Prayer Tree, tended so carefully by Midge, kept our prayer lives updated.

Our return was marked by a feast of musical talent in the form of "Music for a Summer Evening". This concert was led by David Corden, son of Dennis and Barbara. He was joined by long standing friends from his school days at De Aston School and the Sunday school at MRMC, including the ever popular Da Capo Folk Group. This was a feast that left the audience hungry for more. They left agreeing that the whole evening had been as good as any West End production.

The concert was organised by David to celebrate the life of his brother Michael and to raise funds for the Trust set up in his name. The purpose of this Trust is to raise awareness of and promote research into pancreatic cancer.

Whilst away our thoughts turned to the age profile of our congregation here in Market Rasen, wondering where our lost generations have gone.

On Sunday Don Owen preached on Matthew 28 v19, often described as "The Great Commission". He reduced our calling to one word, "discipilise". Thus I

return to my original reflection about the bringing together of disparate thoughts and events. That has been our mission here at MRMC. We may not have intended it but there it is. Our congregation may be dwindling but our young people have gone out into the world, had families, and developed their God given skills and talents; nurtured through our family and church lives; as musicians, preachers, teachers and in business. They have taken our church with them as they continue to serve the Lord and to make disciples in the Midlands, in the south, in all corners of the United Kingdom and have even crossed the Atlantic. This then has been our mission, but it is not finished yet. Who knows what the future might hold? God certainly does.

“Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age” Matthew 28 v20 (GN)

Glenda Taylor

Marton

Church Contact: Mrs D Kitchinson 01427 718634

1814 – 2014

**We'll praise Him for all that is past
And trust Him for all that's to come.**

Next Coffee Morning is July 30th at 10am

Middle Rasen

Church Contact: Mrs A Surfleet 01673 843256

I was away on holiday for two weeks in May and missed several events to which I would've liked to have been able to attend. On 8th May, I missed Rev Anne's Ordinand's Testimony Service at Market Rasen. I understand she spoke very well. Although some of us will not be able to go to her Ordination Service on 29th June at Coventry, we give our whole-hearted support to her at this very special stage in her ministry. On this day, there will be no service in Middle Rasen.

I also missed the United Service at the Parish Church for Christian Aid Week and our church anniversary on 18th May. Also, the Women's Own afternoon when they went to the circuit MWiB AGM and "A Tea Rose" at Gainsborough Methodist Church – the later had been speculated upon beforehand and had proved very interesting and enjoyable!

The Rev. Liz Childs came to preach on 25th May - the first time she had been to us in a morning. With Pentecost only two weeks away, our Bible reading was from John Ch14 – a familiar passage actually read at funerals – about the last supper and Jesus explaining what was going to happen and to be prepared. On 8th June, we will have had our United Service for Pentecost taken by Rev. Anne. In the evening of the same day, the stewards will have put together a Pentecost Songs of Praise. The Easter Songs of Praise was much enjoyed. Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Christian Church.

We join with the Parish Church on many occasions and recently, with encouragement from Rev. Anne and Rev. Charles, friends from both Churches have been praying together in groups of twos and threes (known as 'prayer triplets') at mutually convenient times, to pray for the community and individual's needs, in a relaxed way. There is plenty of room for more partnerships, I understand.

Finally, an advance notice, because it would be nice to see and meet friends from other churches in the Circuit, Chapel is holding its' Summer Fayre on Saturday 12th July at 1800hrs, at the White House in Gainsborough Road, by kind invitation of Stephen Naylor and his wife, Rachel. It is always a lovely, fun night out with lots going on.

In our monthly Chapel letter, various people submit little sayings and poems etc (from which I get little quotations which I use in my monthly report!). This last month, Betty Jackson submitted the following 'pause for thought' –

Remember that prayer is not only talking to God; it is every bit as much about Listening to God'

Something to remember!

Liz Margrave

Wolds and Trent Circuit

Safari Tea

Sunday 17th August

Savoury snacks will be served at
Gainsborough and North Kelsey
from 4:00pm

Sweet treats will be available at
Upton and Middle Rasen
from 5:00 pm

Tea/coffee and birthday cake
(for the Circuit's 1st birthday)
will be served at Glentham
to be followed by a Songs of Praise
at 6:30 pm
in the garden, or the Chapel if wet

Tickets £4:00 each will be available in July.

Book the date, choose your route
and bring your friends.
All proceeds to Circuit funds.

North Kelsey

Church Contact: Mrs M Thomas 01652 678365

If your copy of “Link” has arrived promptly, you may still be in time to join in our Pudding Club evening on Friday 4th July. Enjoy savoury tasters before tackling lots of lovely puddings. Abandon your diet with a clear conscience as you will be helping our funds! Book with Midge on 01652 678365.

Our other fund raiser will be a coffee morning with cake and bring –and-buy stalls on Saturday August 9th from 10am to 12. In addition, we continue Open House through the summer, meeting from 2-30 to 4pm on July 14th and August 11th. (Regular readers will know these are times for chatting over a cuppa and cake and there is no set charge.) Join us if you are free! Plans are being made with Sarah and Anne for a Children’s Activity Day on July 28th from 10am to 2pm.

This morning Anne led the Communion Service, using words from the Iona Community. Although the traditional litany has special significance for many, deepened over years, the use of different words from time to time can bring a new perspective to enrich and refresh this central sacrament. Certainly this is how I felt. When you read this, Anne will be fully ordained, following the service held in Coventry at the end of June. We greatly appreciate her unassuming leadership which both encourages and challenges us and we wish her every blessing as she continues her ministry here.

We are looking forward to taking part in the Safari Tea and Songs of Praise in August and hope to meet many of you there.

God bless,
Sylvia

Upton

Church Contact: Mrs Julie Barrow 01427 838729

Hello everyone!

I want to start this month by saying a big thank you to Julie and Shirley who, for the last two Sundays have kept the music going at Chapel. Thank you so much ladies. I know the congregation have been in safe hands.

Patrick and I arrived back from holiday just two days ago and the jet lag is still with us. In spite of that we have had the most wonderful holiday visiting new places. We are now fully refreshed and raring to go again! We have been most fortunate to have spent time with new people from many different places. All with their own stories to tell. We have seen amazing landscapes and several varieties of wildlife. We have seen the sun shining at midnight, we have seen snow and ice and some rain too. All of which makes the landscape what it is - very varied and very beautiful. We feel very lucky to have seen all we have in the last two weeks. As we receive our next magazine many of you will be enjoying your holidays too. Everyone at Upton wish you a happy, and healthy summer wherever you may be spending it. While we were away a hymn came into mind almost on a daily basis. It is a hymn that was introduced to me a few years ago when I played the organ at a funeral. I was thrilled to find it in Singing the Faith and I would like to share it with you now. Have a wonderful summer. When I next write it will be almost harvest time again. May the good Lord continue to provide us with all that we need! God Bless from Upton

Jennifer Fotheringham

1. I watch the sunrise lighting the sky, casting it's shadows near. And on this morning bright though it be, I feel those shadows near me.

Refrain:- But you are always close to me following all my ways. May I be always close to you following all your ways, Lord.

2. I watch the sunlight shine through the clouds, warming the earth below. And at the mid-day life seems to say: " I feel your brightness near me."

3. I watch the sunset fading away, lighting the clouds with sleep. And as the evening closes its eyes I feel your presence near me.

4. I watch the moonlight guarding the night, waiting till morning comes. The air is silent, earth is at rest - only your peace is near me.

Capture your story...

As the Methodist Women in Britain Heritage and Archives Task Group gets underway, we are identifying various ways in which the story of women's movements within the Methodist church can be recorded.

One such way is through the recently launched "My Methodist History" website, a fascinating resource which you may find of interest in lots of ways! Do browse around and see what's happening there. If you go to the Topics page, you will see that MWiB is now featured. Clicking on Methodist Women in Britain will open more headings – MWiB, Women's Work, Women's Fellowship, Women's Network and WFM&UCW (The World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women). All of these are just skeletons at present and need "fleshing out"! New categories may be added as needed when material starts arriving.

Please do have a think back over your years of involvement with one or more of these groups – do you have a memory which others might enjoy? A funny story? Something which happened and changed your life?

Thanks which you would like to record to past leaders and speakers who have touched your life? Prayers or other resources which were used at Connexional events you attended and which you have always kept and used? Maybe some photographs – even if you can't remember who is on them!

All of these – and other ideas too – can be uploaded to the My Methodist History website and will provide fascinating reading for others, and a good archive of resources to help us tell the story of women's movements through the past decades. At present, we are trying to create a bank of memories of Connexional structures and events – but do write down your district or circuit memories too – maybe something similar might be done locally in time.

The editors of the site tell me that they would "love to receive pages about any Methodist events, local, circuit or personal memories, not just Connexional ones. We will find the right place to publish them on the site! Pre-1932 material may be better placed on one of our sister websites; My Wesleyan Methodist Ancestors and My Primitive Methodist Ancestors." So, any stories and memories are valuable.

If you have expertise in Methodist history and could write something about Susanna Wesley, Mary Bosanquet or other early leaders, then again, please do start writing and send it all in!

To get started:

- Go to the My Methodist History website and register.

The volunteers behind the site can also tweak the format and layout if necessary, possibly splitting it into paragraphs with sub-headings or rearranging photos, so don't worry about style – just get writing! They are also extremely helpful and approachable, so do shout if you need help... if you don't feel able to create a page yourself, just email text or photos, as explained under the "Contact us" page.

Please let me know as well, as you add material, I look forward to reading all the stories and keep checking the MWiB website as well for updates on how the work is progressing generally.

Jill Baker for the MWiB Heritage and Archives Task Group
ejillbaker@btinternet.com

LINK WORDS – PUZZLE PAGE

In this puzzle you are looking for 1 WORD which fits both meanings.

e.g. TREE : PART OF THE HAND (4)

Answer = PALM

1. Measure : creep along (4)
2. To idle : bread (4)
3. Bean : organ (6)
4. Portable lamp : set alight (5)
5. Six balls : Finished (4)
6. A comic strip : poor wage (7)
7. Monkey : blood factor (6)
8. Boat rope : decorator (7)
9. Tunic : even (7)
10. Greek author : pigeon (5)
11. Textile machine : come into sight (4)

12. Tubby : opt for (5)
13. Restrain : square pattern (5)
14. Boat : old Irish money (4)
15. Widen with borer : 20 quires (4)
16. Foundation : counterfeit (4)
17. Manage : flee (3)
18. Fasten : aquatic mammal (4)
19. Tree : horse :howl loudly (3)
20. Kicks against : dollars : males (5)

MINISTERS

Rev. Andrew Lomax – 01472 851287

Rev. Anne Coates – 01673 843362

Rev. Liz Childs – 01427 610057

CIRCUIT OFFICE

Midge Thomas – Circuit Administrator – 01673 849222

e-mail – woldsandtrent@btconnect.com

Open Tuesdays & Fridays 10-12:00pm

EDITOR

Kathy Mannion

Phone; 01472 851606 (Between 9am-5pm please)

Email; kathy_link@hotmail.co.uk

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

August 15th 2014

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