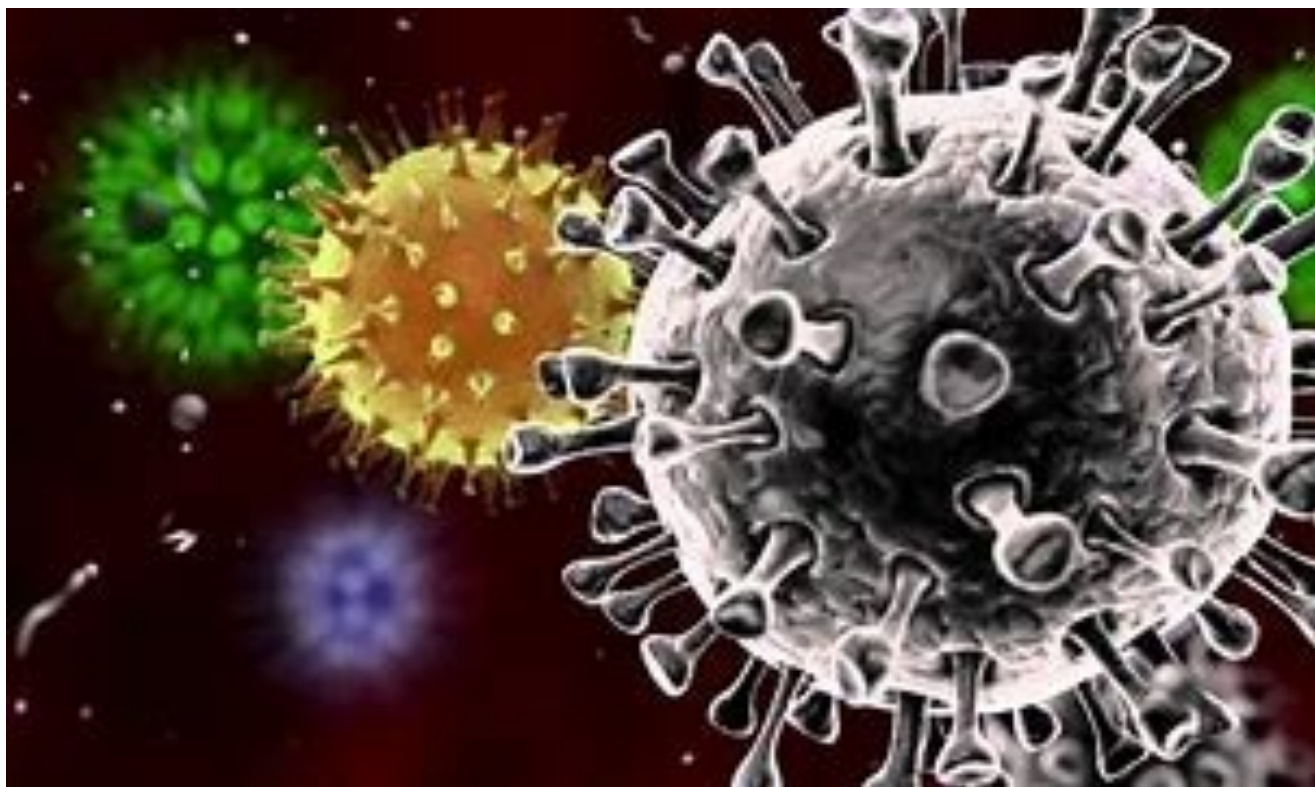


# THE LINK

Issue 49 December 20 / February 21



**There is no fear in love, But perfect love drives out fear.**

*1 John 4:18*

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See page 3 for deadlines and Editor's contact information

# MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

My own policy in the Covid time has been to try and stay positive, and to look for positive ways forward in what is obviously a dreadful situation for our country and for the world (and tragic and traumatic for millions). In terms of church life, we can – as in most things – see the glass as half empty or as half full. If we are on the gloomy side, we see split congregations (some in church, some worshipping at home, some online), financial losses, a lack of social and caring physical contact. However, the glass half full people will be delighted at the variety of worship opportunities, rejoicing in the number of people who have increased their giving (and switched to giving through their bank accounts), and praising all the caring that has gone on by telephone and, most recently, by socially distanced visits.



Of course, things are going to be difficult for some time to come. Of course, a few churches may not make it to re-opening. Of course, it is going to be a tough Winter especially if we are once again in a full lockdown (particularly if it is over Christmas). However, I would like to suggest a way forward for us as Methodists, and as Christians, that recognises the difficulties but that also sees God in the positives. A way forward that acknowledges that the Holy Spirit has been, and is, at work in new initiatives and in new ways of being the Church. You may have seen this before, but I don't apologise for offering it again – my 'going forward' acrostic:

G od first,  
O wning our Spirituality...  
I n Community,  
ChoosiN g our Worship,  
G iving to others.



FORWARD



God must always come first and, as Christian disciples, we are always seeking to put him at the centre of the whole of our lives. Whether we are at home, or out and about, we have new opportunities to own our own spirituality and to develop our relationship with God in the week and not just on Sundays. We have new ways of being in community with each other and we can continue to assure others that we care for them, and they belong to our network that is the Methodist family. I hope that most people have received by now, the 'belonging card' that contains a piece of jigsaw puzzle that represents being part of the Central Norfolk Methodist Circuit and its constituent churches. [See page 4. Ed.] In these strange times, we are able to choose our ways of worship and, maybe, to do different things on different occasions but we can still hold together in Christian love and fellowship. Finally, we can continue to work out our discipleship in outreach to others, albeit it may be at a distance and may involve relating to a different set of people from usual.

[Continued on page 3]

# THE LINK

You hear quite enough from me each quarter urging us to keep praying (still valid!) so this time we have a poem from Stephen Lynn. Enjoy!

Tony Hey



## TOO BUSY DOING CHRISTMAS



We're too busy doing Christmas to do Christmas.  
So many other things we have to do.  
This is no time to be stopping,  
We've got trollies full of shopping;  
Food enough to feed a small country or two.  
We're too busy doing Christmas to do Christmas.  
No time to think about a baby's birth;  
No time to stop and pray, or reflect on Christmas Day;  
No time for loving words or peace on earth.

We're too busy doing Christmas to do Christmas.  
We've got presents that we've got to buy galore!  
There is no time for relaxing,  
Credit cards we must be maxing,  
As frantically we move from store to store.  
We're too busy doing Christmas to do Christmas.  
No time to contemplate what it all means.  
No time to think of Jesus  
Who from all our sins releases.  
By the Grace of God the slate can be wiped clean.

We're too busy doing Christmas to do Christmas;  
Hanging tinsel, decorating Christmas trees.

All the huffing and the puffing, and the turkey still needs stuffing.

All this stress has nearly brought us to our knees.

We're too busy doing Christmas to do Christmas  
And somehow we lost Jesus on the way,  
We don't look into that stable  
which is why we are all able  
To really celebrate on Christmas Day.

We're too busy doing Christmas to do Christmas.  
Making Christmas cakes, and puddings must be stirred.

We are far too busy stressing,  
It's really quite depressing,  
All this stress has nearly brought us to our knees.

So while we're there why not slow down a bit this Christmas,  
And really think about the holy birth.  
Let's make time to stop and pray,  
And reflect on Christmas Day  
The reason that God sent his Son to live on Earth.

# DEADLINE

FOR THE  
MARCH—MAY  
EDITION

**SATURDAY 30th  
JANUARY**

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

## CONTACT DETAILS

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# THE CIRCUIT JIGSAW

This is the complete Circuit Jigsaw from which we should have all received a piece. Without *your* piece the Circuit is not complete.

See Jacqui's Minister's Letter on page 2.



*[Minister's Letter—continued from page 2]*

We have no idea what is going to happen in 2021 or how any of our churches are ultimately going to be affected. But, this is the case with the whole of life – it always has the capacity to be surprising, to be unexpected, to be uncertain, to be a struggle. However, it also always has the capacity to hold joy, to reveal God, and to uncover God's surprising and powerful purposes. We are called to continue to trust him and to seek his kingdom first so that everything else will fall in place.

With prayers and blessings,

*Jacqui*

# WALSINGHAM ZOOM SHARING TIMES

One positive thing to come out of the last 7 months is the way people of all ages have been able to embrace new technologies (even when some thought they wouldn't be able to!!) and get the hang of using them. Zoom, WhatsApp, Facetime, Youtube etc have all become very familiar to us and opened up new ways of sharing together and keeping in touch.

The Northern Prayer Fellowship has morphed from a monthly meeting to a weekly one at 7.30 p.m. every Monday evening held under the Walsingham Zoom banner but with members from the Pilgrim Church, Holt, Stibbard and Fulmodeston. In truth the name is a bit of misnomer as we have a Bible Study for about 50 minutes based around the lectionary readings followed by 10-15 minutes of prayer together. If you want to join us you are welcome to actively participate or just sit and listen.

Since we haven't been able to hold our monthly services and meal together in the chapel we have been holding a fortnightly service on Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m. on Zoom. These last about 40 mins and include music which is screen shared. They appear on YouTube afterwards where they can be seen at leisure.

Usually 14-17 of us meet together sometimes including participants from as far away as Devon and Tamworth!!

Provisional dates are 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 17<sup>th</sup> December, 31<sup>st</sup> December, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 11<sup>th</sup> February and 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Please feel free to join us as and when you are able.

The links for all the above are

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

ID 609 223 6700

There is no password so if you type the ID into the "Join a meeting" box you will appear in the waiting room and we will let you in. Any questions or problems with the technology please give me a ring on 07793866072 or email us at [walsinghammethodist@gmail.com](mailto:walsinghammethodist@gmail.com)





# BACK TO CHURCH AND

## Sarah Rodgers writes about the

What a roller-coaster! Should we, shouldn't we, could we, couldn't we, what if, what about, who will and how?! (Set that to music!)

No doubt we are not the only church to grapple with the challenges of reopening but we are so glad we have.

Putting aside the detail on social-distancing, sanitising and steering the congregation through safe systems, all of which had to be done, we couldn't even be sure of there being a congregation! But on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 26 people came through the doors. (Well, strictly speaking, in one door and out the other!)

The response to reopening church was very encouraging and as everything else was so different about the church-going experience, here was a wonderful opportunity to re-invent, refresh and reinvigorate how we worship.

With a team of six worship leaders (three others are shielding) we have created themed series of



services and

worked together to pool ideas and resources to make these come alive.

Our first series was Teaching and Learning based on the lectionary readings of parables from Matthew's gospel. As the poster says, we used video, drama poetry and music to illustrate the messages of the parables, messages of forgiveness, grace, obedience, truth and action.

Resources to illustrate some of these included filmed scenarios, the story of reconciliation between Jo Berry and Patrick Magee, the Brighton bomber who murdered Jo's father, poetry by Robert Frost, a dramatized excerpt from Winnie the Pooh and much more!



# 'DOING DIFFERENT'!

## new-style services at Swaffham

Sam Parfitt and Rosemary Wakelin were on the plan for us during this first series and it was a delight to have them embrace our new approach and to contribute their own inspirational ideas.

At time of writing we are part way through a series on Letters, drawing its inspiration from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians and using film clips, a video of Benedict Cumberbatch talking about the Letters Live project and a mini webinar on how to write a great newsletter, with examples from Paul's writing.

All a bit rum you might think? Not a bit of it.

## SUNDAYS AT 10.45AM Looking at **LETTERS**

**Letters** to the Thessalonians

**Letters** of Encouragement

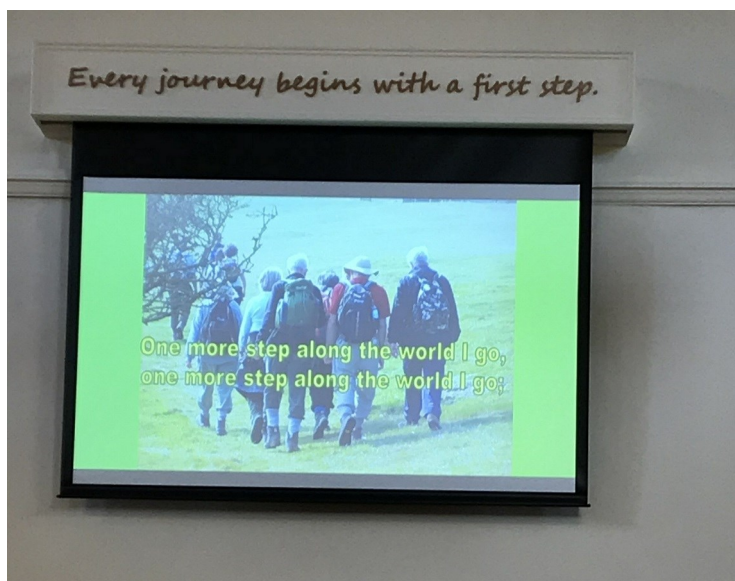
**Letters** of Love **Letters** of Hope

The Power of **Letters**

Thank You **Letters**

Connecting through **Letters**

[www.swaffhammethodistchurch.org](http://www.swaffhammethodistchurch.org)



Here are some comments from our WhatsApp group:

*"a wonderful service", "I like the split message; I think smaller chunks are easier to focus on", "lovely service today", "simply and beautifully done", "a very meaningful service; it feels like the way forward for the future."*

We are one step along the way and learning as we go but we are also seeing some new people coming through the door and maybe, just maybe, the refreshed worship is showing we are being relevant and have at least one foot in today's world!

# THOUGHTS ON OLD AGE

David Yarham

I wrote the following poems in middle age wondering what it would be like to be old.

Now I am old I reckon that my musings were not far from the truth!

## AS OBSERVED

I saw an old man  
toothless, with mouth awry  
and sunken, dark ringed eyes  
that clearly showed  
a long familiarity with pain  
Lame and with failing sight,  
with gnarled, arthritic hands  
he grasped two whitened sticks,  
fearful lest he should fall.

Thoughtless, I saw no more  
than dull decrepitude

But what I did not see  
was that man's mind;  
the wisdom gained  
from long experience  
of this world's vagaries;  
the wealth of days he stored  
in vaults of memory.

Nor could I glimpse the dreams  
which set him free to roam  
by childhood's well loved ways  
the woods and fields of home

I could not see the love,  
both given and received,  
which gave his life its worth;  
his care and sacrifice  
for those he held most dear  
his gentle kindness  
to all who passed him near.

I could not see the faith -  
the light which let him view  
dark death's approaching shade  
with equanimity.

I saw an old, old man  
and yet the man's true self  
I did not, could not, see.

## AS EXPERIENCED

You would not know me now, so have I  
changed.

The bloom you knew has faded.

Imagination that once ranged so wide  
now hobbles haltingly,  
and dreams which looked towards a golden  
dawn  
are now content with twilight's fading grey.  
On friendship's hearth warm coals of memory  
lie smothered by the ashes of the years.

Yet, could we meet again, could I but hear  
that well-loved voice and clasp your hand in  
mine -

the lame would leap again,  
darkness give place today,  
and flames rekindled melt my wintered heart  
to April tears of overflowing joy.

---

## A MESSAGE FROM BILLY JORDAN OF FAKENHAM

I would like to thank everyone in the old Fakenham, Wells and Holt circuit for the happy times my wife Irene and I had with you and for all the friends we had especially those who have supported me since she died. We worshipped at Fakenham Methodist Church for many years and we enjoyed your fellowship.

I have now decided to move to Hitchin to be with my family with whom I have been living during Lockdown. I shall miss you all but I have many happy memories of my years in Fakenham, I will not forget you.



# HARVEST AT GARVESTONE

Our new Minister, Rev Anne Richardson, is in the pulpit. The offering was donated to Christian Aid, the fresh produce was donated to the Community Fridge in Dereham, and the remainder to the local Food Bank.



## THOUGHTS FROM SAM

Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that the last months of 2020 would be so very different to its beginning, life has altered in so many ways that to imagine a time before social distancing, masks and hand sanitizer seems to be imaging a time long ago! During this quarter we have returned to worship in person at Blakeney and although we have returned to a very different style and restrictions, it is good to come together once again. At Walsingham we continue to worship via zoom every other Thursday at 7.30pm and welcome

anyone who would like to join us, please contact Glyn or myself for details. This quarter we are offering a life size Silhouette Nativity at Walsingham for the week beginning the 14<sup>th</sup> December, with the Chapel open daily during the week from 4-6pm. We hope this will be a space to pause and reflect during what for many of us will continue to be a busy season, despite Covid restrictions.

God bless you

Sam

# A FUTURE FOR

## From Geraldine Allen

In these difficult times, when we have found ourselves outside of our buildings and outside the routine of going to church, the work of God has not stopped. Across Connexion there has been a fresh focus on creating new ideas for old spaces.

This is happening in the north of our Circuit in Blakeney and Walsingham and now Great Cressingham in the south of the Circuit is being given the opportunity to become one of these spaces.

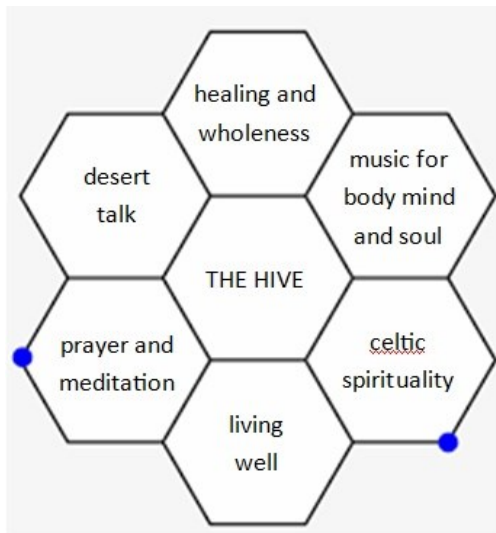


Great Cressingham is a tranquil chapel in lovely surroundings and a place of prayer and praise for many years. Circuit has now accepted a proposal for a new initiative for Great Cressingham which has been put forward in response to the missional values of the Connexional strategy for Evangelism and Growth: ***connecting to those who are not currently relating to church and Christian faith.***

# GREAT CRESSINGHAM

Sarah and I are both part of the Connexional Pioneer Pathways programme, and together with David and Susan Jones, members at Swaffham Methodist Church, we have put forward the idea of creating a new Centre for seeking, learning and sharing and are calling it, 'The Hive' - a place of community, society, relationship and purpose – exploring spirituality for all.

Faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century invites many questions:



How do we come alive to a spiritual search?

How do we gain spiritual understanding?

How do we journey with others?

How do we find a path to God?

How do we listen and respond?

In creating *The Hive*, we aim to provide an opportunity for exploring these themes more deeply by reading, studying, talking, listening, reflecting, meditating.

Through this we hope to find connectedness, rhythm, peace, balance, belonging, and a sense of stewardship.

This, we hope, will help people to find a new way in a fragmented world and will reach out to those for whom traditional church has no meaning.

A new place for new people: we are dreaming big and listening hard.

There is lots of work to do and we would welcome the support and prayers of Circuit as we begin to turn ideas into action.

Our launch event will be in the chapel grounds in December: The Christmas Story – a Living Nativity. (Lockdowns permitting!)

Watch this space!



## MADY'S GUEST

The pain being over,  
now I feel the sense of loss.  
To see, to touch  
caress and kiss  
can never be the same  
as when my body was your home.  
Then you were mine,  
and yet not mine,  
for when you stirred  
(although that was our secret)  
I knew  
the life contained within me  
was not me.  
You were my guest,  
my body housed your need  
until it grew too great.  
And though a little while  
I can sustain you yet,  
the first painful parting's done,  
from now it is all partings.  
From me you learn to walk,  
that you can be  
the Way  
that I may learn to tread.  
From me you learn the words  
that you can speak  
the Truth  
that I may comprehend.  
From me you suck the life  
that you can be  
The Living Bread  
that I may feed upon  
and live.  
From me you learn  
the love  
which is the sword  
that pierces my heart through  
and nails you to the Cross.  
In your necessity  
my dearest dear  
you were the guest  
I entertained,  
now you are Host  
and at your table  
I shall be sustained.

Rosemary Wakelin

## A NORFOLK MORNING

I feel the cool morning air caressing my face  
The awakening sun stretching out its rays  
A cockerel is proclaiming the start of a new day  
Chickens appear strutting and pecking the dewy  
grass  
As tweeting birds hover looking for food.  
I smile as I feel the presence of God.  
A woodpecker hammers in the nearby woods  
As rabbits scurry and jump about playing their  
games  
Hungry Blue tits pounce on the bird feeders and  
Chaffinches eagerly join in while  
Mr Thrush serenades me with his songs.  
I smile as I feel the presence of God.  
I look around and see the beauty of God's world  
In the quiet stillness of the gentle morning  
The sound of silence slowly diminishing  
Cars speed past carrying their loads  
Into the excitement of a day yet to unfold.  
I smile as I feel the presence of God.  
The world awakes peace is shattered  
Bustling noise takes its place  
People rushing, children running  
Busy streets and busy towns  
Yet even amid the roaring traffic  
I smile as I feel the presence of God.  
The presence of God is everywhere  
In the quietness, in the noise  
In the peaceful silence, in the hectic rush of life  
As the world sleeps and wakes,  
What a truly amazing gift we have been given  
I smile and think what a wonderful world.

© Deirdre Moden 2016



Join us for a  
*cozy night in*

A short Zoom service every other  
Thursday at 7.30pm  
contact Sam or Glyn at  
walsinghammethodist@gmail.com  
01263 711824 to book a place



# NEWS AND THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM CLIFF AND CHRISTINE

Dear Friends

We hope you're keeping well. Christine and 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.



Coronavirus has caused uncertainty in all our lives. But the impact on the children and families we support, who already face huge challenges, has been devastating. In response to the pandemic, we launched an Emergency Coronavirus Appeal in April through our Friday Global prayer and praise service. The money raised helped a family in Zimbabwe who gave birth to triplets. We supported them with formula and nappies.

But much more needs to be done for disadvantaged children we support locally and abroad. Find out how you can give these children support: <https://worldismyparishchildrensfoundation.com/tip-jars/3623>

With Christmas approaching we kindly ask for Christmas presents or donations for our disadvantaged Children.

Thank you, once again, for everything you're doing for our Charity work.

Love, thoughts and prayers from

*Cliff and Christine*

For more information about our Charity work please get in touch with us:

Email: [worldismyparishcf@gmail.com](mailto:worldismyparishcf@gmail.com)

Website: <https://worldismyparishchildrensfoundation.com>

YouTube Channel: <https://youtube.com/c/revcliffandchristineshanganya>



*From Stephen Lynn:* In past years the Methodist Chapel at Litcham have held Macmillan Coffee Mornings, which were not possible this year.

However, after a local appeal for donations, we are pleased to report that we will be

able to send over £400 (exact total not clear at the time of writing).

In addition, we know that some folk have sent donations directly to Macmillan, so we are really thrilled with the response during these difficult times.

# WALSINGHAM PROPERTY NEWS

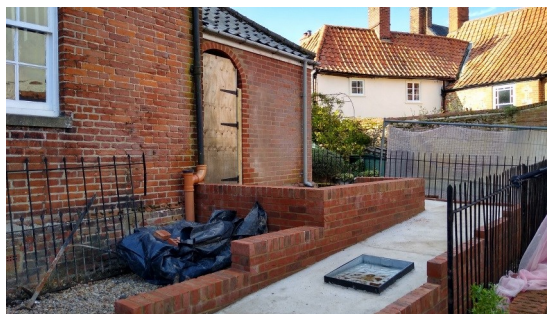


*From Glyn Constantine:* Over the summer despite being closed for visitors and services we have made real and tangible progress. On one front we have been able to develop an online Zoom ministry (see the separate article) which would never have happened if not for Covid.

On the other hand this has given us the opportunity to catch up on much needed deferred maintenance and also make progress

on the ramp project. Both are making a real difference to the chapel which looks so much cleaner and brighter inside and out. This work is ongoing.

Have a look at a sneak preview of the ramp work (see the next Link for the internal changes to the toilet block) and also the before and after photos of the upper windows which Dan Percy has been doing a great job on for us.



We had noticed some damage to the plaster work at the top of the stairs at the end of last year. We were also able to get this lime plastered. It was fascinating seeing the original laths being exposed for the first time since 1794. Even more fascinating was seeing the original red ox hair (Suffolk Red ?) the builders used to reinforce the plaster. To imagine that animal was alive around the time of John Wesley's death!! It makes us realise that we are indeed custodians of a rich tradition, both in the building, but more importantly in our Christian faith.

Join us for

## A Silhouette Nativity



We are offering a time to pause and reflect during Advent focusing on our life size silhouette nativity scene in The Pilgrim Methodist Church Walsingham

Open December 14th-19th from 4-6pm

Free Nativity Goody Bag

(Subject to Covid restrictions)





# JOYCE BLOWER

## AN APPRECIATION

*Stephen Lynn writes:* Joyce Blower has always been a part of my life. She was a contemporary of my parents, and she and Aubrey actually shared a wedding anniversary with my parents, both couples marrying on September 26<sup>th</sup>. 1948, although 100 miles apart.

Joyce and Aubrey were near neighbours of our family in Weasenham, living about a hundred yards away from us. We really got to know each other as friends during the mid-1960's when I first became involved in Methodism, and their Daughter Janet was part of the Sunday school. Things moved up a gear in our relationship in 1967, when, on an October evening, I went to the chapel in Rougham to hear, what in those days was called a 'Gospel Rhythm Group' (now we would call them a Worship Band), called the Skirmishers, who were based in Terrington St. Clement.

I felt that our Circuit (the old Swaffham Circuit) ought to be able to produce something similar, and the first people I spoke to about it were Joyce, Aubrey and Janet. Encouraged by them, I contacted various others, and we met together at Weasenham chapel. From this nucleus came a group who would become the Messengers, and Joyce took on the role of Bookings Secretary. We led Praise Evenings in virtually every Methodist church in Central and West Norfolk during the next five years, along with many churches of other denominations, and we would come to rehearsals each week anticipating which 'exotic' location had asked us along. (In those far away days Attleborough was the other side of the Universe!).

Luckily, Joyce's husband, Aubrey, held a PSV license and had a good friend who owned a coach firm so he would drive us to bookings by bus, along with all our gear and our 'groupies', a faithful band of supporters who travelled with us all over the county.

Joyce was a very talented 'ear' musician, playing the harmonica and melodica, as well as possessing a fine singing voice.

On a personal level, Joyce and Aubrey became like an honorary aunt and uncle to Sheila and myself during the early part of our relationship. They were always there for us when we needed support, and we would eventually become next door neighbours when we married.

By this time Joyce had become Warden of the sheltered housing scheme at Lamberts Close in Weasenham, a position she held until her retirement. Sheila took on a similar role at Litcham in 1977, so although we were no longer neighbours, we were still in close contact through their respective jobs.

When Joyce retired, she, Aubrey and Janet moved to Hempton, which is where they became involved with the church at Fakenham, before moving to Oak St. in Fakenham, right next door to the chapel. They quickly integrated into the life of the church, and Joyce would often be seen bustling around in her 'pinnie', with her characteristic greeting, 'Are you alright?'

Joyce's genuine love for people was always at the forefront, although she was never afraid to voice her opinion if she was in disagreement with a situation.

Joyce epitomised the phrase, 'A quiet force for good', and her gentle, can do attitude is a fine example for us all.

We will never forget you Joyce. Rest in peace in the place prepared for you.

## WELLS

We continue to publish a weekly newsletter which keeps our members in touch with each other and enables us to keep up to date with our prayer list. Since we re-opened the church building at the start of October we have seen approximately half our congregation returning, plus some visitors. Each week the preacher provides in advance a copy of his/her service and sermonette and this is published in the weekly newsletter, thereby enabling those who worship at home to join with those in church, using the same material. This is proving most helpful and we are grateful to the various preachers for providing their material in advance in this way. The Revd Colin Garwood edits and produces the letter and Mrs Angela Fennell is responsible for its distribution by email or printed copy. By request, several copies are sent to friends in other parts of the country. At the service in church, all the Covid19 restrictions are observed, including two metre spacing, one way walking, masks, glass screen for the preacher, records of attendees and not singing aloud. Members and friends try to keep in touch by telephone, this is important with an elderly congregation, many of whom cannot take the risk of mixing with other people. At present it has not been possible to re-start the Wednesday Prayer and Praise, but its revival is being kept in review. As is the custom a service of remembrance will be held on Sunday 8th November and this will commence at 10.50 a.m. in order to allow for the national two minutes silence at



## STIBBARD

We managed to fulfil Covid requirements to open the Church on August 30<sup>th</sup> and have been pleased to welcome friends for worship. We have also managed to open for Railway Film Afternoons on the first Saturday of the month, albeit without crumpets. The Northern Prayer Fellowship has increased from once a month to once a week, thanks to Glyn's technical know-how, and the Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship, usually once a month on a Tuesday morning, has again increased to once a week. We started on Zoom, then as restrictions were lifted we met in each others' gardens, and as the temperature dropped we met in the Church. Since Eunice, from All Saints' Church, found herself in hospital for an emergency operation, we have turned back to Zoom as she recovers.

Within Covid restrictions the Church is being used for Parish Council meetings as the Village Hall is not yet open, and a small recorder group meets on a Thursday afternoon, any players very welcome.

As I write this we are waiting for an announcement from the Prime Minister which may well change any thoughts we have of opening for lunches again, but we shall see what happens.

---

### WELLS *(continued)*

11.00. Everyone is welcome at this service when the usual coronavirus restrictions will be observed. Throughout this time of national emergency our church is ready to offer what help it can through bodies like food bank, Churches Together in Wells and Wells hub.

# CHURCHES

## WATTON

We have been pleased to be back in our church from 6th September for Sunday worship. We celebrated this milestone by having Coffee on the Car Park, on the previous day. The weather was fine and many people, both from the church, and passers-by enjoyed a socially distanced get-together. Sunday services are very different of course, and we miss being able to socialise over coffee afterwards. But it is good to be able to worship together. On alternate weeks when we do not have a planned preacher, we are basing our service on the Circuit Worship Sheet which helps to keep us in touch with the rest of the Circuit.

People have very much appreciated the efforts of the circuit staff, to keep a form of worship going during these difficult times, and in our church and section we have enjoyed the extra creativity of Rev Jacqui and Deacon Jen at special times during the Church year.

At the time of writing, we are unable to use the Church building, and are continuing our worship in the Centre next door, while work is in progress on our new ramp, which will enable disabled access at the front of the Church instead of the awkward, steep ramp to the back door. We hope and pray that this will be a great asset in our church life, when it is completed in December.

We look forward in hope, as we will continue to open for worship as long as we are able under the current restrictions and await a return to more normal conditions in the future. As yet we do not have plans to restart midweek activities, but are hoping to celebrate Christmas however we can.

## SWAFFHAM

Swaffham Methodist Church have resumed Sunday Services while complying with all Covid safety requirements. It's really good to be able to join together again in worship even if we can't sing!

We're very fortunate in Swaffham, that we have several Worship Leaders, so in these days when some Local Preachers are maybe shielding, Worship Leaders can share the load. We do the local arrangements every other week at the time of writing.

The Drop in will not begin again until next year. Neither will our Thursday Group. I think that will be the same for the Saturday Coffee Mornings. Very sad, but the right thing to do. We look forward to seeing the end of the virus so we can meet socially once again.

Morning Worship is held each Sunday at 10.45 a.m. As there are restrictions, we ask people to let us know if they are coming or not. At the moment we're just under the 30, but we may have to consider an extra Service if we exceed our numbers.

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## DEREHAM

We do not have any special events planned at present as obviously we do not know what the situation is going to be in the new year.

We hope to have a Carol Service of some sort on 13<sup>th</sup> December.





# NEWS FROM CHURCHES

## BEETLEY

During lockdown, the Chapel has continued to have a presence in the village with a display of Bible verses, hymns, poems, and prayers on the outside railings which have been appreciated by those walking past. Many thanks to Ann Pope for this ministry and for all the work that she is doing in keeping the premises safe.

The Chapel is open once again, holding morning services on 2nd and 4th Sundays and evening services on 1st and 3rd each month. Numbers are limited so please contact Ann Pope before attending. We have been pleased to welcome our new Minister, Rev. Anne Richardson, at two of these services so far and wish her well.

The 'Drop In' has been really missed and it is intended to restart a Wednesday afternoon meeting shortly, although in a different format.

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## HOLT

As with many churches we are doing our best to keep everyone in touch by sending round our own and Circuit material every week either online or in hard copy. When lockdown eased it was wonderful to be able to reopen our building and many of us enjoyed being able to worship together again, albeit under strict Covid restrictions.

Despite the current difficulties our Phase 2 Development is back on track and we are busy applying for the necessary permissions and starting to tackle the fundraising. The District is very supportive of our plans, as is the Circuit, so we are very optimistic but we recognise that it will happen all in good (God's) time.

## MATTISHALL

As a small congregation we have been able to meet together to worship in our smaller West Room since the beginning of September. This has been a blessing especially for those members who live alone. For our Harvest Thanksgiving service with Rev Jacqui we had a display of flowers, home grown vegetables and food items - the latter being given to the local Foodbank.

Work in the chapel has been finished at last with the new carpet being laid. Chairs can now be arranged to accommodate social distancing. Monthly Led prayers continue with Rev Anne but members and villagers alike miss the opportunity to meet for our usual monthly Coffee Mornings and occasional concerts for special occasions.

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## LITCHAM

At the time of writing we are still settling into the 'new normal' with ever changing advice and legislation with regard to Covid protocol. The chapel at Litcham looks rather like a car park for kiddies pedal cars with the floor yellow taped into 2 metre squares. The main worship area, which could easily hold a hundred people can now only take 17 individuals, with a little 'wobble room' if we are blessed with family 'bubbles'.

We are pleased that we are able to open every week, with members who are willing to take on the responsibility of worship leader, and we have enjoyed some real times of blessing during these times together.

We know that we still face challenging times, but move forward in faith.

# AROUND THE CIRCUIT

*For your information, prayer and support*

## 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. For further details please contact Frances Graham on 07398 127935.

**Advent Sunday Service:** 11.00 a.m. November 29<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Day Family Service:** 11.00 a.m.

## 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.

**Christmas Day Service:** 9.30 a.m.

## SCULTHORPE AND FAKENHAM

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

## 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).

**Carol Service:** time tbc December 13th.

## 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 Hasingham House Care Home, Hardingham Street, Hingham fortnightly on Mondays.

## SPORLE

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

## 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.

**Christingle Service:** 4.00 p.m. December 13th.

**Carol Service:** 11.00 a.m. December 20<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Day Service:** 9.30 a.m. led by Rev Anne Richardson.

**Shrove Tuesday:** February 16th (if possible).

## WATTON

**Christian Meditation:** 7.45 p.m. first and third Monday each month in the vestry.

**Every Wednesday:**

Coffee Morning: 9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. in the Christian Community Centre

Open Church for Private Prayer: 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon

**Midweek Service:** 10.00 – 10.30 a.m. second and fourth Wednesday held in the vestry

## 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.

## 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.

## LITCHAM

**Coffee Mornings:** every Thursday 10.30 – 12.00 noon

## TITTLESHALL

**Coffee Mornings:** every Wednesday 10.30 – 12.00 noon.

## WALSINGHAM

Fortnightly Service on Zoom: See display advert on page 12.



## 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.

## STIBBARD

**Praise Together:** 4.00 p.m. December 6th,  
January 3rd, February 7th.

**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. December 5th, January 2nd,  
February 6th.

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

## GARVESTONE

**Knit and Natter:** 10.30 – 12.00 noon For  
details of venues please phone Lorna Folkes  
(01362 858391).

**Prayer Meetings:** 2.00 p.m. December 18th,  
January 15th, February 19th.

## WENDLING

**Coffee mornings:** 10.30 – 12.00 noon first  
Wednesday.

## 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.

## MATTISHALL

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

**Led Prayers:** 8.45 - 9.15 a.m. with Rev Anne  
December 11th, January 8th, February 12th.

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

## CIRCUIT MEETINGS

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at Toftwood  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June at Swaffham

All meetings begin at 7.30 p.m.

## NORTHERN PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

Bible Study

Every Monday evening on Zoom

Contact Glyn Constantine for details  
07793866072

## DATES ALREADY FIXED FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT

Dates printed in black are probably definite.  
**Dates printed in blue are definitely provisional.**

Nov 29	11.00am	Advent Service	Wells MC
Dec 3	7.30pm	'Walsingham' Service	ZOOM
Dec 5	2.30pm	Railway Film Afternoon	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Dec 6	4.00pm	Praise Together	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Dec 11	8.45am	Led Prayers	Mattishall MC
Dec 13	4.00pm	Christingle Service	Toftwood MC
<b>Dec 13</b>	<b>tbc</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>	<b>Dereham Trinity MC</b>
Dec 13	2.30pm	Virtual Carol Service led by Rev Cliff	ZOOM
Dec 17	7.30pm	'Walsingham' Service	ZOOM
Dec 18	2.00pm	Prayer Meeting	Garvestone MC
Dec 20	11.00am	Carol Service	Toftwood MC
Dec 24	9.00pm	Christmas Eve service led by Rev Anne	ZOOM
Dec 25	9.30am	Christmas Day Service	Holt MC
Dec 25	9.30am	Christmas Day Service	Toftwood MC
Dec 25	11.00am	Christmas Day Family Service	Wells MC
Dec 27	10.30am	Circuit Worship and Carols	ZOOM
Dec 31	7.30pm	'Walsingham' Service	ZOOM
Jan 2	2.30pm	Railway Film Afternoon	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Jan 3	4.00pm	Praise Together	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Jan 8	8.45am	Led Prayers	Mattishall MC
Jan 14	7.30pm	'Walsingham' Service	ZOOM
Jan 15	2.00pm	Prayer Meeting	Garvestone MC
Jan 28	7.30pm	'Walsingham' Service	ZOOM
Feb 6	2.30pm	Railway Film Afternoon	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Feb 7	4.00pm	Praise Together	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Feb 11	7.30pm	'Walsingham' Service	ZOOM
Feb 12	8.45am	Led Prayers	Mattishall MC
<b>Feb 16</b>	<b>tbc</b>	<b>Shrove Tuesday event</b>	<b>Toftwood MC</b>
Feb 19	2.00pm	Prayer Meeting	Garvestone MC
Feb 25	7.30pm	'Walsingham' Service	ZOOM

### COVID DAYS

*Reopening Day at Hingham*



*Smiling behind the masks at Dereham*

## REGULAR MEETINGS

*Continued from page 24*

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

The **Methodist** Church 



### Norfolk Central Circuit North Section Churches

Holt, Wells-Next-The-Sea/ Wighton, New Holkham, Fakenham/  
Sculthorpe, Stibbard, Fulmodeston and Thursford

## ZOOM-VIRTUAL CAROL SERVICE

**Date: 13 December 2020    Time: 2:30PM**

 **All Are Welcome** 

For more details contact

**The Minister: Rev Cliff Shanganya : 01328 862174**



## 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 ??-??*

Sun	3.00pm	<b>M</b>	Fellowship at Lee Warner Avenue	led by Sculthorpe & Fakenham MC
Sun	4.00pm	<b>M</b>	Praise Together	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Sun	6.30pm	<b>M</b>	Contemporary Worship / Healing Service	Holt MC
Mon	9.30-12.00	<b>W</b>	Monday's Lace Group	Toftwood MC
Mon	10.00-11.30	<b>F</b>	Bible Discussion Group	Hassingham House, Hingham
Mon	10.30-11.45	<b>M</b>	Bereavement Support Group	Holt MC
Mon	7.00-8.30	<b>W</b>	Guides	Toftwood MC
Mon	7.45pm	<b>F</b>	Christian Meditation	Watton MC
Tues	9.30am	<b>W</b>	Stepping Stones	Holt MC
Tues	10.00am	<b>W</b>	Bible Study	Blakeney Parish Ch
Tues	10.00-11.00	<b>M</b>	Coffee Morning	Great Ellingham MC
Tues	10.00-12.00	<b>F</b>	Dementia Support Group—"The Link"	Mattishall MC
Tues	10.00-12.00	<b>W</b>	The Meeting Place	Swaffham MC
Tues	10.00-12.00	<b>W</b>	Informal Art Group	Wells MC
Tues	10.30-12.00	<b>M</b>	Knit and Natter	Garvestone—see page 22
Tues	10.30am	<b>M</b>	Ecumenical Prayers and Coffee	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Tues	2.30pm	<b>F</b>	Fellowship meeting	Great Ellingham MC
Tues	2.45pm	<b>W</b>	Women's Own (until June 23rd)	Dereham Trinity MC
Tues	3.00pm	<b>M</b>	Messy Church	Blakeney Parish Ch
Tues	3.30-6.00	<b>M</b>	Messy Church	Toftwood MC
Tues	5.45pm	<b>W</b>	Contemplative Prayer	Blakeney MC
Tues	7.00-8.30	<b>W</b>	Carpet Bowls Club (except first Tuesday)	Toftwood MC
Wed	9.30am	<b>M</b>	Prayer Meeting	Beetley MC
Wed	9.30am	<b>M</b>	Prayer Meeting	Toftwood MC
Wed	10.00-11.30	<b>F</b>	Coffee Morning	Toftwood MC
Wed	10.30-12.00	<b>W</b>	Coffee Morning	Tittleshall MC
Wed	10.30am	<b>W</b>	Prayer and Praise	Wells MC
Wed	10.30-12.00	<b>M</b>	Coffee Morning	Wending MC
Wed	9.30-11.30	<b>W</b>	Coffee Morning	Watton MC
Wed	10.00-10.30	<b>F</b>	Midweek Service	Watton MC
Wed	10.00-12.00	<b>W</b>	Open Church for Private Prayer	Watton MC
Wed	12.00noon	<b>M</b>	Lunch @ The Centre	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Wed	12.00-3.00	<b>M</b>	Lunch and Linger	Toftwood MC
Wed	2.00-3.00	<b>F</b>	Drop in	Beetley MC
Wed	2.00-3.00	<b>M</b>	Natter and Knit	Beetley MC
Wed	2.00-4.00	<b>M</b>	Craft Group	Toftwood MC
Wed	7.30pm	<b>M</b>	Wednesday Club (except August)	Dereham Trinity MC