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**Please ensure all articles, for inclusion in the  
June-August edition, are sent to  
Kathy before;**

**May 1<sup>ST</sup> 2017**

**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**



**March-May 2017**

## Pastoral Letter

As I looked out of my window this morning I noticed that the spring bulbs were starting to show real signs of life; the sun was shining too and the birds are very busy – and very vocal! These must all be signs that Spring isn't all that far away and, by the time you read this, I hope it will be very much more clearly in evidence.

Spring is, I think, perhaps the most hopeful season of the year – all those signs of new life, and colour and growth, and of course the celebration of Easter. I've been thinking about hope quite a lot recently. It seems to me that it is a central and significant part of our faith: the Psalmist encourages us to put our hope in the Lord because “with the Lord is unfailing love.” (Psalm 130: 7) and those beautiful words in the opening of John's gospel are arguably some of the most hopeful, and hope-filled, words ever written: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

We have much to be hopeful about in our Circuit too in these next few months – we are all thinking and exploring Healthy Churches and the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May marks a key stage in that process when we have the opportunity to gather and explore what it means to go “Forwards Together in Hope” at a conference on the Saturday and in a Circuit Service on Sunday. The ex-President of Conference Rev Steve Wild and Rev Barbara Glasson are keynote speakers at the Conference, and Rev Steve Wild will be leading our service. You'll be able to read more about this exciting opportunity elsewhere in the Link and there'll be further information circulated in all the churches over the next few weeks. As the Circuit Leadership Team we really hope that this is something you will be able to be part of.

I pray God will guide and encourage us as we travel together in hope over the next few months.

Sarah Parkin

## Puzzle Page-Lincolnshire Links- Answers

1. WALESBY DONNA NOOK HEALING
2. CABOURNE
3. EAGLE DOGDYKE LINCOLN IRBY
4. MINTING ALFORD
5. BARROW HATCLIFFE RASEN  
MAVIS ENDERBY (OLD) LEAKE
6. WELTON LEGSBY
7. GLENTWORTH
8. GRANTHAM
9. SIXHILLS MANBY WELL UTTERBY
10. HARPSWELL CHAPEL ST. LEONARDS
11. BRANSTON LACEBY BECKINGHAM
12. FENTON ANDERBY STOW

**PUZZLE PAGE-**

**WORDSEARCH – ALL STITCHED UP**

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

The theme this month is NEEDLECRAFT. Above are **40** words associated with KNITTING, SEWING AND DRESSMAKING including the names of various STITCHES.

I hope as you tackle the search, it brings back as many happy memories for you as for me, of creating garments for your children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren. It is good to see interest being revived with TV stitching programmes.

CMS

**NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT**

**Brookenby**

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

**Caistor**

**Church Contact:** Mrs Bridget Andrew 01652 628586

**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.

**Worship for all ages:** 1st Sunday in the month 10.15am

**New Year Party**

In January, our Church family joined together to celebrate the New Year with a party!

We started the evening by sharing delicious food and enjoying fellowship. This was followed by some fun party games. All the games had lots of participants and were done with much enthusiasm from both the older and younger members.

The evening culminated in the loudest and most exciting game of Persian Market. Who knew that some members of our church carried such an eclectic array of items on their person! (screwdrivers, needles and ribbons galore!)

Thank you to everyone who made the party such a fun evening, especially all those who organised games, made food and helped to clear away afterwards.

I can't wait till next year's party!

Kathy Mannion

What is a family? Is a single person a family? Is a couple whose children have left home a family? Is a couple with foster children a family? Is a teenager and a grandmother a family?

On 4th February, a group of us went from Caistor to a conference called 'We Are Family' in Nottingham. We discussed how we define families, and how our churches can best serve the families in our communities. We went to workshops about groups for Dads and their children, churches that help families at risk of being broken up by having their children removed, how we can be creative in thinking what kinds of worship times will help families stay in church together.

We were encouraged to hear about how bold new steps taken by other churches had been successful (or not). How instead of meeting on Sunday mornings, one Methodist church in Luton had started a Friday night congregation for families with teenagers, their meeting centred around a meal and a variety of hands-on activities. How a 4 pm Sunday service ending with eating together had helped more families come to church, because they could go home on Sunday evening already fed with one less job to do!

We met people from all over East Midlands, most of whom struggled to accommodate new families with children in their churches because of the majority elderly congregations. We realised that our Sunday morning congregation, with its nearly 50:50 split of elderly people and younger families is unusual and a huge gift. We heard stories from people we met about what had worked and not worked in their churches, got new ideas, and got excited about how we can best keep looking to improve how we serve families in Caistor.

It's hard to see what the community needs in Caistor - most families looks as though they have everything they need! - so we were challenged to think creatively about how to find out what the church needs to be doing. We know there are lots of stressed families here - will asking them to church make them more stressed, or be a chance for some rest and refreshment time together? We know there are lots of lonely single people here - how can our church include them in fun and appropriate worship times, without making them feel left out if they don't have children with them? These were just a few of the questions that we have been mulling over since the Conference.

May our church keep moving forward with open hearts, open minds, and open hands.

Maura Cook

God was so close to me at that time, and facing an extremely challenging period in my life I was incredibly grateful for that Alpha Course, my new Christian friends and for my constant assurance that God was with me. I knew I would be alright. God promises to be with us always – even to the end of time and I held him to that promise.

It was during this challenging time I suddenly found myself with a mortgage I couldn't afford to pay but thank God one of the girls I worked with who was on a higher salary and shift pay wanted to work days so we were able to swap jobs!!

My life is so different now, I know Jesus. I have experienced his love and care and know I can put my total trust in Him. It is this that encourages me to share his love with others and fulfil the promise I made at the end of the Alpha Course not to keep Him to myself.

Being out of my comfort zone has been a constant challenge over the years especially when going on mission with Through Faith Missions (TFM) and I have, on many occasions felt nervous, overwhelmed and out of my depth!! But it's wonderful to know God's constant assurance – 'I am with you always' and today can no longer remember a time I didn't feel loved and cared for.

Jenny Atkinson

### **Forward Together in Hope**

At present we are exploring together what it is to be a Healthy Church. The 7 marks are being preached, studied and we will see where we feel we are most healthy.

What next?

After a health check we look at how our lifestyle may need to alter. The same is true for churches and we will celebrate our mission together and seek opportunities for the future in a weekend called:

### **Forward Together in Hope**

Here we will explore opportunities to take us forward. We have been lucky enough to secure exPresident of Conference Rev Steve Wild and the team leader from Touchstone Rev Dr Barbara Glasson for the day with a varied and exciting group of workshop leaders. Publicity is coming into the churches, booking information is in the Link and the full workshop programme will be available at Circuit Meeting.

## TESTIMONY CORNER

**Do you have a testimony that you would like to share with our Circuit? Please email or post it to the editor before the 1<sup>st</sup> May**

I am delighted to be asked to share with you a little of my life story. I live at Glenthams with my husband Peter. I am 55 years old and a Finance Assistant working at the head office of a Swedish brand of children's clothing.

But more importantly to me, I am a Christian - Not always a good Christian I might add, but thankfully God is both loving and forgiving.

My dad was in the Royal Air Force, I was born just outside Cambridge, lived in Yorkshire, Scotland, Geilenkirchen and then Gutersloh in Germany, when I was six the family settled in Nettleham. It is thanks to the Doctors in Nettleham in the early 70s who started 'Crusaders', which I began to attend on Sunday afternoons in the Health Centre that I began to learn about Jesus.

When I was 14 years old the group went to the Christian holiday centre Capernwray in the Lake District. During my time there I invited Jesus into my heart and ever since that day I have had a constant sense of being held and never being alone. But although I always knew Jesus was with me I kept him inside like a big secret.

In my late teens I was desperate to move away from Lincolnshire and so at the age of 19 I joined the Royal Air Force.

I was very impressionable in my late teens and early twenties, unfortunately making some bad choices leading to destructive relationships. Having left the Air Force I returned home to Nettleham, the prodigal daughter. I soon left home again before returning once more in 1994 - it was during this time I was given the opportunity of attending an Alpha Course in Lincoln. Having started working at the Police station in Lincoln I would go straight from work.

On completing the course I realized being a Christian wasn't something I should be keeping for myself but should be sharing with others. Realizing too just how important it is to have Christian friends to care and support one another I began to attend the Methodist Church in Welton, went to membership classes eventually becoming a member.

## Gainsborough

**Church Contact:** Mr M Childs 01427 610057

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

Forward Together In Hope

Conference 13<sup>th</sup> May 10am-4pm

Gainsborough Methodist Church

An exciting event to explore together the next steps in our work on Healthy Churches and our planning for the future.

Book your place by phoning  
01472 851287.

## **RETURN VISIT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA SINGERS**

A very talented group of 38 student singers from Dahlonega in North Georgia USA

Musical Director Dr John Broman

**CONCERT at MARKET RASEN METHODIST CHURCH**

**WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017 at 7 00pm**

**OTHER VENUES at:**

**CONCERT with SCUNTHORPE MALE VOICE CHOIR on TUESDAY  
18<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**THE CHAPTER HOUSE, LINCOLN CATHEDRAL on WEDNESDAY  
19<sup>th</sup> MARCH at 12 30PM**

## Glentham

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

We have a varied offering of services at Glentham, which recur monthly. This variety on a regular basis allows people to come to those services which best meet their needs, or all of them.

At Messy Church, once a month, everyone in the congregation gets to make a non-messy craft item and to take part in the story telling in one way or another. We sing songs children enjoy, accompanied by actions. Afterwards there are refreshments for the adults while the children decorate an edible treat. The Family Service, also once a month, incorporates hymns children may already know or can easily learn, a talk for children and adults by the speaker for the day, as well as a sermon for the adults whilst the children go into our classroom for a hands-on Bible lesson, after which they come out and share with the rest of us what they have made and learned. Refreshments follow.

One Sunday morning each month we eat a breakfast together at 8.45 AM in our classroom/kitchen, sitting round one large table enjoying getting to know each other better whilst we eat cereal, soft-boiled eggs, and toast, drink orange juice, coffee or tea. It feels like a family get together, which indeed, it is! The breakfast is followed by tidying up together, then 9.30 AM service. Those who don't attend the breakfast (such as my husband and I when we were new), are enticed by the aroma of toast and coffee to try to get to the breakfast the following month.

There is normally one evening or late afternoon service per month. The 6 PM service is often a praise service, with a good deal of singing, and we also have begun having cafe church at 4 PM some months. This is another casual mealtime together where we all bring finger foods, gather round a large table together, pray, eat, and follow the discussion activities brought to us by one of our circuit ministers. Everyone seems to enjoy this relaxed way of sharing food, learning from God's Word and from each other.

Every fortnight, on Sunday afternoons, Peter and Jenny Atkinson take the mobile church, “**The God Pod**” to Hemswell Cliff and run two separate sessions there in two parts of the neighbourhood. Children and adults are welcome to come in, enjoy activities and refreshments or simply have a chat with Peter and Jenny. This ministry reaches many in the neighbourhood. Prayer partners are always needed on the afternoon so please call Jenny & Peter to offer your time. It would help enormously.

On the second and fourth Thursdays of the month our ‘Presence’ prayer and bible study is held at ‘Tilsit’ the home of Jenny & Peter.

In January we enjoyed another film night, entitled “War Room”, a quality Christian film which exemplified through a modern story, how one might create a prayer place in the home and how the Lord God can mightily answer prayers when we take the time to get serious about praying. We hope to have more of these film nights. Connie

## Upton

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

Hello everyone ,

We are well into the new year, and in typical January style, as I write this it is a dark, wet morning. Having said that, however, I can see snowdrops from the lounge window, and I have had primroses out for weeks, so spring must be getting nearer.

We had a wonderful time throughout December with our new activities and lighting projects which were all very successful. Our scarecrow Nativity Scene, in the Chapel garden was greatly appreciated by everyone who saw it, and was quite a talking point in the village. We raised £200 for Action For Children from our United Carol Service and donations received from visitors to the Nativity. Our services were well attended with thought provoking messages.

I would like to add my thanks to everyone who helped in any way with any of the Christmas projects and services.

We now have coffee served after every service, with lots of volunteers to help. Several people have donated new mugs, as they are preferred to the old cups and saucers. It has been noted that coffee time lasts almost as long as the service and we get later going home, but that time of informal fellowship is really useful for us all.

We are looking forward with hope and optimism.

Our Special Spring Services are as follows:-  
Mothering Sunday, March 26th, 10-30am - Karen Elvidge

Good Friday Gathering, April 14th, 11-00am - informal worship with hot cross buns at close of service.

Easter Sunday April 16th, 10-30am, to be arranged by Rev. Louise Carr.

Chapel Anniversary April 30th, 10-30am - Margaret Mason

We offer a warm welcome to all who would like to come.

Our Coffee mornings continue on the second Wednesday of each month between 10-00 am and 12-00 noon. Once again all our welcome.

Upton friends wish you all a wonderful Spring, full of God's grace.

Jennifer Fotheringham

## North Kelsey

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

As I write this on behalf of N Kelsey folk at the beginning of February I am also in the process of preparing with other NK Worship Leaders for our next Sunday service. Its theme is based on the reading from Matthew when we are all encouraged to go out in to the world as Christ's disciples, to live by his word and to reflect his light and love.

All our visiting preachers are much appreciated and welcomed every Sunday. We look forward to celebrating our 120<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary on 19<sup>th</sup> March when we shall have Rev Terry Nowell as our guest preacher. North Kelsey was one of five chapels opened in this area in a relatively short space of time. They are North Kelsey, Middle Rasen, Osgodby, Faldingworth and Ludford and most of them to a similar design. So we give thanks that in 2017 we can celebrate 120 years of shining the light of Jesus in North Kelsey and Middle Rasen !

Blessings from us all at North Kelsey,  
Midge

**Men's Breakfast**  
**11<sup>th</sup> March, 8<sup>th</sup> April & 13<sup>th</sup> May**  
9am at The Crown, Glentham  
Please contact Peter Atkinson to book.  
All welcome

**Sugar & Spice**  
**18<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> April & 13<sup>th</sup> May**  
9.30am at The Willows, Glentham  
Come along for a coffee and a chat  
All Ladies Welcome

### **Womens World Day of Prayer**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March  
Glentham Chapel  
7pm

### **Vision Music Group**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May  
Glentham Chapel  
6pm

Songs of Praise with guitar and keyboard

**Nettleton**

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

The joint Churches Christmas Bazaar kept everybody busy with people joining in with the fun and festivities. The cake stall did a roaring trade and the raffle with its lovely prizes was kept busy selling tickets and all the winners of the raffle went home delighted with their prizes. The fellowship was good over the coffee and mince pies and enjoyed by all.

When the cash was counted we had made nearly £1085 which was shared between the Parish Church and the Methodist Chapel. Thank you to all who helped to make this day a success.

Jean Field

**Lea**

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

**Village Guild**

16<sup>th</sup> March

2.15pm

Bhutan: "Kingdom of the Dragon"-

Giles Braitwaite

**Village Guild**

20<sup>th</sup> April

2.15pm

Concert by the Trentside Singers

**Village Guild**

18<sup>th</sup> May

2.15pm

Rev Louise Carr

"Prayer through textiles"

**Concert by the Springthorpe Singers**

On  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

At  
3pm

Followed by nibbles.  
Donations to Lea Methodist Church

**Lent Lunches**

March 4<sup>th</sup>

12 noon -2pm

Home made soups and delicious desserts

Raffle

All welcome to join us.

**Monthly coffee mornings**

April 1<sup>st</sup> 10.30am-12 noon

May 6<sup>th</sup> 10.30am-12 noon

**SPECIAL WORLD LEPROSY SERVICE**

April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2.30pm

Speaker: Lynda King of the Leprosy Mission

Join us to hear about her work.

Refreshments at end of service.

**Misterton**

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

Regular meetings are:

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

**1st March** Rev Louise Carr

**15th March** Games

**5th April** Pearl and Children

**19th April** Members' Easter hymns and readings

**3rd May** Stuart and Marion

**17th May** Janet Conroy, poems

**7th June** chair exercises

**21st June** crafts; Rev Louise Carr

**5th July** AGM

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

Another successful year, people's generosity and Pearl's cooking raised £635 in loose change for the chapel.

Also during the year the donations have raised £1570 for various charities: Chapel £800, Alzheimer's Society £100, Bassetlaw Hospice £100, Diabetes UK £100, Christian Aid £70, First Responders £100, Air Ambulance £100, Marie Curie £100, Children In Need £100.

"Happy new year to you all, Margaret."

**Market Rasen**

**Church Contact:** Mr Geoff Taylor 01673 843939  
[gta332@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gta332@yahoo.co.uk)

In September 2014, my husband, Richard and I decided it was time to start giving back, not only to the church but also to the community. We came up with the idea of starting a Coffee Morning, which is held in the school room of the Market Rasen Methodist Church, every Monday from 9:15 – 10:30

We are open to anyone, young or old who would like to come along for a hot drink and a chat. We have had some wonderful days with a good number of people attending. We have had visitors to Market Rasen who have either seen us open and popped in for a chat or on occasion some who were wanting to have a look around the church. Others who were needing comfort and someone to listen to them or a friendly smile. We have also had some disappointing days, when there has only been a few and I then begin to wonder if it is worth carrying on opening. But then we are reminded that it is not us that is in control in the making of the decisions but God, and He answers us very clearly the following week by either a good number of people attending or by someone just needing to see a friendly face.

In December 2014 Richard managed to find work and since then I, with the grateful help of a few volunteers, have continued in running the coffee morning

In the, nearly, 2½ years that we have been open, we now have a core of people who attend regularly. We offer a coffee/tea and a biscuit for free but if people would like to leave a donation, it is greatly appreciated.

Please come and join us, we would love to see you.

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 18 V20

Yvonne & Richard Walls

## **Middle Rasen**

**Church Contact:** Mrs Moira Nicholls 01673 849129

At the beginning of January, Women's Own and the Guild were back in a light hearted way with parties and games etc and on 14<sup>th</sup> January, they joined together with others to go to the pantomime at Louth, followed by a meal.

We are such a happy Church family at Middle Rasen that we feel it all the more when something dreadful happens. A mother and daughter in our congregation were involved in a nasty car accident and, sadly, the mother died with one of their little dogs. It was just before Christmas, so all the more tragic. We will miss Audrey's smiling face, particularly in the kitchen at coffee, cake and chat times. Also we have lost our dear friend the Rev. Brian Kirkby who had been ill for some time. He, as well as Audrey, will be sadly missed and we send our sincere condolences to Caroline (Audrey's daughter) and Brian's wife, Maureen. Life goes on, but it often leaves a hole to be filled.

At the end of January, members of the Chapel were invited (as were other Chapels) to an informal meeting with ideas in answer to a suggestion made at the last meeting of the Wolds and Trent Circuit, to look at a process called 'Healthy Churches' – a type of 'health check' to reflect on what they do well, and what they might do better in the future.

We wish everyone in the circuit and beyond, a very happy and peaceful New Year from all at Middle Rasen Chapel.

Liz Margrave

Things are back (more or less) to normal as in most Chapels, since the busy time of Christmas. Through December, we had a display of cribs – so many and so varied – big and small, made from all types of materials e.g.: paper, wood, card, knitted, resin etc. representing several different countries. They looked lovely! We entered a Christmas tree in the display at the Parish Church on which ours had doves hanging from the branches. All the trees were lit up and I think there were more than twenty altogether from various groups in the village.

In December, the Women's Own went round the homes for the elderly singing Christmas carols together with appropriate poems and readings etc. The old folks always love these sing songs and join in.

We had various meals and parties in and out of Chapel and a lovely carol service with the Guild. There was a combined carol service at the Parish Church.

At the beginning of December 'The Caistor and District Male Voice Choir' entertained us followed by the usual magnificent supper.

On one morning in November and three in December, we had 'advent reflection/study group' in Chapel, thinking about 'communities more like Heaven – through people more like Jesus'. In the evenings on the same subject, people met at the Parish Church so everyone had an opportunity to take part.