

## **Grantham and Vale of Belvoir Methodist**



# **Circuit News**

**April 2019**



**The Lord is risen. Allelujah, He is risen indeed!**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this latest edition of the *Circuit Newsletter*. Thanks To Hilary for putting it together and to everyone who has contributed. It's one way we have of keeping in touch with each other across the circuit. We are very pleased to have welcomed a new Minister into the circuit: Rev Dr Peter Stevenson is now Minister at ChristChurch. Peter is a URC Minister who has been authorised by the Methodist Church to serve as a Methodist Presbyterian in this circuit and so can be fully included in the life of the circuit. We look forward to all that the years of his ministry here will bring.

Speaking of ordained Ministers, we now have another one in the making! Steve Sutton has been accepted for training starting in the autumn. This is great news for him and Mandy and for the wider church but of course it means we will see less of Steve in the circuit and we will miss him. We thank him for all he has done for us including as a Local Preacher and Circuit Steward. Please pray for him as his journey continues. It's also good news that we have a new Local Preacher starting out. Sue Barnes, who is also a Worship Leader at Harrowby lane, is On Note with Chris Annan and by now I expect many of you have been blessed by being led in worship by Sue and Chris. We pray for Sue as she moves on through her training.

Please also pray for Ian and Sue Worrall as Ian begins his three-month sabbatical on 8<sup>th</sup> May. We pray it will be a restful, interesting and renewing time for Ian and Sue. The churches concerned already know but others may also like to know that during that time Nel will be Minister for Colsterworth and Harrowby Lane and I will be for Great Gonerby.

Finally, I invite you to come to the **Circuit Gathering on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm at the Cranmer Centre in Aslockton.**

All of our churches have responded in thoughtful and positive ways to the circuit strategy paper which was agreed by the Circuit Meeting last September. The Circuit Leadership Team has considered all the responses and held extra meetings itself to consider the issues in the paper. On 12<sup>th</sup> May we will report on what we have discerned and ask for some broad decisions to be made. We will begin and end with times of worship, have about an hour and a half for conversation in between and end with a bring and share tea at 5pm. Please do come if you can. We hope we will manage to combine enjoying being together with getting some work done!

I am not sure exactly when this *Newsletter* will get into your hands but we are Easter people all year round so may you know the presence of the risen, ever-living Christ in your life and may the Spirit of God inspire and empower our churches in mission and praise.

God bless you,

*Martin*

### **Circuit News**

As well as those entering ministry at home we also remember in prayer others currently serving our Lord overseas – Tim Annan at the First United Methodist Church, Jefferson City, Missouri (Tim says “Hi” to everyone!) and Naomi Worrall in Canada(see below)

The recent Circuit meeting acknowledged the contribution made by three Circuit Officers who have already or will be standing down. Pat Hiley (Safeguarding Officer), Joy Scoffield (MHA), Brian Jackin (World Mission). We are grateful for their service over many years. Louise Rinkert takes over the safeguarding role and is already running the Creating Safer Space courses! Elaine Robinson is the new World Mission rep and Hilary Taylor MHA.

As a Circuit we remember with gratitude before God the following Church members Maurice Burwell sen. (Local Preacher and formerly member at Barkston and Great Gonerby), Martin Tripp and Chris Clarke (Bottesford), David Whittle (Skillington) and Jim Wallis (Bingham). Our love and prayers go to their families and friends.

### *Naomi Worrall writes from Canada*

Hello from across the Pond! I am currently working with Soul Edge as an assistant leader. Soul Edge is based in Canada in a little town called Herbert, Saskatchewan. Canada in a little town called Herbert, Saskatchewan.



So what is Soul Edge? In 2006 the Canadian Erb twins, Josh and Joel, launched Soul Edge, and since then have trained 132 leaders. Soul Edge is an adventure-based leadership training course, equipping young men and women to rise up as a generation of leaders, who will be capable and passionate about bringing change to impact the world around them.

Through physical adventure, one-to-one discipleship, teaching and community living, students gain the opportunity to press into God to discover who they are as people of Christ, their gifts and passions and the confidence to go out into the world. Soul Edge is a five-month programme, involving two phases: the training phase and the mission phase. The training phase is where we are based in Herbert, serving the local church whilst gaining profound teaching and enjoying adventure trips. Such as: snowboarding, ice climbing, hiking and snow camping in the Rockies. The mission phase is within a First Nations Reservation called Pelican Narrows. Here is the opportunity for the students to go out and build relationships with the people, to encourage them in faith and hope. Our aim here is to come alongside individuals, to show the love of the father, to disciple and equip in order for them to continue to grow. Alongside this there are a lot of opportunities to reach out to people in street evangelism, deliver messages in the schools and run different outreach projects. This is the releasing phase for the Soul Edgers; not only do they continue to learn what Jesus is doing 'in' them but also to experience how Jesus works 'through' them.

As an assistant leader I get the privilege of coming alongside the students on their Soul Edge journey. I am responsible for mentoring three of the girls on a one-to-one basis, this includes heart healing and discipleship. There are four of us in the leadership team, facilitating the day-to-day activities and schedule, modelling the Soul Edge culture of honour and how to live a radical life for Jesus. Each of us have been to Soul Edge as a student and are excited to know the impact it will have on our current students. For me personally it completely transformed my life.

As you read this we will have just entered our mission phase in Pelican Narrows. For me it is a great privilege to return and revisit individuals I worked with back in 2013 as well as seeing our team branch out in becoming the leaders they have been called to be. It is really exciting as Soul Edge will be launching a New Zealand base in 2020 alongside the Canadian base. The mission phase here will be based in the Pacific Island Vanuatu, coming alongside local missionaries to serve the many needs of the people.

If you are wanting to support us then please hold us in prayer especially in our mission phase or there is an opportunity to support Soul Edge through the website. **Soul Edge website: [www.souledgegapyear.com](http://www.souledgegapyear.com)**

## *Meanwhile Mum and Dad have been travelling too.....*

In 2016 the Aldersgate Renewal Ministries Team led a 'Life in the Spirit Experience' weekend at Harrowby Lane and ever since Ian & Sue Worrall have been part of the team, getting involved in LISE weekends at other churches across the UK and their annual European Conference. With Circuit commitments it is not possible to do everything and as the ministry has expanded we have missed the chance to minister to the Methodist Conference in Finland and a Methodist Summer camp in Estonia. However, this March we joined a fifteen member team to Barbados at the invitation of the Methodist Bishop of the South Caribbean.



With support from the Methodist Connexion (World Relations) we flew into Bridgetown to an amazing Bajan welcome and hospitality that lasted all the ten days we were there. Housed in holiday apartments 400m from a beautiful beach with coral reefs, it doesn't take a genius to guess where we spent most of our pockets of free time!

Over the weekend we were based at St James Methodist Church in the centre of Bridgetown with 175 participants. Friday night, all day Saturday and an evening testimony service Sunday night. Sunday morning we all went in pairs (the three youngsters on our team led a youth event at St James) to preach around the island. Sue & I had the privilege of going to Hawthorn Memorial Church in Bridgetown. The services on the island tend to be outwardly very formal with robed choirs and orders of services but yet all delivered with real enthusiasm.

The following week we led another LISE in the evenings at Vauxhall Methodist Church in another circuit and during the day trained up a group of people to be the Aldersgate Renewal Ministries team in Barbados.

In both circuits the team delivered a series of short talks on the ministries of the Holy Spirit interspersed with Prayer Interactions. Prayers for healing or infilling of the Holy Spirit; prophetic prayer; church unity circle and a Prayer tunnel. The response was amazing and some interactions lasted well over an hour as people queued wanting to receive more from God.



It is always good to see and hear the testimonies of physical and emotional healing, but for us, it is the privilege of sensing God's immense love for the person in front of you and then ministering it to them. It gets us every time. As they say: "God is good" **"All the time"** "All the time" **"God is good"**

On our last day we were treated a boat trip up the West Coast and a final swim with turtles. Then as we walked up the beach in the setting sun, one of the team went down on bended knee and proposed to his girlfriend, also on team.

PS If any church or group of churches would like to invite an Aldersgate Renewal Ministries Team to lead a 'Life in the Spirit Experience' then please do contact us. - [minister.hlane@btinternet.com](mailto:minister.hlane@btinternet.com)

## *News from the Churches Harrowby Lane*

At the time of writing, the outside of church is being radically changed as our landscape gardeners prepare the area for the community garden. This should be finished, ready for planting, by Easter Sunday. We plan a formal opening and celebration in September.

On Palm Sunday we have our Breakfast in Jerusalem family event. The children make crafts which are then used to tell the Easter story in a service. After 2 years of these alternative services at Christmas and Easter, the word is spreading that there is fun to be had in celebrating Christ's birth and saving grace.

Our cafe will provide free food on Good Friday when we will also be giving out hot cross buns to passers by. The visible changes outside church are great conversation starters!

We aim to be a 'sending out' congregation and saw this fulfilled in Sarah Lamb and now Steve Sutton being accepted for training as presbyters. There are mixed feelings as we are both delighted and sorry to lose them. It is therefore with particular joy that we welcomed 6 people into membership recently. We also welcomed Sue Barnes stepping forward to train as a local preacher.

There is an air of expectation as we see these manifestations of the working of the Holy Spirit. We continue to use the Holy Habits course themes in our 7 pastorate groups. We are reminded of the elements in the early Christian church that led to growth in numbers and in devotion to fellowship, worship and discipleship. Currently we are receiving additional teaching on prayer - surely a prerequisite for growth.

We shall miss Ian and Sue Worrall as they have a period of sabbatical from early May to August and pray for God's continued blessing on them.

## ChristChurch



### Induction – Revd Peter Stevenson

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February ChristChurch were glad that members of the Circuit shared in the Induction service for Revd Peter Stevenson as Minister of ChristChurch Local Ecumenical Partnership and Stamford United Reformed Church. Presiding on the day were Revd Peter Meek, Moderator, East Midlands Synod, United Reformed church and Revd Loraine Mellor, our Nottingham and Derby District Chair. A narrative outlining Peter's call to this ministry was given by Roger Smith and Susan Sulston and followed by the promises, act of induction and welcome. A large congregation also comprised representatives of the URC Synod, local ecumenical, civic and community guests and a lively contingent from the Crossway Church in South London, where Peter formerly ministered. We wish Peter and Dawn God's blessing as they settle in to life in the East Midlands!

### Lent Groups 2019 – Daring to see God now

Well over twenty members of ChristChurch took part in two Lent Groups – one in the afternoon and one in the evening each week of Lent. They followed an ecumenically produced Lent course exploring how Mark's gospel speaks to us now with input each week from Christian leaders from several denominations, stimulating questions, and the chance to listen to one another and to scripture. The aim was to help people dare to see God in their own lives and those around them.



**Concert** On **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm** there will be a concert at ChristChurch given by the **Radcliffe-on-Trent Male Voice Choir and the Phoenix Male Voice Choir** (from Norwich). Proceeds are for the ChristChurch Community Project.

Tickets are £10 each and are available from Denhys Lambley 01476 401185 [denhyslambley@btinternet.com](mailto:denhyslambley@btinternet.com) or from Graves Jewellers, 17 Westgate Grantham. All are warmly invited.

## Cropwell Butler - forthcoming events

**Hubbub** for under 5s and their carers **Fridays 10.30 – 11.45am**

Methodist Schoolroom, Nottingham Road, Cropwell Bishop Now a joint Methodist initiative by the two Cropwell Chapels

**Messy Chapel:** 'Fun Activities for Families'. Held **bi-monthly on Friday 5-6.15pm**. There will be Messy Chapel activities at our **Easter Event** (see below). Next main Messy Chapel on 28<sup>th</sup> June, which will include preparing items for the Flower Festival on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Easter Event**

Easter Sunday morning. Starting with Easter Egg Hunt on Village playing field at 10am, followed by breakfast back at the Chapel. Children can make Easter Gardens and do other activities, while adults eat and we will finish with a short focus on the message of Easter and an appropriate lively song.

### **Flower Festival**

Cropwell Butler is holding an Open Gardens on **Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June from 2-6pm**. The Chapel is part of the route, with a Flower Festival and display of historical memorabilia relating to the village and chapel. Do come!!

### **Chapel Refurbishment**

Since last year, there have been many changes and the project is continuing. All the main windows have been replaced. The pulpit has been dismantled with the front being retained as a 'feature' attached to the wall behind. This, alongside the removal of the communion rail, has opened up a large, flexible (and re-carpeted) space at the front. We are now working on the Schoolroom where the removal of an alcove and the porch has unblocked the light from the windows with a significant effect. The next stage will be a suspended and insulated ceiling above the level of the windows, with renewed lighting and finally, some more up to date and efficient heaters.

## *Bingham*



Bingham Methodist Church has agreed to be an All We Can Partner Church for the coming year which means we will be journeying with Shanu, his family and community in southern Malawi. The unpredictable climates in this area cause severe droughts and flooding which destroy their harvests and livelihood and the recent cyclone has severely affected the area and most of the harvests have been lost. With the help of All We Can,

Shanu and his community will learn new farming techniques and be able to farm on land benefitting from solar powered irrigation.

Over the coming months BMC has committed to fund raise for All We Can through events, both large and small, and regular personal giving. We are delighted to report that last week we were able to send our initial £1000.00 which has already been raised from a highly successful Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day with a tombola and cake stall, proceeds from monthly lunches, regular personal giving and various other things. We look forward to continuing our commitment to Shanu and his community as we strive to do "all we can" to try and improve their lives.

If you would like to join us in this venture please let us know and look out for future events.

## *Bottesford*

**The Friendship Group** meets in the church on Thursdays at 2.30pm and all are welcome. Speakers for the next few months will be:

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| <b>April 25<sup>th</sup></b>  | Music Quiz.  |
| <b>May 9<sup>th</sup></b>     | Richard Pickering, "Christian Aid". Bring and Buy Stall for Christian Aid. |
| <b>May 23<sup>rd</sup></b>    | "Heirlooms, Keepsakes and Interesting Objects"                             |
| <b>June 6<sup>th</sup></b>    | Vic Martin.  |
| <b>June 20<sup>th</sup></b>   | Sandy McMillan Bunn, Air Ambulance Update.                                 |
| <b>July 4<sup>th</sup></b>    | Afternoon at Marian's  |
| <b>July 18<sup>th</sup></b>   | Mike Armstrong, "Orchids"  |
| <b>August 1<sup>st</sup></b>  | Denhys Lambley, "Lighter Side of Being a Lawyer".                          |
| <b>August 15<sup>th</sup></b> | Brian Bowes, "Stand Back – Here Comes the Preacher Man!"                   |
| <b>August 29<sup>th</sup></b> | Channel Island cricket.  |
| <b>Sept 12<sup>th</sup></b>   | Quiz   |



**Sept 26<sup>th</sup>**..... Graham Coleman, "From Pit to Pulpit".  
**October 10<sup>th</sup>** Margaret Wingfield, "Recollections of a Headmistress".  
**October 24<sup>th</sup>** Martin Seabrook, "How we see our Animals and how they see us

**Windmill Missional Community** – - Avid readers of the Plan will have noticed The Windmill Missional Community now meets in the Bottesford chapel at 4pm on Sundays  
Launched in 2012 and having its origins in the Anglican Church the group seeks to advance the Christian faith through offering a fresh expression of "Church" using a contemporary style of worship for all ages. Rev. Nel Shallow acts as their ordained minister and brings communion. We welcome the Community to our premises and wish God's blessing on all they seek to do



### *METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN- 2018/19*

It is true to say that 2018 was a good year for us with various well-attended events that were used to highlight the need for our support - financially and prayerfully - being given to those who live in more challenging parts of the world. Those who are discriminated against; who live in poverty and are abused. We were welcomed at Cropwell Bishop Church for our EASTER OFFERING SERVICE where we were encouraged to build bridges between people. Gift envelopes from around our Circuit Churches raised £1340.68p (sadly more than £200 less than last year's total).

Many ladies from around the Circuit had a great afternoon at Colsterworth Church who hosted our AUTUMN EVENT on a warm sunny day in September. Deacon Samantha Taylor from our own Methodist District told us of living as a Mission Partner, working with churches in Shumen and Ruse, Bulgaria. A shared tea was enjoyed by all and again funds raised for Methodist World Mission Fund.

We were blessed in many ways with our most recent trip to Willersley Castle, Derbyshire not least by the superb weather. Not always the case during a week in March when ten ladies from three churches in our Circuit joined others from our District for a Methodist Women in Britain Fellowship Day. The event is well organised and always includes sharing food and friendship, together with interesting speakers.

Jill Baker chose as her theme 'SPECIAL PLACES'. She highlighted places of her own and significant places in the Bible, all part of a journey. These were illustrated on screen as she talked about each place.

There were intervals to discuss with those around us what special places we had gathered throughout our life's journey. Jill's extra special places are Temple Mount in Jerusalem and Lindisfarne, Northumberland. She urged us all to GET INTO A GOOD PLACE WITH GOD AND LET HIM BE THE CENTRE OF OUR LIVES.



We look forward to the following events – please join us!

**Easter Offering service -6pm Sunday 2 June @ Harrowby Lane, Rev Nel Shallow, Speaker Marion Hingley-Hickson**

**Autumn Event** (venue tbc) **2.30pm Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September, Speaker Elaine Robinson, Bring and Share tea.**

A reminder – **SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MAY @3pm – CIRCUIT GATHERING @ THE CRANMER CENTRE ASLOCKTON NG13 9AL**

**Feed back and items for next quarter's NEWS to Hilary on [gvoeb.circuit@gmail.com](mailto:gvoeb.circuit@gmail.com)**

**WISHING EVERYONE GOD'S BLESSING AS WE CELEBRATE OUR RISEN LORD**