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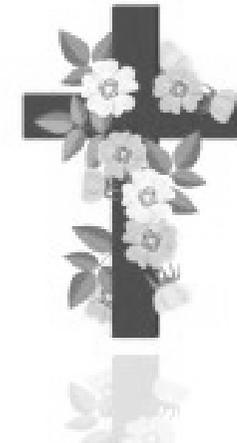
**Please ensure all articles, for inclusion in the
December-February Edition, are sent to
Kathy before;**

OCTOBER 15TH 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



**September-
November 2017**

Pastoral Letter

As you open up your autumn edition of the Link I hope you have had a pleasant summer with some time for relaxation and refreshment at home or away.

If you look back over the Summer I hope there have been some highlights where you can see and celebrate God's provision both in the church family and individually.

For me one of the highlights of summer is always the profusion flowers and riot of colours which I see in many of the gardens here in Lincolnshire. Even on the dullest of days they are a reminder of God's wonderful created world for us to enjoy.

This year however a special highlight was visiting the Methodist Conference in Birmingham for the ordination of Rev Sarah and many others. The affirmation of God's call to Presbyteral or Diaconal ministry. The completion of one part of a journey but also the beginning of a new phase. It was also good to be reminded of how God still continues to lead and call all of his people, from all backgrounds in various ways and to different tasks.

We were prompted at Conference by the new President and Vice - President about the need to be disciplined in our spiritual life, to meet with God daily, as the firm foundations for all that we seek to do in our service for Him.

September is often a time of new beginnings, of new phases in life. Children and young people start new schools, classes, further education or training and employment. The change in the seasons affects & often impacts on our routines and patterns in life. In the Methodist church as we begin the new Connexional Year, it is a good time to review our individual daily spiritual habits of bible reading and prayer, also to think about our 'church family' disciplines of prayer and looking at the bible together. The things which build us and unify us as the body of Christ and in which we are strengthened to continue on the journey of faith; being witnesses in the communities in which God has placed us.

As we move into a new season of the year and continue to journey in faith may we find ourselves to be daily strengthened by God's word and seek him in prayer

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness" Matthew 6: 33

Anne

Puzzle Page- Body Search – Answers

1. Hip
2. Mouth
3. Nails
4. Chin
5. Shin
6. Arm
7. Pelvis
8. Tongue
9. Thigh
10. Palm
11. Pupils
12. Tooth
13. Ankle
14. Hand
15. Navel
16. Iris
17. Knee
18. Face
19. Hair
20. Leg
21. Heel
22. Finger
23. Sole
24. Spine
25. Limb
26. Rib
27. Brow
28. Chest
29. Brain
30. Lip
31. Skin
32. Throat

The Link needs you!

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

If you are interested in taking on this role, please email me on Kathy_link@hotmail.co.uk or call me on 01472 851606 and I can give you information, such as what the role entails.

Kathy

Prayers:

Create within us, O God, a love for your holy word. Teach us its true and inner meaning. Within its sacred pages may we find new strength and joy; by its precepts guidance for the soul, and through familiar words grace to help in time of need; for your truth and your name's sake. Amen.

Walter James (1879-1908)

God who is found in beauty and brokenness,
holy and gracious one,
whose heart is torn by the suffering of your children,
you long for a world of justice and plenty for all.
Liberate us to share in that freedom offered by your kingdom.
Open our eyes to sense your presence
in places of despair and fear,
open our ears to hear your call to be salt and light in the world,
melt our hearts, convert us to the needs of the other,
and move us to be your people, a people of justice and care,
for our world, for friend and stranger. Amen.

Andrew Wood, Southampton District Chair

Taken from www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship

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

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. – Weekly, Wednesday evenings. (contact Paul Collins 07843 755002)

Church Band/Music Group- We meet on a Monday 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

As I write this, we are already halfway through the Summer! It has been a busy few months here at Caistor Chapel, both with various services, house groups and also community outreach.

Here are some highlights:

We had an early breakfast followed by an all age service on the 2nd July. We then encouraged participants and supporters of the Caistor “Sting in the tail” 10k race to come and have tea and cake. We saw some new and familiar faces, all of whom enjoyed the refreshments and chat.

A new service has been introduced by Paul and Maura, named Express. Held early on Sunday evenings it is an informal service followed by a hearty tea. I particularly have enjoyed the hands-on format of the service. It has also been good to see new faces who have been able to attend at this time of day and who have family commitments on a Sunday morning.

Our Summer fete was a fantastic afternoon with members of the Church pulling together to organise refreshments, stall and games. An amazing £1307 was raised for Church funds. A special thank you to Mr David King who opened up his beautiful garden for the Fete.

Our Youth Club is going up in numbers and we regularly have over 20 young people attending. It is wonderful to see the Church hall being used in this way. It is such a brilliant place for them to hang out with their friends and enjoy the games there. (I particularly like playing table tennis with them!). Many thanks to those who help out with Youth Club and especially Gareth who does an excellent job of running it.

Kathy Mannion

Gainsborough

Church Contact: Miss S Forsyth 01427 311494

Website: www.gainsboroughmethodist.org.uk

Creative Prayer

Praying with our Senses:

Hold stones or glass beads to symbolise a hard problem; place it near a cross.

Repeat hymns as prayers (without music), spoken or silent.

Scented tea lights placed in front of a newspaper (to pray for those in the news), an empty photo frame (to pray for individual people) and a photo of your church (to pray for concerns).

Drink fruit juices which have been re-labelled joy, peace, love or patience, and as you drink ask God for that gift of the Spirit.

Prayer Plaits:

Cut three equal lengths of wool (approx 9 inches or 22 centimetres) in the colours of your choice. One colour represents yourself, one represents God and one represents other people. Knot them together at one end.

As you reflect on your relationship with God and with others plait the wool. Knot the end when you finish and, as you do so, say a prayer commending yourself and those you have thought about, to God's love.

Prayer Dice:

In Blaby Methodist Church, Leicester, among other methods of prayer we have started 'Dice Prayer'.

When we gather for prayer, there is usually a piece of soft music playing and then a reading from the Bible.

'Dice Prayer' is like playing the dice game but people with a certain number get to pray for things that are already on the list.

For example, a person shakes the dice, throws it and if it shows 1 then that person prays for everyone in the group.

1. Prayer for everyone in the group.
2. Prayer for something special.
3. Prayer of thanks.
4. Prayer for our friends/church.
5. Prayer for the world
6. Prayer for peace

All Ideas taken from www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/creative-prayer

CIRCUIT PRAYER TREE

Prior to my recent retirement as Circuit Administrator it was agreed that I could carry on as the Circuit Prayer Tree Coordinator.

So here I am – writing to let you know how it works and inviting you to join in if you don't already. The Prayer Tree was started following the Prayer Without Ceasing event held in 2003 in the former Market Rasen and Caistor Circuit so I hope you will help me carry on this important part of our Circuit life.

Your prayer can be requested for any person or event or happening – indeed, over the years we have covered a huge range of special events, sad times, individual folk or groups from all around. It all mainly happens on-line as it is the most efficient and economical way. As soon as I am able to forward the prayer request it is sent to everyone on the prayer tree in one mailing. There are approximately 60 folk involved at the moment. If you would like to join the Prayer Tree then please give me a call or send me an email and you will start to receive requests as and when they happen.

My contact details are as follows. It would be useful if you could confirm that you wish to continue your Prayer Tree support so that my list is right up to date.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Midge Thomas

Member of North Kelsey MC and Circuit Worship Leader

Tel: 01652 678365

Add: East Lodge, Easthall Road, North Kelsey, Market Rasen LN7 6HA

Desert Island Hymns

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

This issue, Rachael Warren from Glenthams Chapel has sent:

1. **Thine be the glory** – Edmond L. Budry
2. **When we walk with the Lord (Trust and obey)** – John Henry Sammis
3. **And can it be (Amazing love)** – Charles Wesley
4. **O Jesus I have promised** – J.E.Bode
5. **Blessèd assurance** – Fanny J. Crosby
6. **Make me a channel of your peace** – based on a traditional prayer
7. **Be still for the presence of the Lord** – David J. Evans
8. **Here I am Lord (I the Lord of sea and sky)** – Dan Schutte
9. **Praise Him on the trumpet** – John Kennett
10. **Come on and celebrate** – Patricia Morgan and Dave Bankhead

Here’s my ten ‘Desert Island Hymns’ as promised. The first seven are hymns that I have liked since my childhood. Number 8 I particularly enjoy when performed by ‘Vision’. Numbers 9 and 10 are two hymns that we sing regularly at school.

Glenthams

Church Contact: Mr T Faulkner 01673 818718

The heart of our fellowship at Glenthams is wanting to know the LORD's will for us as we meet together for worship, hearing the Word preached, and meeting needs both amongst ourselves and in our local neighbourhoods. We are seeking God's will on how we can move more into an outreach of service and bringing people to faith in Jesus Christ. We seek His will through a monthly prayer meeting on a Saturday morning and through discussing thoughts on this with each other.

Our regular Sunday services see a small core of faithful believers come along to the once a month breakfast followed by an early worship time. This proves to be a great way to get to know each other better. The monthly family service continues to bring in children who have an active learning session based on the same lesson the adults are learning from in the sermon that day. Messy church, once a month, brings in the most people as there are a number of families who regularly take part in this lively and “crafty” worship and learning time.

Glenthams chapel's week-long summer Holiday Club once again proved to be filled to capacity as children and youth ages 4 to 12 took part in learning about Jesus. This outreach, along with the bi-monthly God Pod mobile church, continue to touch many lives. We seek to see how we can further develop our relationship with these same people after these events.

The monthly Coffee Mornings which are joint ventures for the church and chapel of Glenthams continue to bring people together socially and to raise funds for church and chapel in a fun way. The mornings include a £1 entrance donation, bring and buy, and raffle of donated items as well as good conversation and a cup of tea or coffee and a nibble. The one held in July at Howard and Ann's home raised £101 and was enjoyed by all who came along.

Looking beyond Glenthams, and having been recently inspired by the faith of Christians far from here, I want to share briefly about some refreshing news from a far away country. My husband, Mark, and I spent 3 weeks in Namibia this summer because Mark's brother and wife have lived there for 10 years and have been wanting us to come and experience this vast and beautiful country full of amazing wildlife. And yes, the wildlife is large and plentiful! We had to keep an eye out for wildlife while on the highways lest they run across the road and collide with our 4 x 4! Encountered on the roads were zebras, baboons and wart hogs.

We saw the second largest canyon in the world after the Grand Canyon; saw antelope, rhino, giraffes and flamingos, and much more. But for me, the most endearing encounter was with Namibian indigenous people who so often had a strong faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. The supermarket played English language worship songs that we sing here! It seems a large percentage of the population is Christian, goes to church regularly, and speaks openly about their faith. The “Happy Birthday” song they sing includes the line “May the light of the Lord shine on you!” I heard hotel employees singing joyfully as they worked. One brief conversation I had with a maid in our hotel found the two of us having a hug and a tear or two of joy for meeting a sister in the Lord from far away. This young woman spoke strongly and boldly about her trust in the Lord and how He is working everything out for the good for her. Children from a very low-income family who we visited in the “location” (like a South African township), sat on the dirt ground in front of their modest mud house and played together happily, owning no toys, but making miniature floor plans of houses in the dirt, furnishing their houses with bits of broken plastic. People of Namibia reminded me to rejoice in what little we have and to give thanks to God as we speak others.

Connie Hurd

Sugar & Spice

16th September, 21st October, 18th November

9.30am at The Willows, Glenthams

Women gather for food and friendship (Open menu)

All Ladies Welcome

Men's Breakfast

9th September, 14th October, 11th November

9am at The Crown, Glenthams. £5.50

A different speaker each month.

Please contact Peter Atkinson to book.

All welcome

Forward Together in Hope

In May many folk from around the circuit gathered at Gainsborough Methodist Church for the Forward Together in Hope Conference. The Saturday keynote speakers & workshop leaders inspired us with new ideas & ways of connecting with community.

The Sunday Circuit Service included the music group, an opportunity to praise God with a variety of songs, traditional & modern. Rev Steve Wild shared many encouraging ‘faith stories’ & pictures from all around the Connexion. It was a special occasion to celebrate with four Local Preachers, who were presented with long service certificates; David Islip 50 years, Ken Knapton, Tim Smith, and Vanessa Wood 25 years – our congratulations & thanks go to all of them.

The weekend was an opportunity to enjoy fellowship with friends from around the circuit & meet new people. At the close of worship on the Sunday morning there was the chance to receive prayer & anointing with oil; for individuals & for the churches they represented. It was a very powerful, moving time & a reminder to continue to seek God in all that we want to do.

As a circuit we have begun the process of Healthy Churches with various discussions. From the feedback received, it seems God has inspired many people who attended the weekend to go back & share new thoughts & visions with their churches. So as we continue our journeys we take up the challenge to move forward together, in response to God's calling to share the Good News with those we meet.

Anne

- Understand, consider
- Keep saying we can do better
- Listen better
- Being Christ like in the church
- Be more noticeable to people outside
- Hope and love for each other all over the world
- Connecting with the community – Holy Spirit led
 - Open
 - Radical
 - Risk taking
 - Relationship
- TAKE OPPORTUNITIES
- The joy of ideas buzzing, people exploring faith#
- Talking to strangers outside of the church about my faith
- I'm challenged to be open to the Spirit's prompting every day and to really listen to God and other people
- Thank you Lord for calling me back. I have been challenged to speak out from my experiences and to relearn how to really listen
- Space to be creative
- What can we do to reach out more into our community
- To listen more effectively to the people around us
- I was encouraged to be more bold in sharing my faith in the company \i meet during the week
- Steve's ministry is such a blessing to the Methodist Church. Please God let Steve's enthusiasm for Jesus be infectious for all, especially me.
- Confidential, confidence
- Read the gospel as a guide for today's living. Make Jesus priority my priority
- Offering place, a sanctuary of peace for the displace, getting circuit commitment
- To do as Cornwall
- Listening to God's prompting
- The challenge to open up and listen, time to give to someone else who needs you.

Louise Carr

Lea

Church Contact: Mrs M Lilley 01427 615933

Harvest Festival

Sunday 10th September

10.30am

Preacher: Dr Don Owen

Village Guild

Monthly on Thursdays at 2.15pm

21st September-Speaker Mrs Celia Lord

19th October-Speaker Rev. Liz Childs

16th November-Speaker Rev. K Lackerby

Chapel Anniversary

Sunday 5th November

3pm

Preacher: Rev Martin Amery

Soloist: Mrs Pat Gray

Buffet Tea to follow

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

On Sunday 23rd July, we are having an open air cafe style service uniting with the Parish Church. We have a big Horticultural Show that weekend so use the marque and village hall which costs quite a lot of money. We do this every year and every one is very welcome.

On 4th June we had a United service with the Parish Church for Pentecost.

On 24th June we had our Summer Fete to raise money for the Chapel as we do every year.

As we do every so often, we have meetings where we look at the lives of various people in the Bible, and this time we are taking a closer look at Timothy and Titus. These meetings take place on Wednesday mornings 7th, 21st, and 28th July and all are welcome.

Women's Own finished at the end of June sad to say and will not open again until the first Wednesday of September. The Guild has already ceased for the summer and opens again in October. The two groups have arranged for a combined outing on 2nd August to Renishaw Hall and Gardens and Dobbies Garden Centre which should be fun.

One piece of good news we would like to share is that within the next year or so, with the help of grants and donations, we are hoping to extend the Chapel building. The intention is to give the Chapel an 'open outlook' theme. We hope to extend the School Room in to the garden area with a conservatory type building to make our Chapel life more visible, locally. Folding doors will be built in to the Hall where the two west windows are presently located so that the new area can be closed off, or opened in to the present Hall area giving an extra two thirds floor space - we really need the extra space!

Various permissions need to be obtained before this can happen of course. Our own members may also like to contribute as well as the grants.

We are not expecting to start for some time yet of course, but please keep us in your thoughts and prayers - this could be a significant development for our Church fellowship.

Best wishes
Liz Margrave

Inspirations and challenges – from the Forward Together in Hope event

- Church led vocational/gift awareness
- To offer CPD for members of each church who are seeking more
- Use of gifts across the circuit
- Take the word of God to homes around the church
- To get more young people into our church
- To reach out to all God's people
- Making sure we include everyone, like the idea of a mingler
- We can be a community based church leading the way
- Reach out to people outside the church in our village though acts of kindness, tea and fruit, NOT biscuits!
- Christians together wanting to grow in Christ together
- To continue to work as a circuit, sharing our new ideas of hope
- Think of others as Jesus would
- Uplifting
- Lord guide us in forming a new prayer shawl group
- Pray for opportunities to share Jesus
- Love more generously, love more radically
- That we may not just be welcoming churches but listening ones also
- That this maybe the first step to being working closer to God
- Prayer shawl ministry#
- How we journey together (as churches and as circuit)
- How we help everyone feel loved and included
- Sharing ideas and fellowship
- Time of worship, thank you Lord
- Pray more to help me listen better
- Good to meet people from different places with very different religions and differences we don't imagine
- I found it exciting that there were so many people around the country trying to spread the word
- To listen more/say less
- To understand why some things are the way they are. Hoping God will explain
- Being Jesus shaped being more like Jesus led, prayer shawls
- Listening, speaking people

Upton

Church Contact: Mrs Julie Barrow 01427 838729

Hello to everyone from Upton. We hope you are all enjoying this summer. I've just spent the last 2 weeks enjoying Wimbledon (on the box) and eating strawberries at every opportunity!! By the time this magazine goes out we will be seriously close to autumn and the round of Harvest Festivals. A very special time of year that we all enjoy.

Our Harvest Festival is on Sunday 17th September at 10-30am. Instead of fresh produce we will be collecting dry and tinned foods that we can then donate to the food bank in Gainsborough. We have done this for the last few years and the people at the food bank are always pleased to receive our gifts.

Our November Remembrance service is at All Saints Church Upton and will be a United service with Church members. The service will be at 10-15am, slightly earlier than usual so that we can be at our "Memorial" for 11-00am for the act of Remembrance.

We remember, in our prayers, all the wrong doings taking place in the world at this time, both abroad and at home. We have been remembering all those who have suffered since the Grenfell Tower disaster and we pray that God will bring peace back to those who have lost everything. There is so much going on that is awful and we do not know how to make things better, but the power of prayer is a powerful tool.

Patrick always presents a "good news" spot before he gives the weeks notices and usually gives us something to smile about.

I would like to close today with a chorus from John Rutter's "Look at the world" which is a beautiful song written with Harvest in mind:-

"Praise to thee O Lord, for all creation,
Give us thankful hearts that we may see:
All the gifts we share and every blessing,
All things come of thee."

Until the next time, with love from all at Upton,

God Bless!
Jenny Fotheringham

Market Rasen

Church Contact: Mr Geoff Taylor 01673 843939
glt332@yahoo.co.uk

At the time of writing this article we are looking forward to our annual Holiday Club. This year's theme is the 'Big Top', so the circus is coming to town !! It will be great to see the usual children again and we hope we will be welcoming some new faces. Our grateful thanks of course go to all the leaders and helpers as without them the show could not go on.

We are continuing to seek new ways of reaching out into the community. The Coffee Club is well established and supported and we will have had our first open barbecue (many thanks to Richard and Yvonne) by the time you read this. Hopefully this will lead to more initiatives as we seek to better engage ourselves with the residents of Market Rasen.

On a sadder note we are having to seriously consider the future of our church as the finances are finally being stretched to the ultimate limit. We are of course praying for God's guidance as we seek to find a viable means to keeping Methodism alive in Market Rasen. Although it is with some trepidation that we look to the future, we have Hope and Love in our hearts as we rise to the new challenges that will undoubtedly befall us.

God bless everyone

Bob Bailey

Nettleton

Church Contact: Mrs Jean Field 01472 852056

We were privileged to be able to attend the Ordination of Rev. Sarah Parkin in Coventry, a truly wonderful occasion. She is a blessing to us and may she continue on this path with the help of the Lord forever.

The Charity Garden Party held in July was a great success and nearly £600 was raised for the Ileostomy Association which is a support for anyone who has had bowel surgery.

Cakes were purchased, games were enjoyed by all and refreshments were enjoyed in the afternoon sunshine.

ADVANCE NOTICE- Nettleton Joint Churches Christmas Bazaar-2nd December- more details in next Link magazine.

Jean Field

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

September 2nd, October 7th & November 4th

10.30am to 12 noon

All welcome

Harvest Festival Service in Nettleton

September 24th

Ploughman's Lunch at 1pm

Service at 2.30pm

Any donations of food should be brought on Sunday and they will be taken to local food bank on Monday.

All gifts will be gratefully appreciated.

ALL WELCOME

Marton

Church Contact: Mrs D Kitchinson 01427 718634

North Kelsey

Church Contact: Mrs M Thomas 01652 678365

Our monthly Open House event continues to draw in chapel and village folk together for a social gathering over a cup of tea/coffee and delicious homemade scones and cakes. It happens every 2nd Monday from 2 30 - 4 00pm.

A Summer Afternoon Tea is planned for Sunday 20th August at the Chapel from 3 00 to 5 00pm. The tea will include a variety of sandwiches and other savouries followed with a selection of cakes - of course ! The cost per person will be £6 and bookings would be very useful before Friday 12th to Midge on 01652 678365 or Ken and Margaret on 678379.

Midge

Bible Study:

[Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43](#)

“He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.’” (vv. 24-25)

Psalm: [Psalm 139](#)

- What is the “weed” in your life? Are there habits, ways of talking or priorities that look good on the outside, but are really poisonous and damaging?
- In what ways should we nurture the good, rather than rush to damaging judgement?

Taken from www.methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship