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**Please ensure all articles, for inclusion in the  
June-August 18 Edition, are sent to  
Kathy before;**

**APRIL 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**



**March- May 2018**

## Pastoral Letter

As I write I am in the midst of the Covenant services, the time when we recommit ourselves to living according the will of God rather than our own inclinations and desires. A solemn and reflective time. It also reminds me that at this time last year we were deeply into exploring our Churches through the Healthy Churches programme, thinking about our strengths and those areas we needed to work at. This year we are trying to look at and develop some fo those.

The Mission weekend led to many new ideas- and I haven't forgotten we promised to get the speaker who was unwell for another session. As I travel around the circuit I hear of prayer shawl groups, prayer initiatives, study groups and people looking for opportunities; like Lea looking at becoming a retreat centre as well as a church. The host of angels knit and taken out across the circuit was amazing, not just in the work involved but the number of people drawn in who were knitters rather than church members and the diversity of how these were given away. We truly did think about our communities and how and who to reach out to. Across the circuit we are exploring spiritual rhythms to enable us to deepen our communal and personal relationships with God. The circuit services pick up the themes and we have retreat days coming.

So we enter Lent and Easter with many shoots of possibility and hope. The spiritual rhythm of the church year marks this as reflection on our journey with God, followed by the joy of reality of the love and power of God expressed in raising Christ from the dead. Then the remembrance of the giving of the Spirit present prompting and directing us still. There will be temptations to return to the comfort zone, but there is the prompting and presence into new possibilities.

I wish you the joy of Easter and the certainty of the presence of God in the spirit in all times and places.

Louise

## Puzzle Pages-Answers

### Wordsearch:

ALTAR  
ANTHEM  
BELLS  
BENEDICTION  
BIBLE  
CANDLE  
CAROLS  
CHOIR  
CHRISTINGLE  
CHURCHWARDEN  
CONGREGATION  
CRIB  
CROSS  
FLOWERS  
FONT  
GOSPELS  
HASSOCK  
HYMNS  
HYMNBOOK  
LECTERN  
MINISTER  
OFFERTORY  
ORGAN  
PEWS  
PRAYER  
PSALMS  
PULPIT  
READER  
STAR  
STEWARD  
SONGS  
TREE  
VICAR  
WORSHIP

CMS

## Puzzle Page Answers:

### Panto Puzzles

1. CINDERELLA
2. DICK WHITTINGTON
3. PUSS IN BOOTS
4. JACK AND THE BEANSTALK
5. ALADDIN
6. SLEEPING BEAUTY
7. RED RIDING HOOD
8. BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
9. BABES IN THE WOOD
10. ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES
11. MOTHER GOOSE
12. SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

CMS

## 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

## New Collective Worship Group!



Written by Georgia. W, Lily. J and Alesha. S

Recently, there has been a new collective worship group formed in Caistor C of E and Methodist Primary School. It consists of at least two people from each year group. We will be working alongside our local churches and clergy. The group will be helping to improve collective worship within the community. Our local clergy will be occasionally visiting us to help us in our decisions to improve our collective worship. We have weekly meetings, on Fridays at 12:00PM, to discuss new ideas and our future plans.

## Gainsborough

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

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

Hello Everyone

I still can't believe how far we are into the new year and talking about Easter and Lent only seems like yesterday we were all busy knitting Christmas angels. Here is something to think about for Lent.

*"be content with what you have." Hebrews 13:5*

Have you given up anything for Lent this year?

Doing without something for a reason other than financial goes against the grain in our modern, comfortable times of plenty. Why should we limit our desire for a bigger car, more and better possessions, more and further-flung holidays? Our belt buckles inform us that there are repercussions in eating more than we need, but the repercussions in buying and driving and flying and using energy in our homes without limit will be seen by God and by our children, but not immediately by us.

God created one inhabitable world for us and we are currently living in a way that requires three worlds to absorb all the carbon dioxide that we are dumping into the atmosphere. And if everyone lived as we do (and why shouldn't they?) we would need 3.5 worlds.

Did God do his sums wrong, or are we living wrong?

This Lent why not give up something that impacts the world outside your waistline?

- give up the car, at least for some journeys (this *will* help your waistline!)
- decide to give up flying this year
- give up buying food from outside the UK or northern Europe - food miles are a big contribution to climate change (Fairtrade chocolate has special dispensation!)

Shona.

The following letter has been sent to us by David Friswell, the World Church Relationships Team Leader at Methodist Church House, thanking MWiB for supporting the World Mission Fund via the Easter Offering, and updating us on some of the work that this money supports:

### **What's in a name?**

I smiled as I read a circuit magazine the other day. One article proudly announced that the turn out for the recent 'Network' meeting had been excellent and the speaker had been 1<sup>st</sup> class! It also proclaimed that the ...."MWiB Easter Offering had been the best for years. Well done and thank you".

And a very big thank you to all of you who support the World Mission Fund through the Easter Offering giving. It is amazing that around £450 000 is collected each year from churches all around Britain-every penny of which is used to support churches in other parts of the world. Such has been the generosity of Methodists in the past that all the World Mission Fund's overhead costs can be covered by historic investment income.

Much of the work supported by the Fund goes to churches involved specifically in women's work (now there's a name from the past!)

Mission Partner Jane Day in Southern Africa is supporting ministry development among black and coloured women ministers and is working on issues of gender justice in the community; whilst in North India the money continues to help fund young women from very poor families to be trained in nursing and midwifery.

Grants to the Methodist Church in Brazil have supported women to work in their churches with vulnerable women and children developing women's leadership roles and integrating culture and art into worship. By sending out ad distribution training resources many thousands of women have been able to participate and develop this work across Brazil.

The Church of Pakistan continues to help strengthen the position of women in society and with money from the World Mission Fund they have recently published a book comparing stories of women in the Bible to those of present day women in Pakistan. During their recent synod, money from our Easter Offering was able to support workshops on Violence Against Women and on Christian Marriage and the Divorce Law.

Each year the Easter offering service material and other resources help churches around Britain to focus their prayers and worship on world mission and the role women play in spreading God's love in their churches and communities. If you or your church doesn't use this material at present then why not have a look at the material for 2018 and add your support?

God Bless

Dave Friswell

### Carers' prayer

Thank you for the gift of those we love and care for.  
When demands are placed upon us, fill us with your love.  
When our patience is stretched, fill us with your love.  
When we struggle to understand, fill us with your love.  
When we perform menial tasks unseen, fill us with your love.  
When we can only watch and pray, fill us with your love.  
May we love those you give us, as Jesus loves us. Amen.

**Julie Underwood, supernumerary minister, Staines and Feltham Circuit**  
(Taken from [www.methodist.org](http://www.methodist.org))

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,  
the spiritual blindness that prevents us  
from appreciating the wonder that is this world,  
the endless cycle of nature,  
of life and death and rebirth.  
Forgive us for taking without giving,  
reaping without sowing.  
Open our eyes to see,  
our lips to praise,  
our hands to share,  
and may our feet tread lightly  
on the road that, together, we travel  
[www.faithandworship.com](http://www.faithandworship.com)

### Glenthams

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

We are so pleased to welcome a new addition to our Messy Church Family.  
Baby Teddy arrived safely 27th December to thrilled parents Ben and Clare and  
big brothers Elby and Archie - All doing well!  
Jenny & Peter

Do you know that **Christians are the most persecuted**  
religious group in the world, with around 90,000 killed  
for their faith each year?

“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is  
honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of  
Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” 1 Corinthians 12:26-27

Come along and hear about what The Barnabas Fund is  
doing to support Christians who are persecuted in the  
UK and  
around the world. The Lord may have something for you  
here.

**GLENTHAM CHAPEL CAFE CHURCH**  
**GUEST SPEAKER: MARK SIMMS OF THE**  
**BARNABAS FUND**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 18TH at 6 PM**

*At cafe church we sit at tables, drinking tea and coffee, and  
sharing our evening “tea” meal of finger foods we all have  
brought with us. Our speaker shares in the meal and also speaks  
of what the Lord has put on his or her heart. The atmosphere is  
warm and welcoming.*

***WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!***

**Sugar & Spice**  
**March 17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> April & 19<sup>th</sup> May**

9.30am at The Willows, Glentham  
Women gather for food and friendship (Open menu)  
All Ladies Welcome

**Men's Breakfast**

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> April & 12<sup>th</sup> May**  
9am at The Crown, Glentham. £5.50  
A different speaker each month.  
Please contact Peter Atkinson to book.  
All welcome

**'VISION'**

Sunday 8th April 6pm

**Praise & Worship**

**Glentham Chapel**

Please come and share with us  
an evening of Praise & Worship led by  
Music and talents of  
'VISION'  
worship group

& Light Refreshments



**Safeguarding Leadership Training 2018**

This is the follow up module to the basic Safeguarding Foundation Training Module and is designed for those who hold leadership roles in churches and the Circuit.

This one day course will be held at the following venues across the county:

**Gosberton Methodist Church (in the South Holland Circuit)**  
**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018**  
**10am until 3.30pm**

**Horncastle Methodist Church (in the Mid Lincs Circuit)**  
**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018**  
**10am until 3.30pm**

**Side Door Methodist Church (in the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Circuit)**  
**Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> 2018**  
**10am until 3.30pm**

Do you need to attend?

- If you are in a leadership role in church or in the Circuit, please check with either your Church Safeguarding officer or your Minister.
- If your primary role is mainly as a Local Preacher or a Worship Leader, please do not attend this set of courses, but wait for the revised Leadership module which will be offered later in the year.

*Please note:*

- Application must be made via Alison McNish, District Officer:  
[pa@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk](mailto:pa@lincolnshiremethodist.org.uk) Office 6, 72a Newark Road, Lincoln LN5 8PY. Your Church Safeguarding Contact should have application forms.
- Please bring your own lunch wherever you attend.

**Advance notice of the 2018 District Safeguarding Day to be held on:**  
**Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> at Moorland Methodist Church, Lincoln.**

For further information about any of the above, please contact:  
Ian Hardcastle, Circuit Safeguarding Officer:  
[ianh1910@gmail.com](mailto:ianh1910@gmail.com) or: 07938 722618.

**Upton**

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

Hello everyone, and a belated Happy New Year to you all.

I must apologise for totally missing the Link last time. Hope to do better this year. Our Christmas celebrations went really well, and started with the village Christmas Market where we had a stall. A lot of people worked hard to make the evening a success and we must thank Ann Sharp and Julie Barrow for all their hard work and for getting the rest of us organised! We spent several weeks knitting angels and some were handed out to Lea School Choir who opened the market. Others were given out to people we knew who were having a difficult time, or needed to know they were in our thoughts and prayers.

This year our united service was at All Saints Church Upton and we sang old favourite carols and listened to the Christmas story as told through New Testament readings. Unfortunately the heating system wasn't working so it wasn't as warm as it might have been but there was soon a lot of "hot air" moving around.

On Christmas Eve we had our first "messy church" service with Louise. A truly wonderful time shared with 10 children and was absolutely fantastic. The chapel was full and many were also in the school room. Very special!!

Our thoughts are now turning to the next few months which also look quite busy for us. On Mothering Sunday, March 11th we welcome Margaret Chennells, a friend of one of our members, who has trained as a local preacher. On March 30th, Good Friday, we have our Good Friday Gathering at 11-00am followed by hot cross buns and simnel cake. Then we meet at the Fox and Hounds for fish and chips at 5-00pm which has now become a tradition that we enjoy and another opportunity to share fellowship together. Rev. Louise Carr is celebrating Easter Sunday with us and we look forward to that. On April 22nd it will be our chapel anniversary service and Michael Page will lead us in our worship. So, there is a lot to look forward to.

Our coffee mornings continue every second Wednesday of the month and we thank all those who support us on a regular basis. Thank you!!

We were saddened to hear of the death of Christine Bowler over the Christmas period. She came to us when she was well enough, after Sturton Chapel closed and she had happy times with us. We send our condolences to her family and friends at this difficult time.

We wish Patrick success as he starts his radiotherapy treatment over the next few weeks and pray that he will soon be restored to good health again.

We wish the same for anyone suffering at this time and we pray for courage to deal with difficult times ahead.

Until the next time, trusting in the Lord's goodness,  
with love from all at Upton Chapel xx  
Jenny Fotheringham

**Lea**

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

**Village Guild**

Monthly on Thursdays at 2.15pm

**15<sup>th</sup> March**

Giles Braithwaite- Angola

**19<sup>th</sup> April**

Trentside Singers

**17<sup>th</sup> May**

Devotional Service

Rev Louise Carr

**Prayer Shawl Fellowship**

The Prayer Shawl Fellowship will meet on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> April & 21<sup>st</sup> May

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

Anyone who walked or drove around Middle Rasen and its surrounding areas before Christmas, would have been amazed to see a host of knitted angels everywhere! Many hours had gone in to the knitting of them. They had a Christmas message from Middle Rasen Methodist Chapel with an invitation for people to pick them up and take them home – how lovely! Even in a tiny village like mine in West Rasen, they disappeared at a fast rate!

In the Parish Church at Middle Rasen, each organisation set up a display to depict ‘a white Christmas’.

On 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017, we had a united memorial service and also on 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 we had bible study and fellowship.

Caistor and District Male Voice Choir entertained us on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November followed by one of our splendid buffet suppers.

Anyone who visited us during the Christmas period, when they entered the School Room, would have thought that they were in a church with stained glass windows. This was made possible by some clever people, especially one lady, who cut out in tissue paper to make scenes from the nativity etc, which were then stuck on the windows, to make them look like stained glass. Lights were then put behind the ‘stained glass’ windows as it grew dark in order to show them off beautifully from the outside.

We have also acquired from the Salvation Army some splendid royal-looking chairs, so we look very grand after the old plastic chairs on which we put cushions to make them a little more comfortable.

There have been many Christmas dinners and social occasions around the Christmas period, although the Guild still have theirs to come.

## North Kelsey

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

Greetings from us all at North Kelsey following a busy Christmas time when we hosted the joint Christmas gathering with friends from All Hallows and other churches in the Kelsey Group. We then welcomed Caistor and Nettleton folk for our Christmas Eve service with Sarah and then on NYE we all gathered at Caistor. Great to worship together when a larger gathering can be enjoyed by all.

This evening I tuned in to Songs of Praise from Islington and in the presence of MH The Queen for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Scripture Union. Lovely to hear a brand new hymn ‘God of unchanging grace ‘ by Bishop Dudley Smith who penned another favourite hymn of mine (not on my previous list!) “Lord for the years your love has kept and guided” 470 in StheF.

By the time you read this we’ll be thinking of March ! We shall be hosting the World Day of Prayer along with friends from All Hallows Church, followed swiftly by Mothering Sunday and then it will be our Chapel Anniversary when we look forward to welcoming Rev Anne Coates to lead our morning service.

May we remember the joy of all our celebrations as we experience and renew the promises of our Covenant service and our endeavours to serve our Lord in the months ahead

Midge Thomas

## Nettleton

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

The Joint Churches Christmas Bazaar was a great success when it was opened by Father Christmas who was greeted by the many children who wanted to make sure he knew about what they wanted in their stocking on Christmas morning!

The cake stall was busy selling cakes, mince pies and other food goodies. The Gift stall was soon selling everything they had. Tombola and Bottle stall sold out and lots of tea and mince pies were enjoyed by all as they waited for the raffle to be drawn. The winners claimed their prizes and went home happy.

At the end of the day it was great to realise we had made more than eleven hundred pounds and this has been shared equally between Church and Chapel.

Our Carol service was led by Rev. Liz Childs and closed with more fellowship and refreshments in the schoolroom which was enjoyed by all.

On Christmas eve we joined with North Kelsey Chapel .

On Christmas Day we were at Caistor when Rev. Sarah enlightened us with a SWEET story about the Nativity which caused a lot of laughter. At the end we were given sweets to take home-lovely”

It's a quiet time now as we approach Lent and Easter.

Jean Field

We had a community carol service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Requests were made for non-perishable food items and, at the end of the service, representatives of the Salvation Army came to bless and collect them for their food bank.

We collected more than one van full for TWAM ('Tools With A Mission'), the Chapel garage is full, and still is! Sue Maloney came to Guild to explain just how the 'tools' are used – most interesting – they allow people to start new businesses and promote income for themselves and their community.

'All we Can' is a similar organisation, but this time collecting donations that can be used to buy life-changing gifts for the poorer people of the world so that they can be trained and set up in various businesses, in order to provide for their families and neighbourhoods. I think this is a marvellous scheme. People in the Cameroon, Uganda, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe are in great need of these gifts e.g. they can be used to set up in chicken rearing and producing eggs; pig farming; shepherding; bee keeping; providing seeds etc. etc. I am sure you will find little booklets in your Chapel telling you all about the scheme – these were brought out for Christmas gifting in particular.

Middle Rasen wish you all a very happy and blessed New Year.

Liz Margrave

### MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

March 3<sup>rd</sup>

April 7<sup>th</sup>

May 5<sup>th</sup>

10.30am to 12 noon

All welcome

## Market Rasen

Church Contact: Mr Geoff Taylor 01673 843939  
[glt332@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:glt332@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Carols, hymns and poems**

The Christmas season fades and the carol books are put away for another year. Of course, carols and hymns are really poems set to music. We Methodists are lucky in the richness of the poetry contained in our hymn books and we of course have our very own hymn/ poet, Charles Wesley. I wonder how many non-church-goers who lustily sang Christmas carols, really appreciated that “Hark the Herald” (as it is known) contains the true Christmas mystery of the birth of a man, fully human and fully Divine, beautifully and economically encapsulated in Charles Wesley’s poetry? (“Veiled in flesh the Godhead see” and “Mild he lays his glory by”).

In our Christmas Day service at Middle Rasen Chapel, we sang what I have heard described as the greatest Christmas hymn/poem (not carol), another Wesley, of course, “Let earth and heaven combine”. Glenda and I were in Newcastle over New Year and we joined the congregation at the Brunswick Chapel on New Year’s Eve where, co-incidentally, the minister chose that hymn and indeed preached on it as a text rather than using the bible. His text was a phrase from that hymn, “Our God, contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man”. His point was that, yes, in worldly terms, this birth of Jesus, both God and man may seem incomprehensible, but in spiritual terms, the mystery is solved. He said that Jesus carries God’s DNA!

As I contemplated the truth of this Christmas message, another, rather surprising carol/poem came to mind which I think sums it up – surprising because it was written by a self-confessed atheist, the Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy! In her collection of poems, “The Manchester Carols”, she writes of Mary in her poem, “The Christmas Child”, “Heaven on earth resides in you/ you bear the Christmas child”.

Another prolific but more modern hymn/poet in the Christian canon is Timothy Dudley-Smith. Some of his hymns can be found in our “Singing the Faith” and are well-known (eg “Lord for the Years”) but the hymn I choose to quote for this message is less well-known I guess. It is “We believe in God the Father” (764 in Singing the Faith). It contains the lines “We believe in Christ the Saviour, Son of God in human frame / virgin-born, the child of Mary upon whom the Spirit came”.

Of course, as we might expect, the most powerful explanation of the miracle of the birth of Jesus, Immanuel, “God with us”, is to be found in the greatest book of literature there is – The Bible. And what better exponent of this aspect of our faith than St Paul himself. So let us close with his words from his letter to the Colossians (Chapter 1) and in doing so, we thank God that we can glimpse His nature in human terms because of Jesus: “Christ is the visible likeness of the invisible God” (verse 15) and “For it was by God’s own decision that the Son has in himself, the full nature of God” (verse 19).

Geoff Taylor