

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

LINK



March-May 2016

Pastoral Letter

This edition of the now quarterly Link covers March – May. We are beginning to look forward to the season of Spring, the emergence of new life, new growth, lighter nights & hopefully more sunshine. The movement of the seasons part of the rhythm & pattern of creation. March - May also includes some significant seasons in the church calendar- Lent, Easter & Pentecost Within each of these there is ample opportunity for quiet reflection & making space to listen to God. There is also time for rejoicing, anticipation & giving thanks. Times & seasons are part of our personal lives & our church life. Times of busyness, times of quiet; times of plenty, times of less; times of restlessness, times of contentment. In our journey of faith there are times when God calls us to new areas of service & times when he requires us to continue in activities which we have been doing for some time. In our chapels & the communities they serve there are times when it is right to let go of some activities which have served us well, in order that we have time and energy for new areas of work which emerge. God's time & seasons may not be what we are expecting, sometimes we are required to be patient & wait for the right time. On other occasions it seems as though events move very quickly almost too quickly for some - yet in all things God's time and season is always right. He has the bigger picture, has knowledge beyond our human comprehension.

As we enjoy the rhythm of nature and look forward to Spring, may we also enjoy God's rhythm and pattern in other aspects of life and recognise him in all our times and seasons.

“There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Anne

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Brookenby

Church Contact: Mrs M Nicholls 01472 398364

Caistor

Church Contact: Mrs Bridget Andrew 01652 628586

How time flies. We are already half way through January 2016 and the days are getting lighter, albeit much colder. However, we at Caistor have had a very busy and enjoyable Advent and Christmas Season, although I don't intend writing about each event we have had or else it would almost be a repeat of last year's report. The advent period was certainly a time of preparation and looking ahead to the birth of Christ. There was something for everyone as we were led, week by week, event after event, to our Christmas Candlelit Service on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Service on Christ's Birthday.

Perhaps each service and event meant something different to each one of us, but the content and quality of each one was first class and brought us into a richer and deeper fellowship with each other in our Church family, and relayed to each other the real meaning of Christmas. Christ was certainly the centre of Christmas here in Caistor and we have had an enjoyable finale by coming together for our New Year party, followed by the rest day, Sunday, with our Covenant Service, when we all committed ourselves afresh to God, His work here in Caistor, in the Community and Circuit to which we all belong.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make all our events so worthwhile and enjoyable and most of all directing our thoughts to the baby born in a manger in Bethlehem.

May God Bless You all in all you do in 2016

Louis King

In ten days' time, our family will be on a plane heading to Nicaragua. We're going to live in a town called Jinotega, high up in the coffee mountains in the north of the country. Our children will go to school there, we will slowly and hesitantly start to speak Spanish again, and work in the Methodist Kindergarten, teaching English, music, and we're not sure what else. We go as partners in mission – the Methodist church in Britain and the Nicaraguan Methodist church working to provide early education to children who would otherwise not have access to a kindergarten.

Living in a tropical country is not new to us. Almost exactly five months ago, we waved goodbye to El Salvador, our home of nearly three years and boarded a plane heading to the UK. Our family had got used to intense heat, intensely noisy dawn choruses, being intensely stared at wherever we went. We're expecting all these things again, along with the delicious fresh tropical fruits and truly crazy driving of a hot 'developing' country. But Nicaragua will also be different. There will be less blood and death on the streets, with five times less murders than El Salvador. There will be more children coming to school malnourished and without shoes, as 48% of the population live on less than a dollar a day and a quarter of under-fives suffer from chronic malnutrition. We will sweat less (we hope!) as the average temperature of our new town is about five degrees lower than in Ahuachapán.

Our community in Caistor tell us we're brave. We are not braver than our friends and family that we leave behind. We are not really very strong or doing anything very spectacular. Jesus asks all of us to care for 'the least of these' and to feed the hungry. Sometimes that will look like cooking a Christmas lunch for people who are alone on Christmas Day, sometimes it will look like taking a cake to the really exhausted parents of a sick baby, sometimes it will look like providing a fun place to play for children in the holidays, sometimes it will look like giving a lift to the old lady who looks forward to coming to lunch club all week, sometimes it will look like English classes in a Nicaraguan kindergarten.

Follow our news on the noticeboard in the church hall and our blog cookcollinsadventure.blogspot.com.

Maura Cook

Gainsborough

Church Contact: Mr M Childs 01427 610057

Gainsborough was privileged to host the welcome service for Rev.

Louise Carr, taking up her position as Superintendent for the Wolds & Trent Circuit. It was a time of celebration with a very full church, including people from throughout the circuit, and some who came considerable distances just for the occasion to be there for Louise. The Chair of District presided and preached a sermon which was much appreciated.

Louise's first service at Gainsborough was the Covenant Service on 10th January, when there was a large congregation, including several new people, who we hope to welcome back in the future.

The church remains busy. Our own activities continue, and we are pleased to be the host for several groups in Gainsborough. Some days we can have multiple uses going on, which is a good sign. Junior Church is now growing in numbers, and we are grateful to Linda and Mike who take responsibility for this. We have a website working very well, thanks to

Donna. www.gainsboroughmethodist.org.uk

The round of new year meetings has now mostly happened, as we look to events during 2016. Sue Brown will lead worship on Mothering Sunday. We shall start Lent with pancakes and 'ashing' this year, leading we hope to study groups during Lent. On Good Friday we meet in the morning, and Easter Day brings a breakfast for all, at the beginning of that most wonderful and significant day. Pentecost service will be led by Rev. David Leese, preceded by a prayer walk and breakfast (again) at Wetherspoons.

Mike Childs

Glentham

Church Contact: Mr T Faulkner 01673 818718

We have enjoyed a great variety of styles of worship over the past 3 months, with Community Carols at Hemswell Cliff, United Carols and Covenant Service with our Anglican friends, Family Churches, Messy Churches and Café style worship. Each one offering a different way to engage in worship and fellowship. This variation will continue over the next 3 months as we meet at Spridlington Parish Church to share in the Women's World Day of Prayer Service on Friday 4th March at 6pm, welcome Vision back to Glentham on Sunday 10th April at 6pm for an evening of Praise & Worship and share in Café style worship with Rev Sarah at 4pm on 29th May, together with our ongoing Messy Church, Family Church and Communion Services.

We have found different styles appeal to different people and our attendance varies service by service but hopefully we offer, to all those who attend, true worship which is pleasing to our amazing God, who loves us all and longs to meet with us.

Jesus told the woman at the well "true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24).

Variety continues as, twice each month, we take the GodPod to Hemswell Cliff never knowing who will come on board. Numerous children plus the occasional adult spend time with us – all seeking to know more about Jesus. We have tremendous fun with all ages from 4-40!! Bible stories, songs and prayers quite easily fill the 2 hours as we spend time caring and getting alongside the folks at Hemswell Cliff.

Thank you so much to all our Ministers, Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and GodPod Prayer Partners who make this variety of worship possible.

Jenny & Peter

Dates for your diary

4th March 7pm – Spridlington Parish Church – Women's World Day of Prayer Service

10th April 6pm – VISION – see advert

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 12th March

Saturday 9th April

Saturday 14th May



9am at The Crown, Glenthams

Please contact Peter Atkinson to book.

All welcome

Sugar & Spice

Saturday 19th March

Saturday 16th April

Saturday 21st May

9.30am at The Willows, Glenthams

Come along for a coffee and a chat

All Ladies Welcome

'VISION'

Sunday 10th April

6pm

Praise & Worship Glenthams Chapel

Please come and share with us

an evening of Praise & Worship

led by

Music and talents of

'VISION' worship group



Lea

Church Contact: Mrs M Lilley 01427 615933

Village Guild

Thursday 17th March

At

2.15pm

Speaker: Mr John Campbell-
Dean's Verger at Lincoln Cathedral

Village Guild

Thursday 21st April

At

2.15pm

Concert by The Trentside Singers

Village Guild

Thursday 19th may

At

2.15pm

Our Minister Rev. Louise Carr

Marton

Church Contact: Mrs D Kitchinson 01427 718634

Market Rasen

Church Contact: Mr Geoff Taylor 01673 843939

glta332@yahoo.co.uk

In Methodism, we have a quaint way of expressing the retirement of clergy. We talk about a minister “sitting down”. In the last few weeks, Glenda and I have attended a couple of “sitting down” ceremonies: Rev Liz Smith’s retirement from being Chair of the Leeds District and our own, Rev Liz Childs’s retirement as a Methodist minister.

If our ministers, upon retirement, sit down, then presumably, during their ministry they have been standing up! Today, at Market Rasen, we heard Rev Anne base our worship and her message on Ezekiel Chapter 2, where the prophet describes being called by God, in the following intriguing way: “He said to me, ‘Son of Man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.’ As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me”. God counsels Ezekiel not to be afraid of the words of the rebellious people, but instead, to speak My words to them. And the writer goes on to give us this startling image of receiving the word of the Lord: ‘Son of Man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel.....so I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.’”

As we approach Lent, we may be thinking of the traditional giving up of some foods as a way of remembering the time when Jesus fasted in the desert as he approached his crucifixion. It is right that we use this period to think about sacrifice, but we should not treat this as things not to eat or do, but perhaps to use it as a time to rededicate ourselves to be positive and to concentrate on feeding on the word of God just as Ezekiel did.

As Methodists we espouse the doctrine of the “priesthood of all believers”. The time will come when we are all able to “sit down”. But for now, let us “stand up” like Ezekiel, in obedience to God, be counted, and “read, mark, learn and inwardly digest” the word of God.

We can do this together by joining one of the many Lent courses arranged in our area. See below for details of what we are doing in the Rasen area:

Monday 15th Feb 11.30 - 12.30 discussion session, 12.30-1.00pm soup- served
7.40- 8.00pm dessert served - 8.00-9.00 discussion session.

Thereafter: there will be two sessions, late morning and a repeat offered in the evening:

Mornings: 11.30 – 1.00 – Middle Rasen Chapel,

Evenings 7.40 – 9.00 Parish Hall Middle Rasen.

Monday 22nd Feb

Monday 29th Feb

Monday 7th March

Monday 14th March

Geoff Taylor

Middle Rasen

Church Contact: Mrs Moira Nicholls 01673 849129

It's a little difficult going over and remembering what's happened in the last three months! The Christmas season was so busy with special services, coffee mornings and parties etc. At the time of writing, there is still the visit to the Panto on 16th January to come.

On 28th November the Caister & District Male Voice Choir came to entertain us followed by one of our superb buffet suppers.

We had the Community Carol Service at our Chapel on 20th December – various organisations in the village took part and it was lovely. It, too, was followed by the usual refreshments.

We took part in the Community Christmas Tree Festival at the local Parish Church. It was a 'sight for sore eye's' and well worth seeing. There were twenty two trees altogether all lit up. The theme of 'our' tree was 'peace' and it was decorated with doves.

On Tuesday 15th December, a reflective service for Advent was held in the evening. It was an opportunity for people to draw back from the business of Christmas preparations and spend a little time in quiet reflections.

On 25th October, Rev. Sarah came to preach to us for the first time and I will always remember a child's story she used to illustrate her sermon. The book was called 'Guess How Much I Love You' by Sam McBratney, about Big Brown Hare putting Little Brown Hare to bed one night and each saying how much they loved each other using various illustrations getting bigger and better, and then finishing with loving one another 'to the moon and back'. It is a really delightful story and I can thoroughly recommend it to anyone who has a child or grandchild.

The next week, on 1st November, we had another unfamiliar preacher in the person of Mrs Brown. Her subject was about loving your neighbour as yourself.

On 8th November, Malcolm Coates had a very different subject. His father had been in Belson. It was about man's inhumanity to man and the fight for a better world, about the dreams and aspirations of young men not knowing what tomorrow will bring.

The Rev. Anne took the service on the first Sunday of Advent – a time of hope. She played the song sung by Frank Sinatra – 'High Hopes' and the ant moving the rubber tree plant!!

On 15th November, Don Owen talked about the changes that took place in the wilderness; how everything changes, it doesn't stay the same. About the beautiful temple in Jerusalem when the people found security – it was their insurance.

Rev. Anne again took the service on the third Sunday of Advent – counting the days until Christmas – a time to draw nearer to God. Mr T Smith took the fourth Sunday service.

On 27th December, our own member Ian Hardcastle talked about 'Jesus the Child'. He drew his son (there being no other children present!) to the front of the room and put certain questions to him – mostly about when he was a child. One question he asked was who taught him to tie his shoe laces and the answer was 'his mother'. Ian said Jesus would have learnt the same from his mother. When he was left in the temple at twelve years old – nearly a man – his parents worried as to where he was, but his answer was that he was about 'his Father's business'. I gather it is the last time we hear about Joseph!

We didn't have a service on 3rd January this year as it was the Welcome Service at Gainsborough for Rev. Louise Carr as the new Superintendent to the Circuit.

As we welcome Louise, we say farewell to the Rev. Liz Childs, her service was on 19th December. Also another farewell to the Rev. Liz Smith who is ending her active ministry; her retirement service was on 10th January 2016.

On 10th January we also held our Covenant Service. The Rev. Ann explained that a Covenant is an agreement, a promise, etc. When we are given a gift there is often a guarantee with it, also instructions which we need to follow otherwise it will not work properly. We agree to serve God and to work with other denominations in our area. Sometimes, we have to change the way we do things; sometimes we need to start afresh; a New Year, fresh beginnings. It was also the rededication of our Pastoral Carers. At their last meeting they thought it would be useful to focus our prayers on the local community on various streets, roads and areas. Each month there will be a group of these so that we can remember those who live there in our prayers.

Remember, friendship picks you up when the world lets you down.

Liz Margrave

Misterton

Church Contact: Mr S Bilton 01427 810866

Regular meetings are:

Womens' Fellowship

1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 2pm.

Drop-in Coffee Group

Thursdays 10-11am

Six short prayers for the Lenten period (From www.methodist.org.uk)

Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. **Amen**

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. **Amen**

Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. **Amen**

Lord may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. **Amen**

Thank you Lord for desert experiences, when being confronted with myself makes me realise my need of you. **Amen**

North Kelsey

Church Contact: Mrs M Thomas 01652 678365

Local Radio stations have someday a programme called "Praise or Grumble".

So first a grumble. Sometime ago for me the Link had become a history lesson on what had happened and may just get some of the future events. So little about the past except to say NKMC had a very good community Carol Service with singing by young local people. "The Best" for some time was a comment.

An American, Baptist Preacher preached on the theme "How to be a living sermon" based on the following poem by Edgar Grant:

"I'd rather see a sermon, than hear one anyway.
I'd rather one should walk with me, than merely show the way.
The eyes a better pupil and more willing than the ear.
Fine counsel is confusing and examples always clear.
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds.
For to see good put into action is what everybody needs.
I soon can learn to do it, if you let me see it done.
I can watch your hands in action but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true.
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do.
For I might misunderstand you and the high advice you give.
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live."

That's a challenge for us all.

Francis of Assisi also wrote
"Preach the gospel at all time and when necessary use words".

A Praise. Thank you to all who came, rang, wrote or have asked about my health after my hip replacement.
Margaret and I are grateful for your prayers and thought. Progress is slow but improving weekly.
Kenneth Knapton

Nettleton

Church Contact: Mrs Jean Field 01472 852056

We pray that you all had a wonderful Christmas and now we can look forward to Easter.

Welcome to our new Superintendent, Rev Louise Carr and we look forward to her visits to us.

Dates for your diary:

5th March- Light Lunch (see below)

2nd April – Monthly coffee morning 10.30am-12 noon

7th May- Monthly coffee morning 10.30am- 12noon

Jean Field

Nettleton Methodist Chapel
Saturday 5th March
Light Lunch
Served 12 noon to 2.00pm
Choice of homemade soup and roll
Choice of desserts
Great raffle

Come and join us

All Welcome

Upton

Church Contact: Mrs Julie Barrow 01427 838729

Hello to everyone from all at Upton Chapel.

I did not write in the last magazine as I totally missed the deadline. Almost done the same this time. Sorry Kathy!!!

We wish everyone in the circuit a belated, but happy New Year. A few of our members are really struggling with health issues and it would be lovely if you could remember Upton Chapel in your prayers. However we do have lots to look forward to in the next 3 months. By the time you read this we will have enjoyed our first service with the Superintendent Minister Louise Carr on February 14th. On Sunday April 10th we celebrate our Chapel Anniversary when Miss Christine Blackburn will lead us in our worship.

In May we have a wedding, the first for quite a while, and we are really looking forward to that. At the moment we are getting quotes for having the chapel decorated. Quite a big job, but exciting too. The biggest problem will be deciding on colour schemes!!!!

Our numbers at Chapel are low at the moment and we are continually seeking guidance from God to point us towards ways of welcoming more people to join us. Hopefully as Spring blossoms so will we.

Until the next time (if I remember), God bless from all at Upton. Xxx

Jenny Fotheringham

TESTIMONY CORNER

I was baptised into the Methodist Church and have been a part of it ever since. Firstly going to Sunday School at Glenthams, then helping with the younger children there and eventually becoming a member of the Methodist Church.

When I went to University to do Religious Studies, it was suddenly up to me to make the decision as to whether or not I continued in my Methodist faith. I was made very welcome at a local chapel near my hall of residence. Being in a strange city, not knowing many people, my faith became much more real to me and I knew I could rely on Jesus to be there to help me. I joined Methsoc and experienced new ways of worship, fellowship groups and sharing in events with other denominations.

On leaving Uni, I knew I wanted to come back to the area and share some of my experiences with the young people here. I took over the running of the Sunday School, and a few years later, Trevor and I formed a Friday group for young teenagers, before becoming involved in the Circuit Youth Fellowship with our own 2 children.

During Rev Liz Smith's ministry, I trained as a Worship Leader, working with others using drama, visual aids and story telling. When asked to be a Circuit Steward some years later, I had little idea of what would be involved. I soon found myself in the midst of merger talks, the stationing process and meeting with the Chair of District !

Sometimes God leads us where we expect to go, where we are trained for but sometimes he leads us into unknown territory where all we can do is rely on his strength and guidance. ("I will be with you always" Matt 28:20)

Janet Faulkner

The Nomad Trust

Many thanks to all of you who have continued to help raise money for the Nomad Trust. I am very pleased to inform you that we have now raised a further £78.42 since October 2015. This brings the overall total to £2741.44. In addition to this, there are also several donations which people have given over the Christmas period. My thanks to the community at Brookenby, and others, for their donated items during the festive season; and to those of you who have sent in individual cash donations in addition to the total above. You may also be interested in this extract from the Christmas newsletter written by Victoria Bradshaw who presented the Circuit with a certificate of appreciation at Rev Andrew's leaving service:

"I have been in post as Shelter project manager for 7 months and have seen a lot of kindness and generosity from the people and businesses of Lincolnshire. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for everyone's help to support the shelter and your continued support that will see the Nomad Trust develop over the next 2 years to offer further support services to the Homeless."

The Nomad Trust has also developed plans for a replacement purpose built shelter, together with "move on" accommodation, at the bottom of Rosemary Lane, opposite the present YMCA building on St Rumbold Street. This, if it becomes a reality, will be a huge boost to the Trust's work with the homeless in Lincolnshire.

Unfortunately, both Victoria, and Shala, the Trust's administrator, are off work at the moment. This is causing many problems in maintaining the day to day operations, and the Nomad Trust is very glad to have the support of Lincoln YMCA. I am sure that your prayers for Victoria, Shala and all involved in running the Nomad Trust would be greatly appreciated at the present time.

If you wish to join in fundraising for Nomad using the collection boxes, or have not been able to pick up a box at your church, please contact me on 01673 842391, or email ianh1910@gmail.com.

Ian Hardcastle

PUZZLE PAGE-
LINCOLNSHIRE VILLAGES ENDING WITH 'BY

Can YOU find the names of these villages all ending in 'by?
Number 4 could have 2 answers and some go by the sound of the answer not the correct spelling. Have fun!

- 1 A FRUIT
- 2 NOT SMALL
- 3 SEEDS OF CORN
- 4 CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
- 5 PART OF A SHOE
- 6 TO SPEAK
- 7 LARGE STONES
- 8 USED FOR A CRICKET BAT
- 9 NOT A WOMAN
- 10 NOT COOKED
- 11 A WILD DUCK
- 12 THE LAND OF THE LEEK
- 13 A STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE
- 14 PART OF A SHIP
- 15 AFTER A FIRE

MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC - WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. ANTHEM | 22. OPERETTA |
| 2. BALLAD | 23. ORATORIO |
| 3. BEBOP | 24. OVERTURE |
| 4. BOLERO | 25. PAVANE |
| 5. CANON | 26. POP |
| 6. CANTATA | 27. PSALM |
| 7. CALYPSO | 28. RAP |
| 8. CAROL | 29. REGGAE |
| 9. CHAMBER | 30. REQUIEM |
| 10. CHORAL | 31. RHAPSODY |
| 11. CONCERTO | 32. RONDO |
| 12. DESCANT | 33. SCHERZO |
| 13. FANFARE | 34. SERENADE |
| 14. FOLK | 35. SHANTY |
| 15. FUGUE | 36. SUITE |
| 16. GOSPEL | 37. SYMPHONY |
| 17. INTERMESSO | |
| 18. JAZZ | 38. THEME |
| 19. LULLABY | |
| 20. MEDLEY | |
| 21. MINUET | |

CHRISTMAS QUIZ –PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS

1. PACIFIC
2. AUGUSTUS
3. MARY
4. T.S. ELIOT
5. 4
6. ISAAC NEWTON
7. SIMEON
8. EGYPT
9. 1942
10. 4 SUNDAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS
11. CYRENIUS
12. TOMS
13. CLARENCE
14. CAPRICORN
15. IN AN OIL WELL

MINISTERS

Rev. Anne Coates – 01673 843362

Rev. Louise Carr – 01427 615184

Rev. Sarah Parkin – 01472 851287

CIRCUIT OFFICE

Midge Thomas – Circuit Administrator – 01673 849222

e-mail – woldsandrent@btconnect.com

Open Tuesdays & Fridays 10-12:00pm

EDITOR

Kathy Mannion

11 Rawlinson Avenue, Caistor, LN7 6NQ

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

Email; kathy_link@hotmail.co.uk

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Kathy before;**

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