

THE LINK

Issue 49 March / May 2021



REV. LIZ JOLLY
1946—2020

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See page 3 for deadlines and Editor's contact information

MINISTER'S LETTER

Another Year of God's Grace

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The season of Lent is now upon us. It is an opportunity to renew and deepen our relationship with Jesus, and to renew the choices we make, so that we might live as he taught. In fact, if we take seriously the Lenten program, it offers us the opportunity to renew our whole life!

Traditionally, Lent is a privileged time for **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**.

During Lent, we seek time **to pray more** – alone and with others. However, for such a time as this when we are in lockdown because of the COVID 19 pandemic, we might choose to read something that will nourish our spiritual life and lead us to more focused personal prayer. We might join Lent courses and meditation prayers available in our Circuit or have your indoor Stations of the Cross ; or we might decide to study the Gospel of Mark which Rev Jacqui introduced to us recently as individuals or as a family.

Some choose to attend Mass during the week offered by other ecumenical Churches.

When we **fast**, we usually cut back on what we eat and drink. Not only will this benefit us in a physical way, but it will also help us in our spiritual life. Fasting often leads us to understand that we depend on God to nourish us in every way. We will recognise the blessings we receive every day, which leads us to be ever more grateful and generous.

As a child, it was a practice in our family to “give up” something during Lent. One year I was courageous enough to give up eating breakfast, and lunch! It proved to be too difficult, and I confess that I cheated by eating wild fruits in the bush. The only person I cheated, in fact, was myself – knowing that I had failed in my Lenten resolve. The experience taught me that Lent is not about “my” tenacity, rather it is about God calling me always forward, always nearer!

“Giving up” something gives us time to “take up” something of greater value. Giving up social media for two hours each day in Lent could give time to read a book or two, or to write long-overdue letters to distant family members or long-forgotten friends. “Giving up” something might save us money to offer to a local food bank or other charitable cause. Even more, it might give us time to volunteer our talent to make life easier for others in some helpful way. That is **almsgiving**.

It has always amazed me what can be done when everyone contributes even a little. One generous offering of time, talent, or treasure is something; many generous offerings can make a great a difference in the lives of those who live on the margins. For years our Church has made an incredible difference for people in developing countries the world over by supporting projects that changed lives. Perhaps this year, we can increase our Share Lent offering to allow them do even more!

[Continued on page 4]



THE LINK

This has not been the easiest edition of *The Link* to put together. There have been fewer contributions than usual and, although we must be very grateful for those who have sent items, this is clearly a symptom of the uncertainty we all feel at present. Everything keeps changing with great rapidity. By the time you are reading this the situation is bound to be different from what it is as I write this, and it will change again—probably several times—during the three months over which this magazine is current. It is good that God is keeping us on our toes but does make for some practical problems. This time almost no churches have felt able to publish even tentative dates for the next three months (which, of course, includes Easter). As you will see one or two churches have asked that most or all of their regular events are no longer mentioned, either because re-starting dates cannot be known or because there is uncertainty as to whether they will ever re-start.

It is easy to get depressed by all this. We all like certainty (look what happens to the Stock Exchange when uncertainty strikes!). But we must also remember that God is in

charge and that he knows precisely what he is doing. Activities start, flourish, fade and die away. In a way this can be sad—BUT it is important to remember that others will start to take their place (there have been a number of examples of this in our Circuit in recent years—try Great Cressingham or Blakeney and Walsingham, for example).

Therefore in this edition I have continued to print the details of regular but suspended activities unless I have been asked otherwise. But next time I intend only to include details of what churches will actually be doing. With a deadline of 24th April with a bit of luck we will all have a (slightly) clearer idea. Be ready for a request for information coming round in early April!

This is also why I have not included details of what the Circuit is doing, mostly online, at the moment as much will almost certainly be out-of-date by the time you read this.

Depressing or exciting? I believe we follow and worship an exciting God. Keep praying!

Tony Hey

DEADLINE

**FOR THE
JUNE—AUGUST
EDITION**

SATURDAY 24th APRIL

*Please include details of activities
up to the end of August*

CONTACT DETAILS

Please send information for
publication to
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WITNESS AT GARVESTONE

From Andrew Durrant: As a small congregation in a small, simple building, we have been fortunate to be able to meet in person for worship in our chapel (except when prohibited by government regulation) and can be seen to be doing so by passers-by. Our numbers have been tiny, of course, since some friends' circumstances have restricted them to home, but, in chapel or at home, we have beneficially worshipped, using the weekly 'Vine' services distributed electronically, and the Circuit Worship Sheets.

We trimmed up the chapel for our Christmas services and collected £115.00 which was sent to St. Martin's Housing Trust, which helps homeless people in Norwich.

Our Prayer Meetings continue on the third Fridays – further details on page 22 Details of our Ecumenical Lent Course can be found on pages 18 and 22.



MINISTER'S LETTER

[Continued from page 2]

By prayer, fasting and almsgiving, our spiritual life is nurtured, our personal life is purified, and our outreach to brothers and sisters on the margins is encouraged. It is an effective Lenten program leading us to a deeper personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Even in such a time as this, I wish you a blessed Lenten season during which you learn how to live freely and fully in Him!

May you please join me in prayer for the new coronavirus to stop spreading:

Almighty God, we know that everything is in Your sovereign control. We ask that You keep this new coronavirus from continuing to spread. Give government officials the ability to safely handle people arriving from other countries. Help people decide to stay home instead of travelling or going out needlessly. Holy Spirit, remind people to wash their hands properly. And while it may be heartbreaking, comfort families as they decide to keep their distance from elderly or other high-risk family members. Amen.

'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea ...' *Psalm 46:1-2 (NIV)*

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev Cliff Shanganya

PETER WRIGHT

From Maggie Blundell: Peter Blake Wright was born in Essex and came to Saham in 2000s. From a Methodist family Peter was a devout Christian and when in Essex was involved with Youth Clubs and Fellowship groups as he always wanted to encourage and help young people. He taught Mathematics and Physics in London Technical Colleges wanting to help his students successfully complete the academic requirements of their Practical Courses assisting in providing “Stepping Stones” for further student personal advancement.

Peter was an accredited Local Preacher in the Mid Norfolk Methodist Circuit and meticulously prepared his services. He will be missed by our Church members and regulars to our Coffee Mornings. He welcomed everyone and enjoyed many stimulating conversations on any subject. He liked books, anything technical and was attracted to any devices and books on our stalls; he was also good at washing up.

He will be greatly missed by his wife Elizabeth, daughter Amanda, Andrew and his grandchildren, Ethan and Evie.

With an acute wit Peter had many sayings - one on departing “I’ll leave you in charge”, and another “remember to eat your greens” His final service at Saham Hills Methodist Church celebrated the life of a happy, kind and generous man. We left with “Our Greens” – a cupcake was presented to each attendee at the end of the service with a green topping. He would have appreciated the humour of that.

/wit/ noun; the capacity for inventive thought and quick understanding; keen intelligence.



Jesus said: ‘I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

Rev. LIZ

This article is an edited version of Rev Anne Richardson's appreciation of Liz at her funeral at Wendling Chapel on 18th January. It has already been widely circulated but it is felt important that it is put on record so everyone has the opportunity to read it and rejoice in the wonderful person that was Liz.

Born on 24th February 1946, at Woodside in Gressenhall, Liz spent her first year living there with her grandparents, until her parents completed Teazel Patch and could move in. She went to the local primary school, and to her surprise, passed the 11+ and went to Dereham High School for Girls. It's safe to say that even then, she made her mark and showed herself to be a born rebel.



In the lower sixth, Liz left to be a pupil teacher at North Elmham Primary, before going to Southlands College to train to be a teacher, specialising in RE and PE. Her three years there built up strong friendships with her college "family"— in particular with Judith Sexton who has been a very special friend ever since. Her teaching career of just over twenty years started at Brondesbury Senior High School near Kilburn, then she moved to Great Cornard and taught in Sudbury, and after a few years moved to live in Great Dunham in Norfolk. From there she taught in various schools, and became acting head at Garvestone Primary for a while. Wherever she lived and worked, she became part of the local Methodist Church. She regularly ran holiday clubs, children's activities and youth groups. She always had a very pastoral heart and made strong connections with people and kept in touch over the years. She had a campervan, which she loved and used for holidays and visiting. Her faith was hugely important. She had her own non-conventional approach to life and this was the same with her faith. She appreciated Celtic influences and enjoyed time at Iona, and Lindisfarne and the Greenbelt festival, always sharing her insights with friends and family.

She candidated for ordained ministry and after two years at Wesley House Cambridge, she was ordained in 1989.

She served first at Coningsby and Sleaford in Lincolnshire. Then she changed to non-stipendiary ministry and returned to teaching RE, at St George's High School in Sleaford, until she retired. Staying in Lincolnshire, she was very active in the church and community in her own distinctive ways, until she decided to come back to Teazel Patch, in 2008, when her mum was finding it hard to manage on her own. Back on home ground, Liz didn't just relax

JOLLY

into a full retirement, but worked hard. She served the church by preaching regularly, putting huge amounts of care and attention into the services she led as always. She came back to part-time ministry and had pastoral charge of Swaffham and Sporle for a year, when the circuit was a minister down. She was hugely respected for her pastoral care and her support for colleagues.

She always loved her home Chapel, Wendling, and has been its mainstay for the last few years. She was last here on Christmas Eve and played the organ for us – also giving out mince pies she'd baked the day before. She was a part of the community in Gressenhall and has touched so many lives there, including being part of the choir, which she loved.

Her other passion was of course the natural world – she loved her succession of rescue dogs and Siamese cats – lastly her greyhound Holly. She loved the chickens and provided eggs to many people. She loved her garden and was always the first to spot the birds nest. She enjoyed cooking and sharing with friends – totally generous and open-hearted, she will leave a huge gap in so many lives.

Our comfort is knowing that she sent and received cards from all her friends in December, and spoke with all her family on Christmas Day – and that now she is held within the care of God Almighty. One day, we will be together again.

Liz had specified here hymns she wanted sung at her funeral. This was not possible but they will be sung at her Thanksgiving Service. Below is an extract from one of them: Who fathoms the eternal thought – by John Greenleaf.

Who fathoms the eternal thought?
Who talks of scheme and plan?
The Lord is God! He needeth not
The poor device of man.

Here in the maddening maze of things,
When tossed by storm and flood,
To one fixed ground my spirit clings!
I know that God is good!

I know not what the future hath
Of marvel or surprise,
Assured alone that life and death
His mercy underlies.



Liz's dog, Holly, on her bed in front of a fire in her new home. She is settled and happy.

NEWS FROM

During December, we opened the chapel to the public for the first time since the previous February. We arranged a full-size silhouette nativity with appropriate lighting and the chapel was open for two hours every teatime from December 14th – 19th. Despite Covid, cold and darkness we showed the village that we are still open for business and about 40 people visited including local people from the surrounding streets. It was great to be in the building again albeit socially distanced. Thank you to those from other chapels who came along or helped.



During January, we had made plans to have a prayer walk together around Walsingham as part of the District January Light initiative. For obvious reasons this has proved impractical. Instead we have had a virtual prayer walk on Facebook using photos of every street, one posted each day.

WALSINGHAM



Another initiative has been using four Christmas cards we received as an aide memoir to prayer each day.

Our Zoom services continue on alternate Thursdays. **Our starting time has been changed to 7-15 pm.** The link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6092236700>

The next will be on **Feb 11th and 25th** then **March 11th and 25th** and **April 8th**.

We also host a Bible Study every Monday Evening at 7-30pm same link following two of the lectionary readings.

You are most welcome to join us at either.... There are familiar and friendly faces!!



THANK YOU

Stephen

Part One: In the beginning

In the last issue of the Link I wrote an appreciation of our good friend Joyce Blower. Within that article I included some memories of our time with 'The Messengers' music group. This got me reminiscing about the part music has played in my faith journey, and I thought that I might share some of that journey with you. I have tried to be as accurate as possible, but the old bugbear of 'Anno Domini' may creep in here and there, and I will be more than happy to rectify anything which is pointed out to me as inaccurate.

This first part of this three-part story takes place in the days of the then Swaffham Circuit, back in 1963. This was the year in which I had my first encounter with Methodism, joining the Sunday School at the age, when many were leaving, of 14.

To put the whole story into context we need to travel back even further, to 1953 when I was just 4 years old. That Christmas I was given a little plastic toy which was a variation on what is known as a Swanee Whistle. This is basically a tube with a hole to blow into, with another hole in the top to let sound out. The tube holds a plastic tight fitting insert which can be moved backwards and forwards to vary the pitch. Within a few hours, rather than just making annoying whistling sounds, according to my late mother, I had worked out how to play 'How much is that doggie in the window?', which was a number one hit at the time for Lita Rosa, (I wonder who remembers her?).

I had sung virtually since I could talk apparently, but this was the first sign that I might have been blessed with a modicum of musical ability. Shortly after this my Nanny Bell, of whom I often speak, (she's the one who lived in Highbury in North London near the old NCH headquarters), was given an old upright piano which she suggested to my parents I might like to have.

At that time Aubrey Blower, who many of you know, was driving lorries, and was travelling to London on a regular basis, so my father arranged to travel with him, and between them they managed to manhandle this iron framed beast of an instrument back to our home in Weasenham. Within a few days I had worked out how to knock out a few basic melodies, but I had a bit of a 'thing' about the black notes, (that's never really changed!). It was suggested that I might have lessons, but there were two stumbling blocks to this. Firstly, there were no local piano teachers, and secondly, even if there had been, Dad's meagre farm workers wage could not have financed them, and so I plodded on as best I could. To this day I have never had a music lesson or learned to read music properly.

We can now move forward to 1963. When I joined the Weasenham Sunday School they were singing unaccompanied as no one played an instrument. This was my first encounter with an American bellows pump organ, which was a feature of the majority of chapels in those days. The main problem was that I was unfamiliar with many of the hymns they used. Up to that point my hymnody was limited to those we sang in assembly at school, so I had to get someone to sing to me as I gradually picked the tune up. Thanks to the Lord's gift of a musical ear which has served me so well all through, I was able to pick them up pretty quickly.

In the Autumn of 1964 something happened that would help to define the rest of my life, although I didn't realise it at the time. A man by the name of Jack Rowlinson came into my life. Jack was a

FOR THE MUSIC

Lynn



Circuit Steward at the time, and was a great visionary. He led by example, and threw himself wholeheartedly into everything he did, Life was never dull when Jack was around. He lived in Great Massingham, and discovered, quite by accident that the Parish Church had a set of 12 handbells which had not seen the light of day in decades. He approached the Churchwardens and asked if he could have them on loan. They agreed readily, and so he began to try to put together a team of younger folk from the Circuit to learn to play them.

I was one of those invited, along with my next-door neighbour and friend, Ian Clark. Others in the team, many of whom are still friends to this day, were Mervyn Head and Bryan Hall from Rougham, John Warboys and Keith Rowlinson from Great Massingham, Sheila Bly from Westacre, Ann Harrowing from Narford, Vivienne and Veronica Goddard from Litcham and young marrieds Brian and Gillian Woods from Sporle.

We began rehearsing in September, and that Christmas travelled all over the Circuit playing a selection of Christmas carols. I remember that 'Good King Wenceslas' was a real favourite.

Once Christmas was over it was a question of what to do next. Again it was down to the enterprising Jack, who went to the Circuit Meeting and obtained a grant to buy some musical instruments, which included a couple of guitars. This really was a game changer for me. John and I were given the guitars which we taught ourselves to play thanks to the famous 'Play in a day' guitar tutor book by Bert Weedon. Incidentally, this is still the world's biggest selling guitar tutor. Gillian also learned to play, but she was able to borrow a guitar from a friend. With some of the others singing we performed a few gigs through the spring and summer, and then in the autumn we began bell practice again ready for Christmas.

A few of the originals left due to education changes, and we were joined by Jenny Bly and Mike Colman. Out of the blue, Jack announced that he had arranged for us to perform alongside the Norfolk Male Voice Praise Choir in their annual Christmas concert at the Assembly House in Norwich. This was a massive step up from the surroundings we were used to. As if this wasn't enough of a shock, Jack took me to one side and told me that there would be a solo performance of 'Mary's Boy Child' and he wanted me to sing and play it; would I think about it? I must have thought about it for all of a second before I said yes.

I remember arriving at the Assembly House and being shown up into the gallery above the stage where the choir was sitting. The rest is something of a blur, but I do remember it as the first occasion that I really felt that I had discovered where I fitted in to the church, and that somehow I was going to use my music to serve God.

By now, Jack had opened his own sports shop in Kings Lynn, and he and his family moved out of the Circuit. Without his leadership and drive, along with the fact that many of us were now moving into college or full-time employment, the group drifted apart as an entity, although many life-long friendships continued.

Over the next couple of years I did some solo bits and pieces, until one evening in September 1967, something happened that would take me in a very new and different direction.

But that, as they say is another story!

To be continued.

BLAKENEY PILGRIM CHURCH

Samantha Parfitt

writes: Since the last issue of the Link, in the face of rising rates of Covid-19 infection and a new, more easily transmitted strain of the same, England has experienced a second and third national lockdown. Locally in Walsingham and Blakeney the impact of these measures has been the closing



of most of the shops, pubs, and other businesses, with the exception of the small village store and farm shop in Walsingham and the Spar shop, fish shop, and deli in Blakeney. Although places of worship have been allowed to stay open for public corporate acts of worship and private prayer, the Trustees of The Pilgrim Methodist Church decided not to open for in person worship during November and January.

Despite the decision not to open the building for worship, the work of the Church has continued with a renewed focus and emphasis of its calling in regard to the larger calling of the Methodist Church to evangelism, service, caring and learning and worship. The work that has been undertaken during these few months has been developed and driven by the team and is the result of open discussion, questioning and searching - underpinned by prayer together and for each other. We have seen the Holy Spirit at work among us and I am hopeful that our future in a post-Covid world will be built on foundations made strong by our work together during the most testing of times.

As a small, rural church we have laughed, cried and prayed together over the past months, holding one another and our communities in God's love. In response to the changing landscape of restrictions over the last few months, we have delivered Cafe Church Takeaways, opened for private prayer (in December before Tier 4 came into effect), given gifts to people in the street, met online for worship, gone on virtual prayer walks together, met Jesus through meditation and prayed with people on their doorsteps. In the darkness we have found the light and shared with others the perpetual hope that is the gift of our faith.



NEWS FROM WIMPCF AND A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL

Dear Friends,

Happy new year to you all. We say Ebenezer meaning “Thus far the lord has helped us” (1Samuel 7:12).

We hope you're all keeping well. On behalf of our organisation I would like to start by saying a sincere thank you. Your unwavering support towards our Charity work in what has been a difficult time - is incredibly humbling. You have supported us through many ways. We can't thank you enough for your commitment, kindness and generosity. Through your donations we have been able to pay school fees for 15 primary and 8 secondary school children abroad. We have also supported Holt Youth Club Young Carers and Action for Children. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 and other challenges beyond our control we could not this year managed to organise the end of year general meeting where we could invite you to come and listen to our annual report and have opportunity to ask us questions if you had any about the work we are doing. God willing we will ensure our general meeting is held this year and you will be invited. You truly make the difference for us, and we are extremely grateful!

However, If you would like to know more about our organisation as whole, please don't hesitate to contact us through the contact details below we will be able to respond. Also if you would like to make a donation to us you can do it through our website: <https://worldismyparishchildrensfoundation.com/tip-jars/7166>

Or through our Charity Bank account: World Is My Parish Cic
Barclays Bank, Account: 53914712, Sort code: 201720. If you would like to send us a cheque please send through our treasurer's address below.

Many thanks and blessings.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Mambo

WIMPCF Secretary.

Founders: Rev Cliff and Christine, Email: worldismyparishcf@gmail.com

THE HIVE AT GREAT

SARAH



Question: So what exactly is The Hive?

Answer: We don't exactly know!

BUT we have set out on a journey and the route may be familiar in places but, no doubt, will have some interesting twists and turns!

We launched on December 19th with an open-air *son et lumière*, telling The Christmas Story in lights, music, storytelling and rhyme. Three shows played to 50 people who soon got into the festive spirit when they discovered they were each given a glow-stick on entry!

People from the village, including Liz (Olive's daughter), helped us by putting leaflets through doors. We were on the village website and the clerk to the parish council sent out an email to her local list.

So, where do we go from here?

A poster for 'The Christmas Story' event. The background is dark blue with string lights. The text is in yellow and white. It says 'The Christmas Story' in large yellow letters, followed by 'Saturday 19 December' and 'In the grounds of Great Cressingham Chapel, Chalk Hill'. A yellow box contains the text 'Showing 3 times for 30 minutes choose your show 4.30 - 5.45 - 7.00'. Below that, it says 'FAMILY BUBBLES OF UP TO 6' and 'DRESS UP WARM AND BRING A TORCH'. Another yellow box contains 'MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE CONTACT DAVID JONES by text or call 07806 435066 or email thehiveplace@gmail.com'. At the bottom, it says 'ADMISSION IS FREE BUT SPACES ARE LIMITED BOOKINGS TAKEN IN ORDER OF RECEIPT' and 'We are sorry that the toilet facilities are not available for this Show (All shows weather permitting)'.

The Christmas Story
Saturday 19 December
In the grounds of Great Cressingham Chapel, Chalk Hill

Showing 3 times for 30 minutes
choose your show 4.30 - 5.45 - 7.00

FAMILY BUBBLES OF UP TO 6 DRESS UP WARM AND BRING A TORCH

MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE
CONTACT DAVID JONES by text or call 07806 435066
or email thehiveplace@gmail.com

ADMISSION IS FREE
BUT SPACES ARE LIMITED
BOOKINGS TAKEN IN ORDER OF RECEIPT

We are sorry that the toilet facilities are not available for this Show
(All shows weather permitting)

Since joining the Methodist *Pioneering Pathways* programme, Geraldine and I have encountered a spectrum of ideas and initiatives and met (on Zoom) a community of energetic people visioning the church of the future, which will very soon be the church of today!

Quite a bit of our lockdown time has been spent watching webinars on digital and online church, on rewilding church, on church at the margins and joining in the connexional church's discussion about *New Places for New People*. These terms and titles may seem different and perplexing but they are simply about making sure the church can be approachable and meaningful to the generations who have not been brought up in the communities and traditions which are home to us and the majority of the readers of *The Link*.



GRESSINGHAM

RODGERS

The gospel narratives demonstrate many times over how Jesus made it possible for the people he met to find their way to God, through parable, miracle, example or personal encounter. He met them where they were and communicated in their language, speaking to their situation and identifying their need. He was creative, he was spiritual and he was concerned for their well-being.

In trying to discern and determine the purpose of The Hive, we have been inspired by these three characteristics and, for now, are describing The Hive as, 'a place of creativity, spirituality and well-being, connecting to people in today's world.'

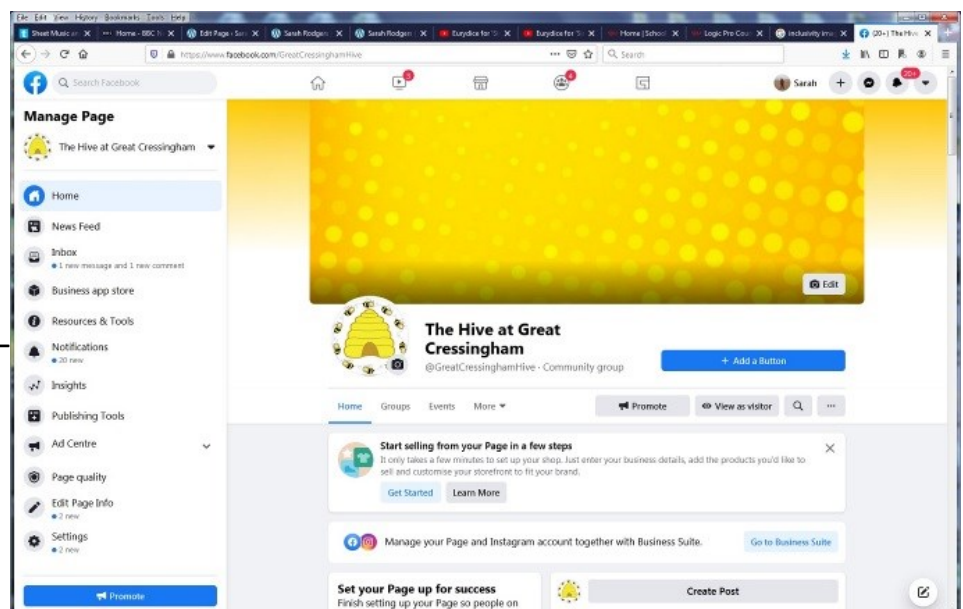


The what and the how are very much to be determined by the course of the pandemic. When possible, we would like to harness creative gifts, energies and interests in music, dance, theatre, literature, and visual arts and to include other well-being practices such as yoga. (For that there will need to be some internal changes to the building.)

Whether they recognise it or not, simply by being human, every person is on a spiritual journey; we hope that at The Hive, we can give a welcome to people who are searching for a deeper meaning in their lives, for safe spaces and enduring values. Our aim is to create a place, indoors and outdoors for reflection, meditation, discovery and wonder.

With the many established churches, and now also The Pilgrim Church in the north and The Hive in the south, we are blessed as a circuit to be working for the kingdom and reaching out with a message of hope and love. We would value your prayers as plans for The Hive are developed.

To find out more, please visit our Facebook page (search The Hive at Great Cressingham) and to get in touch, email – thehiveplace@gmail.com



Alleluia!
Before the world began
Creator
Designer extraordinaire
Eternal plan for man
Father
God
Holy Spirit
Incarnate in Jesus
Jesus
King of kings
Loved us so much, you
Made
No
Objection -
Put to death.
Quietly
Rose again,
Saved us from our sins.
Thank You! for Your
Unending love.
Victorious
We worship
You.

Based on the acrostic
of Psalm 111.

Janet Sutherland. Holt Methodist Church.

.....

The Liturgy and Worship Subcommittee offers
this litany for use in online services during
lockdown, and for post-lockdown services
when we can congregate together again.

.....

*We thought we knew how the world was meant to be.
Day followed night, every week had a Sunday
and that was the day for church.*

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

*We thought we knew how the world was meant to be.
We made our plans, held our meetings,
kept the roof on the church and the show on the road.*

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

*We thought we knew how the world was meant to be.
We would see colleagues, friends and loved ones again,
and we would embrace, laugh and share stories as we
always have.*

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

*And now, we know something new.
We know that the world is not ours to control,
and that our plans are confounded by the smallest
microbe.*

God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.

*And now, we know something new.
We know that church is not committees, agendas
and buildings,
it is us, in homes, streets, hospitals throughout the world.*

God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.

*And now, we know something new.
We only have today with those we love, today is the day
to say "I love you", to mend an argument, to hold on tight.*

God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.

Litany by Past President the Revd Michaela Youngson, Chair of the London District
Rainbow glass by the Revd Rachel Parkinson, Chair of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District



NEWS FROM

WATTON

The construction of the new ramp at the front of the Church, was making good progress during October and November, but was not able to be fully completed before Christmas, due to a hold-up in obtaining the material for the final surfacing of the ramp. We now have a new ramp from the emergency exit at the rear, but will not be able to access the front of the Church at all, until the work is able to be completed. However, we did manage to hold our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services in the centre next door, and had a very successful mid-week event open to the public (socially-distanced) to see a small selection of Jacqui and Jen's Nativity Sets, with free takeaway drinks and biscuits.

Now, at the time of writing, with everything in lockdown, we wait to see what new opportunities there will be in the future.

From Janet Roebuck: I have been talking to various attendees at the Meditation Group at Watton, and we have agreed that, as we have not been functioning for so long, and there seems very little chance that we will be able to re-form in the foreseeable future, it would be a good idea if all references to the group's meetings were removed from the next copy of "The Link". I would feel responsible if anyone should turn up for one of our sessions and found the church locked and in darkness!! If, at some point in the future, the group should restart, of course we will let you know so that our existence can be advertised!

GARVESTONE

Our Minister, Rev Anne Richardson, working with the local Anglican Curate, is arranging a study course to be held on the five Wednesdays in Lent, at 2.00 p.m., beginning on February 24th. For most participants these sessions will be on Zoom, with just a few of us in our chapel, as necessary. We shall be using the new York Course, *Caring for Creation*, with the accompanying published materials.

[See also page 22 Ed.]

MATTISHALL

After the easing of restrictions in December we met for weekly services in the West Room where usually four members attended.

We were able to celebrate Christmas with a communion service led by Rev Anne before we decided not to worship again at the chapel for the time being. Although we couldn't have the planned Covenant Service with Garvestone members in January Rev Anne led a service at Garvestone for three members and three households were able to join via Zoom. One member continues to join them for weekly services and others listen to the Circuit Weekly Zoom services or continue to have the Weekly Worship Sheet delivered to their homes.

We look forward to all meeting again when everyone has had their vaccinations and restrictions ease.

**Jesus said: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.**

Matthew 11:29

CHURCHES

SWAFFHAM

Swaffham Methodist Church has been closed for the month of January and I wouldn't be surprised if it remains closed for longer. The only thing I can say is that people can check out our website for updates.

www.swaffhammethodistchurch.org

During lockdown we've been keeping in touch by phone and many of us are becoming increasingly confident in using Zoom, for Sunday Services, coffee lounge etc. The Worship at Home sheets are very popular with our congregation and we look forward to quizzes etc to help during these times.

WELLS

Cliff suggested that we mention that he is keeping in his prayers all who are lonely, in isolation, in pain or bereaved.

Sadie Spalding has had a fall and has broken her pelvis. She is home from hospital now and is managing with help from carers who come in twice a day but she is in some discomfort. I'm sure she has many friends in the circuit who would be interested to learn of her predicament.

Cliff did say that there are no plans to reopen the church in the near future.

TOFTWOOD

Nothing open in the hall as yet. However, the Church is open on a Sunday for private prayer 10.00 to 10.45am.

HOLT

Like everybody else we are longing for the time we can re-open the church and meet together for worship and, hopefully, be able to socialise together afterwards. It will all happen in God's good time.

Phase 2 of our Development Plan has, understandably, slowed to a crawl but it is very much still on the cards and we are encouraged to proceed with final plans and then permissions (and fund-raising!) as soon as restrictions permit.

GOD THE CREATOR

The universe, stars, moon and planets,
The earth, with its seasons and tides
Were created – with utmost precision –
By 'The Master', who plans and provides.

This most wonderful, beautiful, world
Of oceans, of land and of sky –
With its vast diversity of life –
Was created for you and I.

In rainbow colours, of a myriad of shades,
Natures glories of flora abound.
Animal species, from minute to
enormous,
Along with humankind, are to be found.

So! Who can deny God's existence,
In this vast and wondrous scheme?
Who but The Almighty! The King of Kings!
Could have created something so
supreme?

Olive Brown

AROUND THE CIRCUIT

For your information, prayer and support

Please remember that the information given in the boxes on the following pages refers to what was happening before the initial lockdown. This doesn't mean that everything will re-start when churches re-open. Some activities will probably never re-start, others will take their place. Keep praying!

HOLT

Stepping Stones: 9.30 a.m. a weekly session for pre-school children and babies with their parents or carers in term-time.

Service at Lloyd Court: 11.00 a.m. on Thursdays.

Friday Prayer Time: 9.30 a.m. on Fridays.

Cream Teas and Olive's Bargain Basement: 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. third Friday in the month.

Contemporary Worship / Healing Service: 6.30 p.m. third Sunday in the month.

Healing Service: 6.30 p.m.

Bereavement Support Group: 10.30 – 11.45 a.m. second Monday in the month.

Easter Day Services:

6.00 a.m. Sunrise Service on Spout Hills

11.00 a.m. Easter Day Celebration Service

SWAFFHAM

Power of Prayer Group: Every Friday 9.30 a.m. Praying for our world.

Coffee Mornings: Every Saturday 9.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon

The Meeting Place: 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon every Tuesday and Thursday Free refreshments and a friendly welcome. Pause for Thought at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesdays. Traidcraft stall on the first Tuesday of the month.

Thursday Group: 2.30 – 4.00 p.m.

STIBBARD

Praise Together: 4.00 p.m.

Ecumenical Prayers and Coffee: 10.30 a.m. last Tuesday in the month.

Lunch @ The Centre: 12.30 p.m. second Wednesday in the month.

Railway Film Afternoons with Tea and Cake: 2.30 p.m.

Circuit Choir Practice: 7.30 p.m. first and third Friday in the month

WELLS & WIGHTON AT WELLS with Churches Together in Wells

Prayer and Praise: 10.30 a.m. every Wednesday.

Informal Art Group: 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon every Tuesday. All welcome. For further details please contact Frances Graham on 07398 127935.

WENDLING

Coffee mornings: 10.30 – 12.00 noon first Wednesday.

BEETLEY

Bible Study: Contact John Hull 01362 695154

Drop In: 2.00 – 3.00 p.m. first and third Wednesdays in the month.

Prayer Meetings: 9.30 a.m. first Wednesday in the month.

Natter and Knit: 2.00 – 3.00 p.m. fourth Wednesday in the month.

Coffee Mornings: 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. Saturdays in alternate months in aid of a local charity

GREAT ELLINGHAM

Coffee Mornings (including sales table and home-made cakes): 10.00 – 11.00 a.m. first Tuesday in the month.

Fellowship Meetings: 2.30 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday in the month.

WATTON

We hope to resume the Wednesday Coffee Mornings and Open Church as and when it is possible to do so.

BLAKENEY

Messy Church: second Tuesday in the month 3.00 p.m. in the Parish Church

Bible Study: Tuesdays 10.00 a.m. in the Parish Church.

Contemplative Prayer: Tuesdays 5.45 p.m. in the Methodist Church.

Thursday Worship: Thursdays 10.00 a.m. in the Methodist Church with Holy Communion on the 3rd Thursday.

DEREHAM

Trinity

Women's Own: 2.45 p.m. every Tuesday (details Olwyn Brough 01362 692799).

Wednesday Club: 7.30 p.m. last Wednesday of the month (details Jacky Woor 01362 697860).

Coffee Mornings: 10.00 a.m. third Thursday.

Lunch Club: 12.00 noon second Thursday (details Pam Beardsmore 01362 854394).

Mid-Week Communion: 10.30 a.m. fourth Thursday.

Cards & Chatter: 11.15 a.m. fourth Thursday (details Sylvia Meredith 01362 693425).

Prayer Meetings: 10.00 a.m. first Thursday (details Rev Betty 01362 692279).

Coffee Morning: fifth Thursday at 12 Elvin Road Dereham (details Sylvia Meredith 01362 693425).

HINGHAM

Market and Coffee Shop with Crafty Corner for children: 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon first Saturday in the month.

Bible Discussion Group: 10.00 – 11.30 a.m. at Hassingham House Care Home, Hardingham Street, Hingham fortnightly on Mondays.

LITCHAM

Coffee Mornings: every Thursday 10.30 – 12.00 noon.

TITTLESHALL

Coffee Mornings: every Wednesday 10.30 – 12.00 noon.

TOFTWOOD

Monday's Lace Group: Mondays 9.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon.

Guides: Mondays, 7.00 – 8.30 p.m.

Messy Church: second Tuesdays 3.30 – 6.00 p.m.

Carpet Bowls Club: Tuesdays 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. (except first Tuesday)
Thursdays 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

Coffee Mornings: first and third Wednesdays
10.00 a.m. until 11.30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting: 9.30 a.m. every third Wednesday

Craft Group: first Wednesday 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

Lunch and Linger: second Wednesday, 12.00 noon – 3.00 p.m.

Film Club: second Friday 2.00 p.m. Admission by donation of £2.00 for refreshments at 4.00 p.m.

Private Prayer: the church is open for private prayer on Sundays 10.00 – 10.45 a.m. until normal services begin again.

GARVESTONE

Prayer Meetings: 2.00 p.m. March 19th.
7.00 p.m. April 16th, May 21st.

Ecumenical Lent Course: 2.00 p.m. February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th. Further details on page 18.

MATTISHALL

Led Prayers: 8.45 - 9.15 a.m. with Rev Anne via Zoom. March 12th, April 9th, May 14th.

Diary dates when they can commence again:

Monthly Charity Coffee Mornings: 10.00 – 11.30 a.m. first Saturday in the month.

Mattishall Dementia Support Group – “The Link”: 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon. first and third Tuesdays in the month.

SCULTHORPE AND FAKENHAM

Fellowship, tea and biscuits at Lee Warner Avenue Lounge: 3.00 p.m. third Sunday in the month.

SPORLE

Ecumenical Men's Prayer Group: 8.00 a.m. weekly on Saturdays.

WALSINGHAM

Fortnightly Service on Thursday evenings on Zoom: See pages 9 & 23.

TO MAKE YOU SMILE

We're all tired of the pandemic

We hope Covid won't be endemic

We'll all get our job

And that will be fab

So to history we can condemn it.

Anon

REGULAR MEETINGS

Continued from page 24

Thurs	10.00am	W	Thursday Worship	Blakeney MC
Thurs	10.00am	M	Coffee Morning	Dereham Trinity MC
Thurs	10.00am	M	Prayer Meeting	Dereham Trinity MC
Thurs	10.00-12.00	W	The Meeting Place	Swaffham MC
Thurs	10.30am	M	Mid-week Communion	Dereham Trinity MC
Thurs	10.30-12.00	W	Coffee Morning	Litcham MC
Thurs	11.00am	W	Service at Lloyd Court	Holt MC
Thurs	11.15am	M	Cards and Chatter	Dereham Trinity MC
Thurs	12.00noon	M	Lunch Club	Dereham Trinity MC
Thurs	2.00-4.00	W	Carpet Bowls Club	Toftwood MC
Fri	8.45-9.15am	M	Led Prayers	Mattishall MC
Fri	9.30am	W	Prayer Service	Holt MC
Fri	9.30 am	W	Power of Prayer Group	Swaffham MC
Fri	7.00pm	M	Prayer Meeting	Garvestone MC
Fri	2.00-4.00	M	Cream Teas and Olive's Bargain Basement	Holt MC
Fri	2.00pm	M	Film Club	Toftwood MC
Fri	7.30pm	F	Circuit Choir Practice	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Sat	8.00am	W	Ecumenical Men's Prayer Group	Sporle MC
Sat	9.30-11.30	M	Coffee Morning (in aid of a local charity)	Beetley MC
Sat	9.30-12.00	W	Coffee Morning (usually run by a local charity)	Swaffham MC
Sat	10.00-11.30	M	Charity Coffee Morning	Mattishall MC
Sat	10.00-12.00	M	Market and Coffee Shop	Hingham MC
Sat	2.30pm	M	Railway Film Afternoon	Stibbard M Ch Centre

**Midweek worship with
Walsingham**

Every other Thursday at 7.15 pm
**A short online interactive service of prayer, praise
and reflection**

**Contact Sam on 01263 711824 or Glyn on 07793
866072 to join**

All are welcome !

REGULAR MEETINGS

These will re-start as and when permission is granted and churches feel able to resume..

The frequency is indicated by a red letter:

W weekly
F fortnightly
M monthly

Further details can be found under the relevant church on pages 20-22

Sun	3.00pm	M	Fellowship at Lee Warner Avenue	led by Sculthorpe & Fakenham MC
Sun	4.00pm	M	Praise Together	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Sun	6.30pm	M	Contemporary Worship / Healing Service	Holt MC
Mon	9.30-12.00	W	Monday's Lace Group	Toftwood MC
Mon	10.00-11.30	F	Bible Discussion Group	Hassingham House, Hingham
Mon	10.30-11.45	M	Bereavement Support Group	Holt MC
Mon	7.00-8.30	W	Guides	Toftwood MC
Tues	9.30am	W	Stepping Stones	Holt MC
Tues	10.00am	W	Bible Study	Blakeney Parish Ch
Tues	10.00-11.00	M	Coffee Morning	Great Ellingham MC
Tues	10.00-12.00	F	Dementia Support Group—"The Link"	Mattishall MC
Tues	10.00-12.00	W	The Meeting Place	Swaffham MC
Tues	10.00-12.00	W	Informal Art Group	Wells MC
Tues	10.30-12.00	M	Knit and Natter	Garvestone—see page 22
Tues	10.30am	M	Ecumenical Prayers and Coffee	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Tues	2.30pm	F	Fellowship meeting	Great Ellingham MC
Tues	2.45pm	W	Women's Own	Dereham Trinity MC
Tues	3.00pm	M	Messy Church	Blakeney Parish Ch
Tues	3.30-6.00	M	Messy Church	Toftwood MC
Tues	5.45pm	W	Contemplative Prayer	Blakeney MC
Tues	7.00-8.30	W	Carpet Bowls Club (except first Tuesday)	Toftwood MC
Wed	9.30am	M	Prayer Meeting	Beetley MC
Wed	9.30am	M	Prayer Meeting	Toftwood MC
Wed	10.00-11.30	F	Coffee Morning	Toftwood MC
Wed	10.30-12.00	W	Coffee Morning	Tittleshall MC
Wed	10.30am	W	Prayer and Praise	Wells MC
Wed	10.30-12.00	M	Coffee Morning	Wendling MC
Wed	9.30-11.30	W	Coffee Morning	Watton MC
Wed	10.00-12.00	W	Open Church for Private Prayer	Watton MC
Wed	12.00noon	M	Lunch @ The Centre	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Wed	12.00-3.00	M	Lunch and Linger	Toftwood MC
Wed	2.00-3.00	F	Drop in	Beetley MC
Wed	2.00-3.00	M	Natter and Knit	Beetley MC
Wed	2.00-4.00	M	Craft Group	Toftwood MC
Wed	7.30pm	M	Wednesday Club	Dereham Trinity MC