



THE LINK

Includes the Circuit Plan Issue 35 December '16 / February '17



Beetley

Stibbard



Find out about the life and work of
these churches on pages 4 and 5

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See page 3 for deadlines and Editor's contact information

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

One of the joys of moving is that you find hidden treasure – things you'd forgotten all about. The other day I found hidden treasure in the shape of a bookmark, and I thought I'd share the words on it with you: it says "Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders" and I've thought a lot about those words since I found the bookmark.

First of all, they reminded me of a chorus we used to sing when I was a child "Cast your burdens onto Jesus, for He cares for you". We know we can cast our burdens onto Him, and we try very hard to do so – but somehow human nature gets in the way, and so often, having given our burdens to Him we take them back again!



Secondly, they reminded me of a much loved hymn "what a friend we have in Jesus" with it's almost refrain of "Take it to the Lord in prayer". Once again, how often do we take things to God in prayer, and, when we've said "Amen" take those things back again?

I know it's not easy to leave things with Him, which is why I like those words on the bookmark "Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders". We don't have to carry things alone, we can give them to God, and maybe picturing them physically changing shoulders is a way of helping us give things to God and then leave them with Him.

Some of you are probably wondering what this has to do with Christmas and New Year. Well, at Christmas the "burden" of looking after God's Son passed from God to Mary and Joseph. As we celebrate Jesus' birth, we remind ourselves that this is not just any baby, but God's Son coming into the world to share the ups and downs of daily (human) life. Then, in January, as we share in the Covenant Service we recommit ourselves to serving the God who loves us so much He gave us His Son.

Those words on the bookmark seem, to me, to be a challenge for us during Advent, as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth and then recommit ourselves to serving Him. As we prepare for Christmas, and then look at new year's resolutions, here's a resolution we can all make now: Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders – so let's ask God's help to do just that, and leave our burdens on His shoulders.

God bless you all.

Eleanor

THE LINK

Once again we have a very full issue and one article has had to be held over until next time. It really is very exciting to receive so much material and realise just how much is happening throughout our Circuit. God is keeping us pretty busy!

Concerning regular meetings some churches told me that they would not be meeting over the Christmas and New Year period, but others didn't. I have therefore printed what you told me—it is not for me to determine whether or not a particular meeting will be cancelled in Christmas week. A bit of extra prayer, even if you're not meeting, will do no harm!

Would church contacts please check carefully the information on page 28 as I am not sure whether it is completely accurate and let me know of any changes. I have been wondering whether it would be better to restrict this to weekly or fortnightly meetings only as others are usually mentioned in the list of dates anyway. What do you think? Please let me know.

Please read *The Link* not just for information but also use it as fuel for prayer. Especially we pray for our dear Barbara (see below) at this difficult time.

Tony Hey

FROM BARBARA WINNER

Dear friends of the Central Norfolk Circuit,

A sincere thank you for the overwhelming support I have received from all over following the sudden death of John. The love, prayers, messages and cards (200 at the last count) have been a great help to me and to our family. A special thank you to Rev. Andrew for leading us through the day of John's services with such compassion and understanding. Our sons who don't 'do church' were most impressed with all that our church family provided us with that day and the support which has been given to me.

Thank you!

Barbara.

DEADLINE

**FOR THE
March—May
EDITION
SATURDAY 28th
JANUARY**

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

CONTACT DETAILS

Please send information for
publication to
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Co-ordinated by

Beetley

Beetley Primitive Methodist Chapel was built in 1871 and financed by the hard work of low paid labourers at a cost of £237.14s. 4d. The first Secretary was Robert Jude who lived in Beetley and worked as the shoemaker at Gressenhall Workhouse. Seating we are told was for 142 which seems a large number compared with today. There are two foundation stones at the front of the building namely John Wake and Isaac Tann both trades men from Dereham.

It was a very active Chapel in the beginning with large numbers recorded in the School Registers as well as members.

There are details at the front of a Minute Book of a "Love Feast" held each year on Good Friday. A tea was provided for members and their testimonies given. This is something that has waned over the years in Methodism as a whole.

Various names mentioned in the records are still found in the Village today although not necessarily in the Chapel. There were as today faithful members who remained in the Service of their Lord for many decades.

Bazaars were held to raise money for various projects to help maintain Beetley Chapel as a place of worship. The schoolroom was added in 1950 when there was still a thriving Sunday School and electricity was finally connected in 1956 prior to which oil lamps were used.

In 1990 a serious building problem arose in the guise of dry rot and a major decision had to be faced whether to close or continue. The strong determination of the congregation was to go ahead in faith to keep the Chapel open. The pews had to go which resulted in a more modern adaptable Chapel but still retaining some of the old. The difficult decision which many Chapels face with regard to the pews was not one that they had to face. The same went for the Organ which had to be replaced after the other one failed a few weeks before an Organ Recital had been arranged.

Throughout the history of 145 years God has been glorified and we still hold an Evening Service every Sunday and a Fellowship Service, twice a month. We are finding that the Drop In and the Coffee Mornings have resulted in people becoming interested in joining us in worship. Regular Bible Study and Prayer meetings also take place.

Through trials and tribulations along the way we give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us and those still with us in keeping this place of worship open and we look forward to the future in faith.

PROFILES

Stephen Lynn

Stibbard

The first Methodist church in Stibbard began with a class meeting in the kitchen of a farm house, between Stibbard and Fulmodeston which lasted for about 20 years.

In 1910, the stone was laid for Stibbard Wesleyan Methodist Church in Wood Norton Road. This was to be a grand little church.

It was completed in 1911. It is said that the business men and farmers attended Stibbard while the workers went to Fulmodeston.

In the 1930s the Methodist Churches united and this partly removed the class distinction of the church and Stibbard Methodist Church was open to all.

Nothing much changed for 50 years. In the 1980s with children in church, we needed a Sunday School and some modifications. First to go was the dangerous coke tortoise stove which was replaced with under pew heaters. Later the partition, which had woodworm, was removed, the pulpit was reduced in size, and the pews were removed and replaced with arm chairs.

A flush toilet was installed and the old Elsan toilet and glory hole were made into a kitchen, now fully fitted with dishwasher and cooker.

We moved into the 21st century with an I.T. system of laptop, digital projector and big screen.

We celebrated our centenary in 2010 and changed the name to Stibbard Methodist Church Centre as the church was changing its role in the community. It is now used not just on Sundays but through the week for meals, ecumenical meetings, circuit choir and quarterly quizzes. We also went onto worldwide web with www.stibbardmethodistchurch.co.uk.

We have managed to achieve so much and we thank God as we face tomorrow together.

Thanks be to God
2 Corinthians 9:15





Registered Charity No: 1106520

First Focus
Fakenham's Community Hub
Your local Information & Social Centre

From Tim Charles: An Oxfordshire lad, I grew up on the Oxon/Northants border and regularly visited Norfolk for holiday with my parents for many years. Over the last 35 years I have, spasmodically at first and then regularly visited Walsingham. Despite many visits to Fakenham during the time to use banks and shops, I was never aware until I moved here that there was anything like First Focus and, indeed, only became aware as a result of the local job centre suggesting that I volunteer for them. It seems it has been around since 2002 and a couple of the current volunteers have been involved since 2004: they probably know, by now, what it is all about!

So what is it all about? In many ways, it reminds me of Oxfordshire Mind, a mental health charitable organisation which had one of its bases in Bicester where I used to live. I started to use their services after being diagnosed with depression in late 2002 especially after I felt I needed time away from work in early 2003. They would do support groups and one to one therapy using the skills of paid support workers. I mainly used their services to access the internet but often found myself talking to other service users and it has been known for staff to call on my experiences especially in respect to my being the father of a child with special needs. First Focus Fakenham is different in that most of its "staff" are volunteers who are no less committed for being volunteers and I think that, between them, there is a large skill base, some of which is probably still untapped. So far, in the few weeks I have been volunteering, I have done some basic admin tasks like photocopying, laminating, training, designing posters and initiating a database. Other volunteers man the door and are effectively known as the face of first focus. The most important job is the tea man providing refreshments for volunteers and service users which include veg and other goodies for sale. Just in case someone doesn't know what to do with the food items on sale, we have a volunteer who holds a regular cooking session which produces results fit for a king! Well, almost! There are support groups and one to one support. Others get involved with artwork and other are simply happy to talk or do a puzzle. I think one of the important if almost hidden work is the ongoing friendship and support that happens often without anyone else noticing but which gives individuals a sense of worth as it gets them out of their homes which, for some, can be a lonely, isolating place and into the warmth of people who become friends and it does seem at times that the boundaries between volunteers, staff and service users become blurred.

The centre is ably run by April Simnor, known to at least one volunteer as "She who must be obeyed" supported equally ably by her vibrant and talented team of volunteers. Anyone is welcome to come and see for themselves. We are situated in the scout hut behind the library in Oak Street, Fakenham and are open from 9am until 1pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and from 9am till 3 pm on a Thursday and, yes, a simple lunch can be purchased easily enough on Thursday! If you want to ring first, the number is 01328 855083. Have a look at the website for further info, look at the website www.firstfocus.org.uk or check it out on Facebook.

WATTON

CHARITY SUPPORT

As a Church we are committed to supporting the work of charitable groups that work with the most vulnerable and marginalised members of society.

From all our special fund raising events 20% is donated to three selected charities each year and we also have a monthly 'pennies' collection in support of these charities. The jars for pennies often contain much more than pennies that have been saved over the month.

We select three charities to support during the Church year, September to August;

- One local charity
- One National Charity
- One international Charity

For 2015/16 we chose;

- The neo-natal unit at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (Local) (NNUH)
- Macmillan Nursing (National)
- Turning Point Trust (International)

During the course of the year we invite a representative of each charity to talk to us during a morning service about the work of the charity. The original concept was to find a way of fulfilling a Local Arrangement Service in an original and informative way. Worship remains central to the service but in place of a formal sermon we learn more about one of our selected charities.

Louise Cook, Chief Fundraiser for NNUH spoke to us on May 8th, and Rev Jean Simmonds, representing the Turning Point Trust, led the service on June 26th. To hear what they had to say, and to watch Jean's illustrated introduction, use the following link to our website; [http://wattonmethodist.btck.co.uk/Church in Action/Charity](http://wattonmethodist.btck.co.uk/Church%20in%20Action/Charity)

We are looking forward to the visit of Jacqui Burke on August 21st when we will find out more about the work of Macmillan Nursing.

At our Annual Church Meeting on July 2nd we selected the three charities that we will support during 2016/17 they are:

- Trade Aid (International)
- Methodist Homes (National)
- East Anglia Children's Hospice (EACH) Nook appeal (Local)

THANK YOU

John and Wendy Hull would like to thank Circuit friends for their prayerful support and help following Wendy's recent operation. It is really appreciated.

FIELD PREACHING AT THURSFORD

Jenny Pathmarajah writes: Gareth Powell in his address to the 2016 Conference quoted from the Liverpool minutes of 1820 when he described the disarray Conference were facing with declining numbers, Jabez Bunting came up with a plan and urged preachers to commit themselves to a variety of efforts to reverse this, which included 'field preaching'.

Norfolk summers are spectacular and on such a summers evening, I was preaching at Thursford Methodist Church and I was met outside by the stewards who were basking in the evening sun. They casually mentioned that it was too nice to stay inside, "if only we could have the service outside" they sighed. If only indeed! There is a beautiful and small village green just over the road from the Chapel and I declared that as there were only a few of us, the weather was too nice, we would indeed meet outside for worship. "What about the hymns? What about the flowers?" people asked. "We'll sing Acapulco and we'll bring the flowers outside!" I said as we grabbed hymn books and chairs to gather on the village green.

We had worship outside and it was marvelous. We sang acapella (without an accompaniment), waved at passing drivers, and bemused cyclists and worshipped God in the beauty of creation. But the thing that surprised everyone the most...two people, two holiday makers heard our singing and came out and joined us. We asked them if there was anything they would like us to pray for and they told us what we could pray for, they picked the last hymn and we had a glorious and Spirit-filled time together. It felt good to be loud and proud Christians proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

A renewal to field preaching indeed. We were blessed by God, the weather and our new friends.



BEETLEY HOLIDAY CLUB OCTOBER 2016

Once again we have held the Holiday at Beetley Scout Hut which was run by Wendling, Beetley, Gressenhall and Trinity Churches. The Theme this time was "Gifts" and the Children, covering a wide range of ages, worked together and had a fantastic time. They left with works of art which they had made and an invitation also to join in a Christingle Service in December for the children and their parents which takes place at Beetley Chapel.

MEETING

by Barbara Winner

Nerves frayed – their movement now precarious
threatening to touch, ignite like wires exposed,
dangerous in their naked vulnerability, safer kept apart.
Feelings jangling, desperate to find a piston rhythm
spluttering and jolting now to make a start.
Thoughts jarring one against another, vying for attention –
like excited children, yet frightened to come forward,
silenced now the moment comes.
How can this be when I have longed to be here in your presence –
when I have cried and raged against your absence for so long?
What does it mean when I am faced with such confusion –
when in my dreams you came and brought me calm?
Why, having logged the minutes to this moment –
I turn and find the moment gone?
This is a mystery far beyond my comprehension,
like distant clouds which roll across a changing sky,
they seem so real in shape and form of beauty
yet hold the storms that threaten to destroy.
They hold the roll and shout of thunder and hide each crack and bolt of lightning fire,
yet bring the rain refreshing, moistening, swelling,
quenching the desert of desire.
From deep within wells up your Holy Spirit to calm all things that threaten to destroy.
To free all things in all of your creation and sing out praises as I meet you now!

ON LIFE'S JOURNEY

by Olive Brown

On our journey through life, we may travel a lonely road,
In a barren wilderness, with nobody to share our load.
But, silence can be precious when, in contemplative mode,
We feel the wondrous presence of GOD.
Who is always near, everywhere – plus –
He promises never to leave us.

We may travel on stony paths, which can make the going tough,
Take a wrong direction, on a path that seems quite rough.
But if faith should be your companion, this will prove enough
To feel the wondrous presence of GOD.
Who is always near, everywhere – plus –
He promises never to leave us.

We should not be afraid if storms, troubles and doubts arise,
Or if the way seems unclear, nor if tears blind our eyes.
For we can always lift our hearts and prayers to the skies,
To know the wondrous presence of GOD.
Who is always near, everywhere – plus –
He promises never to leave us.

When highways and byways, broad and narrow, come into sight,
We must make a decision, which is wrong, which is right?
The Narrow leads to JESUS, our Lord, who carries the light
To the wondrous presence of GOD.
Who is always near, everywhere – plus –
He promises never to leave us.

HIDDEN TREASURE

Stephen Lynn writes: Each year David Roebuck has painstakingly produced a list of the external charity donations our churches make. I have discovered, quite by accident, a hidden cache of donations we make, possibly without realising it.

Each year at Litcham we hold a jumble and bric-a-brac sale. Afterwards there is the tedium of clearing away the residue. We now, rather than storing it all up until next year, pack it all into cars, and take it to the Sue Ryder Shop in Fakenham. (Other charity shops are available!).

They asked if I would be interested in knowing how much our goods fetch during the course of the year, to which I agreed. Imagine my amazement to get a letter telling us that they had raised in excess of £400 from things which appeared to have no value. This is actually more than we raised in the original sale!

It would have been so easy to just dump this 'junk', so it is wonderful to know that it has been used to bring about so much good.

HOLIDAY CLUB HELD AT BEETLEY SCOUT HALL

AUGUST 2016

Wendy Hull reports: The Holiday Club which is operated by Wendling, Trinity, Gressenhall and Beetley, was held once again at the Beetley Scout Hall over two days at the end of August when twelve children attended each day.

The theme was fish, focusing on the Bible story of the great draught of fishes, 153 in all. The children participated in a wide variety of craft activities including cooking and building a model fishing boat. Fridge magnets and origami boats were made as well as decorated paper plate fish and wooden spoon fish.

As the weather was fine, the children enjoyed activities outside during the break.

The mornings concluded with singing, a recap of what had been learnt and the writing of prayers on fish.

PRESENTATION TO SYLVIA WILLIAMSON

The certificate to celebrate Sylvia's 50 years as a Local Preacher was presented by Douglas Harrison. Judy Harrison was there to represent the Circuit Stewards and Rev. Andrew King was also present.

The members of Sculthorpe Methodist Chapel were very pleased to be associated with this special occasion.



WALSINGHAM CHAPEL

Dissenting since 1794

Rev Jenny writes: Many of you know the difficult journey we've been on at Walsingham Chapel this year. Our world was turned upside down when Sylvia experienced a very severe brain aneurism and I know Tommy and Sylvia have appreciated your thoughts and prayers ever so much. There really is power in prayer and the support of fellowship we have experienced as a Chapel from other churches has really moved us.

I believe there is an exciting future for Walsingham. We are a Chapel of significant importance to the life of the Connexion and also to the life of the village. It is our vision to help turn the Chapel into a living museum and heritage education centre. We've had long conversations with the Connexional Heritage Officer, Jo Hibbard who has visited us and is more excited about the possibilities than we are! We would like to employ a full time museum, heritage and education officer to explore turning our chapel into a museum and heritage education centre. There is nowhere in Walsingham that covers the holistic history of Walsingham and particularly, nowhere that covers the social changes that took place in the village alongside the important roles of the shrine. We already have excellent links with the Anglican Shrine Educational Department and over the year welcome many schools who use our chapel as a base. There is great opportunity to explore this and increase our educational presence nationally. Similarly, across the wider Connexion, there are exciting conversations about what does Methodism and pilgrimage mean and Methodist understanding of Mariology. And that's just the start of it!

We have been encouraged by Jo Hibbard to apply for Connexional funding to employ a full time 3-year worker to explore all of the above and a bit more; to find funding to make the post permanent, find funding to give the Chapel a face lift (lick of paint etc) and make the building fully accessible. This wouldn't have a particular financial impact on the Circuit, but would provide a fantastic mission opportunity for the Circuit and indeed Methodism. In a village which has a footfall of way over 250,000 we believe we have an un-missable opportunity to help our Chapel find a sustainable future in heritage and education.

So, what do I want from you?! Firstly, to continue in prayer, for Tommy and Sylvia and for the future of our Chapel. Secondly I would like to form a little support group to help me write the application and appoint this person within the Connexional year. It is possible to do it in this time scale and Jo Hibbard has promised me lots of Connexional help to make this happen. If you would like to support us in this way, please do get in touch with me. If you have any thoughts for the future of our wonderful chapel, again, please get in touch with me.

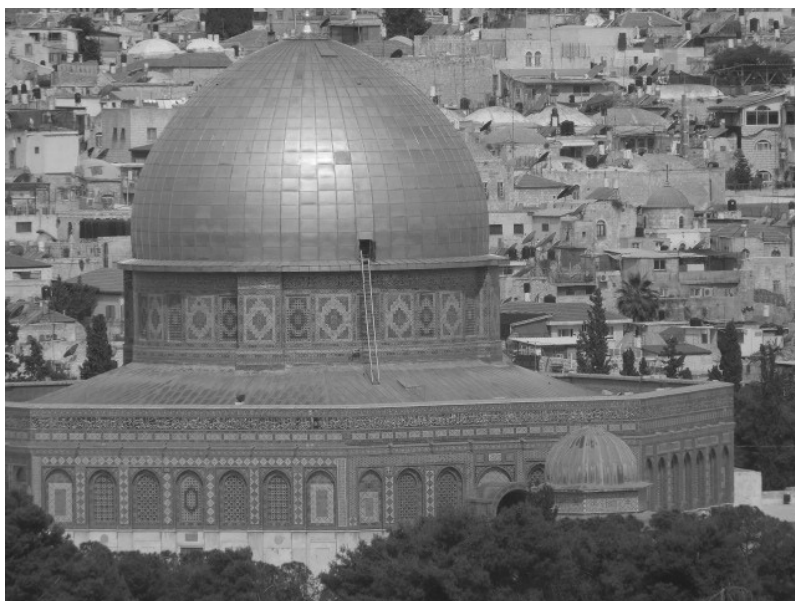
We've been so touched with the support we've received from the Circuit so far, particularly over the ramp... In times like this it's good to be part of a Circuit and a Connexion. We may be few in numbers on Sunday, but we are many in spirit.

These plans are all very tentative and need much prayer and consideration. We aren't committing ourselves to anything, just exploring some opportunities.

THOUGHTS ON A TRIP TO ISRAEL

From Jacky Woor

I had the great fortune of being able to visit the Holy Land recently, together with 13 other people from the Dereham area. We went via London-Luton Airport (2 of us managed to set off the security alarm!). We arrived in Tel Aviv just as it was beginning to get dark and arrived at our first hotel in Nazareth in time for our evening meal.



The following 8 days were packed with seeing the sights which mark the life, ministry, arrest, trial and death of Jesus. These included Nazareth – the

home of Peter, the synagogue, the Sea of Galilee including a trip on a boat. On to Bethlehem with the Church of the Nativity, the Shepherds' Field, Bethany etc. Then to Jerusalem and seeing the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Mount of Olives, Via Dolorosa and the path taken on Palm Sunday. We also visited Masada, Herodion Palace, had a float in the Dead Sea, visited the Mount of the Beatitudes and Mount Precipice, the Museum of Israel, and perhaps most moving of all, the Holocaust Museum – being only allowed 2 hours when 2 days was really needed!

Our midday meals were taken at various places including a Kibbutz, St Peter's Restaurant and local restaurants depending on where we were at the appropriate time.

During all the visits we were especially taken by the fact that all important Christian, Jewish and Moslem sites have been built upon with churches and mosques of varying ages and design. Most seem to have an Orthodox feel about them with many icons, censers and candles. Highly decorated ceilings and walls are also the order of the day. It was pleasant to be able to sit outside and have a time of peace in the gardens.

Above all my impression was that for many of the pilgrims visiting these places it was very moving, emotional and encouraging. There were many nationalities represented from across the world, people in national dress, such a party from Ethiopia, some dressed in T-Shirts emblazoned with their country's name, others like us, dressed for the weather and the places we were visiting. Most women had to have their shoulders covered when visiting a church, no short shorts!

When I came away it was with mixed feelings – glad that I had taken the opportunity to go but perhaps a little disappointed that many of the important sites were so commercialised.

[Continued on page 13]

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS!

Somehow, I was talked into becoming the Musical Director for the 13th World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women in Texas. Originally I was just going as a participant and really looking forward to learning and engaging in world Methodism. However, 3 musical directors pulled out and the World President, Ann Connan, was really desperate...so she asked me!

It was an incredible experience and really hard work. Every day, I led community singing, led the music for morning prayer, played any hymns needed for Bible Studies, led a 2½ hour workshop for 100 people and then did the music for evening prayers. They were long, long days!! But, such a privilege to be part of an exciting and worldwide movement that does amazing work across the globe in the name of Methodism.

I'm so grateful for the support of the Circuit and the prayers of so many people, I couldn't have done it without you. I would love to come and share my experiences with you and am doing a series of talks up and down the Circuit. Do come and hear what I got up to and the work of Methodism worldwide.

1st December	4.00 p.m.	Holt Methodist Church
6th December	4.00 p.m.	Wells Methodist Church
7th December	7.15 p.m.	Hindringham Guild
24th January	2.30 p.m.	Watton CC
28th January	2.30 p.m.	Swaffham Methodist Church

Hope to see you there, and of course there will be cake afterwards so it's worth coming just for that!

Rev Jenny

THOUGHTS ON A TRIP TO ISRAEL

[Continued from page 12]

We had no worries about safety whilst there, saw no sign of conflict which many had wondered about. We did see soldiers with their guns, and armed police, but that was mainly due to the fact that Israel was celebrating Independence Day whilst we were there and were holding a parade in Jerusalem. This in fact caused us to alter our programme slightly by swapping two days over so that we were not in Jerusalem on that day!

I could say so much more but have only limited space in which to write this account. I took nearly 900 photographs and will be arranging some to use as an illustration for a talk. If you would like to know more why not asked me to come to your church/meeting sometime?

A WALK TO REMEMBER

Peter Cowling from Watton writes: Early September, children back at school, things of Summer beginning to draw to a close....one event regularly marks this watershed: the walk or ride organised by the Norfolk Churches Trust. It's an opportunity for some hearty exercise coupled with the chance to see inside some of our most historic, beautiful buildings.

A bit on the spur of the moment, necessitating a rapid trawl for sponsorship from generous friends, we decided on a walk round as many churches in Norwich as possible in 3 hours. Heavy rain was forecast for Norwich for most of the day but we kitted up and set off.

A quick stop in St. Stephen's and a pause to absorb again the grace and light of St. Pater Mancroft – and then it was off to the first 'unknown' of the day, the Quaker Meeting House in Upper Goat Lane. All the polished wood and pillars, the surprising largeness of the hall, the cushions and chairs, all to make sitting still to worship, possible and real: and the thought that the spirits of Elizabeth Fry and her like were nurtured here.... There was a lot to take in.

There followed a string of churches now given to other uses – St Gregory's and antiques, St. Lawrence, St. Margaret's and St. Benedict's for the arts. We were especially impressed by St Swithin's – warm and well cared for hosting a marvellous Print Fair: some of the linocuts on display were so vivid and inspired that we marvelled at the gifts and talents on display.

Along then to St. Andrew's – a lovely warm working church with a welcome to match and signs of innovative attempts to meet the needs of the folk around.

A quick in and out of St. Michael at Plea, trying for once to avoid the allure of the books so attractively set out to catch the eye – and then, a delightful surprise! We stepped into Princes Street URC to find that our friend, Rev Daphne Lloyd was preaching there the following day. Our affection for Rev Daphne was clearly shared by the lady signing our forms so we asked to be remembered to her and moved on, to possibly the loveliest church of all St. George's Tombland. Relatively small and beautifully decorated, we were given a few interesting facts by a charming gentleman who offered us the 'full hysterical tour' but admitted that this would take half an hour!

Not quite ready for this, we set off for our last two ports of call – St. John's, Timberhill and All Saints further down the road.

By now the rain had stopped although driving back home we ran into it once more, lashing down, but it hadn't dampened our spirits or our enthusiasm, one bit.



WELLS CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Sponsored by Churches Together in the
Congregational Church Centre

Friday—Sunday December 2nd - 4th
Open daily 10.00 a.m.- 4.00 p.m.

THÉRÈSE'S PRAYER

May oppressed people and those who oppress them free each other.

May those who are handicapped and those who think they are not help each other.

May those who need someone to listen touch the hearts of those who are too busy.

May the homeless bring joy to those who open their doors reluctantly.

May the lonely heal those who think they are self-sufficient.

May the poor melt the hearts of the rich.

May seekers of truth give life to those who are satisfied that they have found it.

May the dying who do not wish to die be comforted by those who find it hard to live. May the unloved be allowed to unlock the hearts of those who cannot love.

May prisoners find true freedom and liberate others from fear.

May those who sleep on the streets share their gentleness with those who cannot understand them.

May the hungry tear the veil from the eyes of those who do not hunger after justice.

May those who live without hope cleanse the hearts of their brothers and sisters who are afraid to live.

May the weak confound the strong and save them.

May violence be overcome with compassion.

May violence be absorbed by men and women of peace.

May violence succumb to those who are totally vulnerable.

That we may be healed.

Amen.

(Submitted by Lillian Timms)

Al Fresco

A CD written and performed by Elizabeth Lodge

All the pieces on this album are set outside. Using Italian is in keeping with the Italian terms in music. Besides that, I love Italy and the language!

£10.00 + £1.50 p&p

01485 528744

elizabethlodge.1@btinternet.com

"Thank you, God. The well of inspiration has never run dry."

JOINING FORCES WITH 1940s GUIDES

by Jenny Pathmarajah

This summer the Central Norfolk Circuit joined forces with the 1st 1940s Ranger unit twice to share in experiences and worship at two local Living History weekends. Girlguiding Norfolk has a tradition of holding and supporting living history events and after Gareth Powell's call to preach the gospel outside it's been a fantastic opportunity to remember the Methodist tradition of open air preaching.

The girls spent four days (and nights!) as a living history camp on the farm of Gressenhall rural life Museum, near Dereham, in August. Modern conveniences were put aside as they camped in traditional style and joined in the museum 'Village at War' event, showing many hundreds of visitors around the camp each day – and in between learning about morse and semaphore for the signaller badge.

Older leaders who have traditionally run the camp were not available this year, but the girls were determined to go so camped as a patrol of Land Rangers. Skills learned over the previous years were put to good use as they took responsibility for all aspects of the camp, with Izzy working to gain her Senior Section camp permit too!

This is the tenth year the camp has been running at Gressenhall, and several previous participants joined in a celebration campfire. Memories were shared, and stories told of how taking part in these events has been a life-changing experience – giving them the confidence to go out and try other new things, and helping get work and study placements.

A few weeks later members showed they are always up for a challenge of any type. Could the new recruits, step back in time, decipher codes, use their initiative, approach members of the public with confidence, find the drop point and its treasure, demonstrate their marching skills with heads held high whilst carrying colours and singing in tune.... and join in with 1000s of other members of the public. Could they pass as secret agents and graduate from spy school? Of course they could!!

And so the girls, some new and some more experienced in living history, joined the North Norfolk Railway Poppyline event at Holt and Sheringham, and worked towards their Politics Matters and Spy Agent challenge badges. The company contributed to the Harvest Service held at Holt Station and Izzy, who is going to an international Moot in Iceland next summer was interviewed about her trip. The collection to help Izzy with her fundraising amounted to £152! A huge thanks to those who contributed, to Holt and Gressenhall Methodist Chapels for their hospitality and help and to everyone who came and support the open air services.

[Continued on page 17]

Izzy



THURSFORD SONGS OF PRAISE 2017

As you may already be aware, the 2017 Thursford Songs of Praise will be on Sunday, April 2nd.

As we have put a great emphasis on becoming dementia friendly within our churches during the past year, we thought it would be nice to support Age Concern (Norfolk) in their work of giving assistance to those affected by this terribly debilitating disease.

As usual the Churches in our Circuit will have first call on the tickets, before they are advertised to the general public.

This is the only notification I will be issuing to churches and I will need to be informed of the quantity each church requires by January 9th.

If you would like to order tickets, please let your church organiser know as soon as possible

Stephen Lynn

HINDRINGHAM GUILD

Wednesdays at 7.15 p.m.

7th December Rev. Jenny
Pathmarajah Her trip to Texas

14th December Members Evening
Christmas Readings.

21st December Carol Service led
by Mrs. Beryl Flood.

JOINING FORCES WITH 1940s GUIDES

[Continued from page 16]

Reflecting on the weekend the girls 'treasures' included:

- Enjoying talking to lots of different people
- Nice to have compliments... 'Really refreshing to see teenagers being polite'
- Seeing everyone dressed up in 1940s costume all around us
- Getting on in groups and doing puzzles and codes
- Loving history and not feeling weird
- Making new friends
- Gaining confidence
- Learning about politics
- Sleeping on church pew cushions – they are so comfy!

WELLS

A request to those who pray: In your daily prayers, please include the town of Wells-next-the-Sea and its churches. Thanks to publicity in the press and on the internet, Wells has become one of the top seaside resorts in the country. Whilst this brings great benefit to the town, it also stretches the local resources and inevitably affects the residents. It is the responsibility of the five local churches to minister to residents and visitors alike. Please pray that together the churches may respond to the challenge

Fair Trade Stall: Wells-next-the-Sea is a Fair Trade Town and the Methodist Church provides a permanent Fair Trade Stall open whenever the Church is open (including Sundays}

St. Martin's Trust (Norwich Night Shelter): As in past years, we are collecting gifts for Christmas for the homeless. Such items as warm scarves, gloves, socks and hats together with toiletries for men and women are acceptable. Please bring them to the Church by Sunday, 11th December to allow time for collection, sorting and parcelling etc.

Gifts For Food Bank: Christmas brings extra demands on the Food Banks. This Church is a Collection Centre for gifts of food etc. for the Cromer and Fakenham Food Banks whose current needs are increasing.

A list of acceptable items was published in the last "Link". Please continue to give generously. Details of opening times from Sadie Spalding (01328 711931).

N.B. Please ensure foodstuffs are well "in date".

MATTISHALL

The monthly Saturday Coffee Mornings have continued with loyal supporters and recent donations for refreshments and books being £60 for GATE and £57 for the Alzheimer's Society. The Harvest Festival service was held in September when Rev Betty conducted the Sunday afternoon service. On the Monday evening the congregation enjoyed a concert of harvest time favourites and readings by the Yaxham Singers from the Evangelical Church. The collection and sale of produce amounted to £122 for "All we can". Fellowship continued as light refreshments were served.

HINDRINGHAM

We have been clearing our some cupboards which we have had to dispose of and have limited storage space now. We have a selection of old Sunday School books – recitation and short sketches etc. and if anyone has any use for these or knows of any group who would we would rather they be put some some use than just put them in the recycle bin.

Also if anyone would like to have any of the books from the Circuit Library which are stored in the book cases at the back of the Chapel or again knows of anyone who would make good use of them please let us know as we need some extra storage space and we would like them to be put to good use.

Please ring Shirley on 01328 878485

SCULTHORPE

The concert in aid of Action for Children on September 10 raised £250. Thank you to all those who attended and supported us.

CHURCHES

WATTON

From Sonya and Trevor Thompson: When you go to an Agricultural Show on a sunny Sunday in August, you do not expect to see a Pop Up Theatre, but that is what happened this year in Watton.

'Churches Together' had a gazebo there and members from the different church communities got together to do different things. Children could make Olympic flags and medals and play games such as Connect 4 and Jenga. Six members of the Methodist Church decided to try a bit of Street Theatre and caused a diversion (and disturbance?) in one of the main thoroughfares, by acting out 4minute sketches on the hour, every hour throughout the day.

These were based on Bible stories which had been given a humorous twist: there were, for example, 'Inn Trouble' 'Would you Adam and Eve it' and 'Short Change' - we will leave you to guess the titles of the originals. These witty interpretations were sourced by Rev.Barbara and the venture was part of comprehensive Outreach programme currently beginning to be carried out at Watton. The actors involved are awaiting a call from Cameron Mackintosh or The Oscars but so far have received only a deafening silence! It was an interesting and slightly scary experience and it would be fair to say that we created more of a stir than a sensation. However, later in the afternoon a gentleman from a nearby stall was heard to remark 'If church is this much fun I might give it a go! '

GREAT CRESSINGHAM

Unfortunately our Coffee Mornings have been cancelled until further notice.

WHEN CHRISTMASTIME IS HARD

For most people Christmas
is a happy time.

For most people that is...

If Christmas time is not a happy time for you, we want you to know that you're not alone and you're not forgotten. Whether it's grief, loss, painful memories or anything else it's often intensified during this season and it can feel like nobody cares.

We do

Come to our service of prayer
and reflection

**Tuesday 20th December
Holt Methodist Church**

**Thursday 22nd December
Wells Methodist Church**

**Both services will begin at
7.00 p.m.**

AROUND THE CIRCUIT

For your information, prayer and support

WATTON

Christian Meditation: 7.45 p.m. 1st and 3rd Monday each month.

Singing Group: 2.30pm 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month

Every Wednesday (except December 28):

Coffee Morning: 9.30 a.m. - 12noon in the Christian Community Centre

Church Open for Private Prayer: 10.15 a.m. - 12noon

Midweek Service: 10.30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. held in large vestry

Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship: 2.30 p.m. – 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month in the Christian Community Centre

Town Carol Service at Queens Hall:
December 11th 4.00 p.m.

Church Carol Service: December 18th 10.30 a.m.

Candlelight Carol Service: December 24th 7.00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service: December 25th 10.30 a.m.

Covenant Service: January 1st 10.30 a.m.

Education Sunday: February 5th 10.30 a.m.

HINGHAM

Coffee-shop with stalls: 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon December 3, January 7th, February 4th.

Bible Discussion Group: 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. December 12th, January 9th, 23rd, February 6th, 20

Carol Service: with Breckland Harmony 10.30 a.m. December 11th. Collection for Action for Children.

HOLT

Afternoon Bible Study: 2.30 p.m. fortnightly on Mondays at Rosemary Wakelin's.

Evening Bible Study: 7.30 p.m. fortnightly on Tuesdays at Tony Hey's.

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

Prayer Service: 9.30 a.m. on Fridays

Carol Service: December 11th 11.00 a.m.

When Christmastime is Hard: December 20th 7.00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service: 9.45 a.m.

Macmillan Coffee Morning: January 7th 10.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

Jumble Sale: January 28th 10.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

LITCHAM

Coffee Mornings: every Thursday 10.30—12 noon

Christingle Service: December 18th at 3.00 p.m. (Please bring an orange, everything else will be provided.) Light seasonal refreshments afterwards.

The Big Carol Sing: Friday December 23rd at 7.00 p.m. Many of your favourite carols accompanied by Pippa Cook, Sarah King and Stephen Lynn. Followed by refreshments.

Christmas Day Family Service: 10.30a.m.

THURSFORD

Carol Service: 6.30 p.m. December 18th followed by refreshments at Holly Lodge.

BLAKENEY

Messy Church: Tuesdays December 13th, January 10th, February 14th at 3.15 p.m.. in the Parish Church

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

Prayers: followed by coffee Thursday mornings 10 00 a.m.

Young Peoples Group: Tuesdays December 20th, January 16th, February 21st at 7.30 p.m.

Centring Prayer: Tuesday evenings 5.45 p.m.

Carol Service: December 18th 6.30 p.m. led by Rev. Jenny.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Glaven Sings the Gospel (Parish Church): Sunday December 4th 6.30 p.m.

Dickens Christmas Carol (Catholic Church): Friday December. 9th 6.30 p.m.

Carols in the Courtyard: Wednesday December 14th 6.00 p.m.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Sunday January 22nd United Service in the Parish Church at 6.30 p.m.

Meeting at the Rectory to arrange future events: Tuesday January 31st 3.00 p.m.

WENDLING

Coffee mornings: 10.30 – 12.00 noon December 7th (Christmas Special), 21st, February 8th, 22nd.

Christmas Day service: 10.30 a.m.

Pancake Supper: February 28th 5.00 p.m.

FULMODESTON

United Service: 2.30 p.m. January 1st. A short Liturgy written and led by Rev Francis Mason Rector of Fakenham.

BEETLEY

Carol Service: 6.30 p.m. December 18th

Christingle Service for Holiday Club children and their families. 6.00 p.m. December 20th

Christmas Day: no services at Beetley, join with Wendling.

Bible Study: contact John Hull 01362 695154

Prayer time with Rev. Betty: 9.30 a.m. December 7th, January 4th and February 1st

Time to talk about God with Rev. Betty: 7.00 p.m. December 15th

Drop In: 2.00 – 3.00 p.m. December 7th and 21st, January 4th and 18th, February 1st and 15th

Card Making and Knitting: 2.00 – 3.00 p.m. January 25th and February 22nd

Coffee Morning: 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. January 28th. Charity North Breckland Youth for Christ.

In July £114.24 was sent to North Breckland Youth for Christ and in September, £81.74 was raised for St. Martin's Housing Trust, Norwich.

STIBBARD

Praise Together: 4.00 p.m. December 4th, January 8th, February 5th.

Railway Film Afternoons: 2.30 p.m. December 3rd, January 7th, February 4th.

Lunch @ The Centre: 12.30 p.m. December 14th, January 11th, February 8th.

Ecumenical Prayers and Coffee: 10.30 a.m. December 20th, January 31st, February 28th.

Circuit Choir: 7.30 p.m. December 2nd, January 20th, February 4th, 18th.

Quiz Night @ The Centre: January 24th.

SWAFFHAM

Prayer Group: Every Friday 9.30 – 10.00 a.m.

Coffee Mornings: 9.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon every Saturday (except December 24th & 31st).

Thursday Group: 2.30 – 4.00 p.m. December 8th (Advent Service), January 12th (Beetle Drive), January 26th (Talk on Dementia by George Bell).

Town Carol Service: 7.00 p.m. December 15th in the Assembly Rooms.

Concert: 7.00 p.m. December 16th featuring The Phoenix Singers.

Christmas Eve Service: 3.00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service: 9.30 a.m.

Church Council: 7.00 p.m. February 13th.

Soup & Pancakes: 11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. February 28th. Cost £5.00

TOFTWOOD

Lunch and Linger: December 14th, January 11th, and February 8th, 12.30 p.m.

Messy Church: for children every second Tuesday 3.30 – 6.00 p.m.

Carpet Bowls: Tuesdays 7.00 – 8.30 p.m. and Thursdays 2.00 p.m.

Coffee Mornings: first and third Wednesdays with prayers at 9.30 a.m. on third Wednesdays with Rev. Betty

Craft Fayre: Caring Friends for Cancer November 26th 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Christmas Concert: 7.00 p.m. December 3rd. £3.50 including light refreshments.

Christmas Day Service: 9.30 a.m.

Shrove Tuesday: February 28th 12.00 – 2.00 p.m. soup and pancakes. Come and join us.

MATTISHALL

Charity Coffee Mornings: 10.00 – 11.30 a.m. December 3rd, January 7th, February 4th.

Led Prayers: with Rev Betty 9.00 – 9.30 a.m. January 17th, February 21st.

Christmas Concert: in aid of Action for Children. 7.30 p.m. December 8th.

Ecumenical Agapé Lunch: 12.30 p.m. January 20th at ASM Church Rooms.

SAHAM HILLS

Christmas Fayre and Coffee Morning: 10.00 – 12.00 noon December 3rd

Knit and Knatter: 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. January 31st, February 28th

Carol Service; 3.00 p.m. December 18th (followed by refreshments).

GREAT ELLINGHAM

Coffee Mornings: including sales table, cakes, & home made greetings cards. 10.00 – 11.00 a.m. December 6th, January 3rd, February 7th.

Fellowship Meetings: 2.30 p.m. December 13th, 27th, January 10th, 24th, February 14th, 28th.

Carol Service: 2.30 p.m. December 18th led by Rev Barbara

SHIPDHAM Methodist / URC LEP

Coffee Mornings: 9.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon. December 8th (Christmas special), January 12th, February 9th.

Carol Service: 3.00 p.m. December 11th. Preacher Rev Andrew King

SCULTHORPE

Carol Service: 2.30 p.m. December 18th

WELLS NEXT THE SEA with Churches Together in Wells

Prayer and Praise: 10.30 a.m. every Wednesday (except December 27th, January 4th).

Service at Dorrington House: 2.15 p.m. December 20th, January 18th, February 15th.

Town Community Carol Service: December 2nd [time to be announced] in St. Nicholas' Parish Church

Blessing of the Crib: 11.00 a.m. December 17th. Assemble at Maltings car park

Church Carol Service: 11.00 a.m. December 18th. Led by Rev Jenny Pathmarajah

Christmas Day: 11.00 a.m. short family service led by Rev Jenny Pathmarajah

New Year's Eve: at 11.30 p.m. Watchnight Service led by Rev Colin Garwood.

Songs of Praise with carols: 11.00 a.m. January 1st. This is a Section Service.

Churches Together In Wells: 7.00 p.m. January 10th in the Peter Collingwood Hall.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: January 18 – 25. Daily Short Services at 10.30 a.m. as follows:-

Wednesday 18th Methodist Church

Thursday 19th Our Lady Star of the Sea Church

Friday 20th Friends Meeting House

Monday 23rd Congregational Church Centre

Tuesday 24th St. Nicholas' Parish Church

There will be a Service of Unity on Sunday 22nd at 3.00 p.m. in the Friends' Meeting House with local clergy and ministers. This year's preacher will be from the Church of England

DEREHAM

Women's Own: weekly on Tuesday during term time at 2.45 pm (details Olwyn 01362 692799)

Bible Studies: fortnightly Tuesday evenings at 7.30 p.m. Jacky's Bible Study (details Jacky 01362 697860) alternating with Kathy's Bible Study (details Kathy 01362 697154)

Ladies Wednesday Club: 7.30 p.m. December 28th, January 25th, February 22nd (details from Jacky)

Coffee Mornings: 10.00 a.m. December 1st, 15th, January 5th, 19th, February 2nd, 16th.

Lunch Club: 12.00 noon December 8th, January 12th, February 9th (details Pam 01362 854394)

Mid-Week Communion: 10.30 a.m. December 22nd, January 26th, February 23rd (details Rev Betty)

Cards & Chatter: 11.15 a.m. December 22nd, January 26th, February 23rd (details Sylvia 01362 693425)

Trinity Carol Service: 10.45 a.m. December 11th with Rev Betty

Oddfellows Carol Service: 10.45 a.m. December 18th with Jacky Woor

Advent Course (part 4): at 7.00 p.m. December 22nd with Rev Betty

Crib Service: 4.00 p.m. December 24th with Rev Betty

Midnight Communion: 11.15 p.m. December 24th with Rev Betty

United Service for Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity: 6.30 p.m. January 22nd.

Valentine's Party: time tba February 11th.

GARVESTONE

Knit and Natter: 10.30 – 12.00 noon December 13th, January 10th, February 14th

Prayer Meetings: 7.30 p.m. December 16th, January 20th, February 17th.

WIGHTON

Carol Service: 11.00 a.m. December 18 with the assistance of the Guides. This is a joint service with the Anglicans at the Methodist Chapel.

DATES FOR PRAYER AND SUPPORT

Continued from page 25

Feb 1	2.00-3.00	Drop In	Beetley MC
Feb 2	10.00am	Coffee Morning	Dereham MC
Feb 4	10.00-11.30	Charity Coffee Morning	Mattishall MC
Feb 4	10.00-12.00	Coffee Morning with stalls	Hingham MC
Feb 4	2.30pm	Railway Film Afternoon	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Feb 4	7.30pm	Circuit Choir	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Feb 5	10.30am	Education Sunday Service	Watton MC
Feb 5	4.00pm	Praise Together	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Feb 6	10.00-11.30	Bible Discussion Group	Hingham MC
Feb 6	7.45pm	Christian Meditation	Watton MC
Feb 7	10.00-11.00	Coffee Morning with sales table	Great Ellingham MC
Feb 7	2.30pm	Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship	Watton CCC
Feb 8	10.30-12.00	Coffee Morning	Wendling MC
Feb 8	12.30pm	Lunch @ The Centre	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Feb 8	12.30pm	Lunch and Linger	Toftwood MC
Feb 9	9.30-12.00	Coffee Morning	Shipdham LEP
Feb 9	12.00 noon	Lunch Club	Dereham MC
Feb 11	tba	Valentine's Party	Dereham MC
Feb 13	7.00pm	Swaffham Church Council	Swaffham MC
Feb 14	10.30-12.00	Knit and Natter	Garvestone MC
Feb 14	2.30pm	Fellowship Meeting	Great Ellingham MC
Feb 14	2.30pm	Singing Group	Watton MC
Feb 14	3.15pm	Messy Church	Blakeney Parish Ch
Feb 15	2.00-3.00	Drop In	Beetley MC
Feb 15	2.15pm	Service at Dorrington House	Taken by Wells MC
Feb 16	10.00am	Coffee Morning	Dereham MC
Feb 17	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting	Garvestone MC
Feb 18	7.30pm	Circuit Choir	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Feb 20	10.00-11.30	Bible Discussion Group	Hingham MC
Feb 20	7.45pm	Christian Meditation	Watton MC
Feb 21	9.00-9.30	Led Prayers with Rev Betty	Mattishall MC
Feb 21	2.30pm	Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship	Watton CCC
Feb 21	7.30pm	Young People's Group	Blakeney MC
Feb 22	10.30-12.00	Coffee Morning	Wendling MC
Feb 22	2.00-3.00	Card making and Knitting	Beetley MC
Feb 22	7.30pm	Ladies Wednesday Club	Dereham MC
Feb 23	10.30am	Mid-Week Communion	Dereham MC
Feb 23	11.15am	Cards and Chatter	Dereham MC
Feb 28	10.30am	Ecumenical Prayers and Coffee	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Feb 28	11.30-1.00	Soup and Pancakes	Swaffham MC
Feb 28.	12.00-2.00	Soup and Pancakes	Toftwood MC
Feb 28	2.00-4.00	Knit and Knatter	Saham Hills MC
Feb 28	2.30pm	Fellowship Meeting	Great Ellingham MC
Feb 28	2.30pm	Singing Group	Watton MC
Feb 28	5.00pm	Pancake Supper	Wendling MC

DATES FOR PRAYER AND SUPPORT

Continued from page 26

Jan 7	10.00-1130	Charity Coffee Morning	Mattishall MC
Jan 7	10.00-12.00	Coffee Morning with stalls	Hingham MC
Jan 7	10.30-1.30	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Holt MC
Jan 7	2.30pm	Railway Film Afternoon	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Jan 8	4.00pm	Praise Together	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Jan 9	10.00-11.30	Bible Discussion Group	Hingham MC
Jan 10	10.30-12.00	Knit and Natter	Garvestone MC
Jan 10	2.30pm	Fellowship Meeting	Great Ellingham MC
Jan 10	2.30pm	Singing Group	Watton MC
Jan 10	3.15pm	Messy Church	Blakeney Parish Ch
Jan 10	7.00pm	Churches Together in Wells	Peter Collingwood Hall
Jan 11	12.30pm	Lunch @ The Centre	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Jan 11	12.30pm	Lunch and Linger	Toftwood MC
Jan 12	9.30-12.00	Coffee Morning	Shipdham LEP
Jan 12	12.00 noon	Lunch Club	Dereham MC
Jan 12	2.30-4.00	Thursday Group—Beetle Drive	Swaffham MC
Jan 16	7.45pm	Christian Meditation	Watton MC
Jan 17	9.00-9.30	Led Prayers with Rev Betty	Mattishall MC
Jan 17	2.30pm	Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship	Watton CCC
Jan 17	7.30pm	Young People's Group	Blakeney MC
Jan 18	2.00-3.00	Drop In	Beetley MC
Jan 18	2.15pm	Service at Dorrington House	Taken by Wells MC
Jan 19	10.00am	Coffee Morning	Dereham MC
Jan 20	12.30pm	Ecumenical Agapé Lunch	All Saints Mattishall Ch Rms
Jan 20	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting	Garvestone MC
Jan 20	7.30pm	Circuit Choir	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Jan 22	6.30pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity—United Service	Blakeney Parish Ch
Jan 22	6.30pm	United Service for the octave of Christian Unity	Dereham MC
Jan 23	10.00-11.30	Bible Discussion Group	Hingham MC
Jan 24	2.30pm	Fellowship Meeting	Great Ellingham MC
Jan 24	2.30pm	'Deep in the heart of Texas' - Rev Jenny	Watton CC
Jan 24	7.30pm	Quiz Night @ The Centre	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Jan 25	2.00-3.00	Card making and Knitting	Beetley MC
Jan 25	7.30pm	Ladies Wednesday Club	Dereham MC
Jan 26	10.30am	Mid-Week Communion	Dereham MC
Jan 26	11.15am	Cards and Chatter	Dereham MC
Jan 26	2.30-4.00	Thursday Group—Talk on Dementia by George Bell	Swaffham MC
Jan 28	9.30-11.30	Coffee Morning in aid of Breckland Youth for Christ	Beetley MC
Jan 28	10.30-1.30	Jumble Sale	Holt MC
Jan 28	2.30pm	'Deep in the heart of Texas' - Rev Jenny	Swaffham MC
Jan 31	10.30am	Ecumenical Prayers and Coffee	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Jan 31	2.00-4.00	Knit and Knatter	Saham Hills MC
Jan 31	3.00pm	Blakeney Churches Together meeting	Blakeney Rectory
Feb 1	9.30am	Prayer Time with Rev Betty	Beetley MC

DATES FOR PRAYER AND SUPPORT

Continued from page 27

Dec 18	11.00am	Carol Service	Wells MC
Dec 18	11.00am	Ecumenical Carol Service with the Guides	Wighton MC
Dec 18	2.30pm	Carol Service led by Rev Barbara	Great Ellingham MC
Dec 18	2.30pm	Carol Service	Sculthorpe MC
Dec 18	3.00pm	Christingle Service followed by refreshments	Litcham MC
Dec 18	3.00pm	Carol Service followed by refreshments	Saham Hills MC
Dec 18	6.30pm	Carol Service	Beetley MC
Dec 18	6.30pm	Carol Service	Blakeney MC
Dec 18	6.30pm	Carol Service followed by refreshments	Thursford MC
Dec 19	7.45pm	Christian Meditation	Watton MC
Dec 20	10.30am	Ecumenical Prayers and Coffee	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Dec 20	2.15pm	Service at Dorrington House	Taken by Wells MC
Dec 20	2.30pm	Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship	Watton CCC
Dec 20	6.00pm	Christingle Service	Beetley MC
Dec 20	7.00pm	'When Christmastime is Hard'	Holt MC
Dec 20	7.30pm	Young People's Group	Blakeney MC
Dec 21	10.30-12.00	Coffee Morning	Wendling MC
Dec 21	2.00-3.00	Drop In	Beetley MC
Dec 22	7.00pm	'When Christmastime is Hard'	Wells MC
Dec 22	10.30am	Mid-Week Communion	Dereham MC
Dec 22	11.15am	Cards and Chatter	Dereham MC
Dec 23	7.00pm	The Big Carol Sing	Litcham MC
Dec 24	3.00pm	Christmas Eve Service	Swaffham MC
Dec 24	4.00pm	Crib Service with Rev Betty	Dereham MC
Dec 24	7.00pm	Candlelight Carol Service	Watton MC
Dec 24	11.15pm	Midnight Communion	Dereham MC
Dec 25	9.30am	Christmas Day Service	Swaffham MC
Dec 25	9.30am	Christmas Day Service	Toftwood MC
Dec 25	9.45am	Christmas Day Service	Holt MC
Dec 25	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Service	Litcham MC
Dec 25	10.30am	Christmas Day Service	Wendling MC
Dec 25	11.00am	Short Family Service	Wells MC
Dec 27	2.30pm	Fellowship Meeting	Great Ellingham MC
Dec 27	2.30pm	Singing Group	Watton MC
Dec 28	7.30pm	Ladies Wednesday Club	Dereham MC
Dec 31	11.30pm	Watchnight Service	Wells MC
Jan 1	10.30am	Covenant Service	Watton MC
Jan 1	11.00am	Songs of Praise with Carols [<i>Section Service</i>]	Wells MC
Jan 1	2.30pm	United Service led by the Rector of Fakenham	Fulmodeston MC
Jan 2	7.45pm	Christian Meditation	Watton MC
Jan 3	10.00-11.00	Coffee Morning with sales table	Great Ellingham MC
Jan 3	2.30pm	Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship	Watton CCC
Jan 4	9.30am	Prayer Time with Rev Betty	Beetley MC
Jan 4	2.00-3.00	Drop In	Beetley MC
Jan 5	10.00am	Coffee Morning	Dereham MC

DATES FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT

Further details on pages 24–26

Dec 1	10.00am	Coffee Morning	Dereham MC
Dec 1	4.00pm	'Deep in the heart of Texas' - Rev Jenny	Holt MC
Dec 2	tba	Wells Town Community Carol Service	St Nicholas Parish Ch
Dec 2	7.30pm	Circuit Choir	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Dec 3	10.00-1130	Charity Coffee Morning	Mattishall MC
Dec 3	10.00-12.00	Coffee Morning with stalls	Hingham MC
Dec 3	10.00-12.30	Christmas Fayre and Coffee Morning	Saham Hills MC
Dec 3	2.30pm	Railway Film Afternoon	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Dec 3	7.00pm	Christmas Concert	Toftwood MC
Dec 4	4.00pm	Praise Together	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Dec 4	6.30pm	Glaven Sings the Gospel	Blakeney Parish Ch
Dec 5	7.45pm	Christian Meditation	Watton MC
Dec 6	10.00-11.00	Coffee Morning with sales table	Great Ellingham MC
Dec 6	2.30pm	Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship	Watton CCC
Dec 6	4.00pm	'Deep in the heart of Texas' - Rev Jenny	Wells MC
Dec 7	9.30am	Prayer Time with Rev Betty	Beetley MC
Dec 7	10.30-12.00	Coffee Morning—Christmas Special	Wendling MC
Dec 7	2.00-3.00	Drop In	Beetley MC
Dec 7	7.15pm	'Deep in the heart of Texas' - Rev Jenny	Hindringham Guild
Dec 8	9.30-12.00	Coffee Morning (Christmas Special)	Shipdham LEP
Dec 8	12.00 noon	Lunch Club	Dereham MC
Dec 8	2.30-4.00	Thursday Group—Advent Service	Swaffham MC
Dec 8	7.30pm	Christmas Concert In aid of Action for Children	Mattishall MC
Dec 9	6.30pm	Dickens Christmas Carol	Blakeney Catholic Ch
Dec 11	10.30am	Carol Service with Breckland Harmony	Hingham MC
Dec 11	10.45am	Trinity Carol Service with Rev Betty	Dereham MC
Dec 11	11.00 am	Carol Service	Holt MC
Dec 11	3.00pm	Carol Service with Rev Andrew King	Shipdham LEP
Dec 11	4.00pm	Town Carol Service	Watton Queen's Hall
Dec 12	10.00-11.30	Bible Discussion Group	Hingham MC
Dec 13	10.30-12.00	Knit and Natter	Garvestone MC
Dec 13	2.30pm	Fellowship Meeting	Great Ellingham MC
Dec 13	2.30pm	Singing Group	Watton MC
Dec 13	3.15pm	Messy Church	Blakeney Parish Ch
Dec 14	12.30pm	Lunch @ The Centre	Stibbard M Ch Centre
Dec 14	12.30pm	Lunch and Linger	Toftwood MC
Dec 14	6.00pm	Carols in the Courtyard	Blakeney MC
Dec 15	10.00am	Coffee Morning	Dereham MC
Dec 15	7.00pm	Time to talk about God with Rev Betty	Beetley MC
Dec 15	7.00pm	Town Carol Service	Swaffham Assembly Rooms
Dec 16	7.00pm	Concert featuring the Phoenix Singers	Swaffham MC
Dec 16	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting	Garvestone MC
Dec 17	11.00 am	Blessing of the Crib in Wells	Maltings Car Park
Dec 18	10.30am	Carol Service	Watton MC
Dec 18	10.45am	Oddfellowes Carol Service with Jacky Woor	Dereham MC

REGULAR Weekly/Monthly dates for prayer Further details elsewhere in The Link.

Mon	10.00-11.30	1 st , 3 rd & 5 th in month: Bible Discussion Group	Hingham MC
Mon	10.30-12.00	1 st & 3 rd in month: Chatting the Bible & Prayer	Shipdham LEP
Mon	2.30pm	Fortnightly House Group, details Rev Rosemary Wakelin	Holt MC
Mon	7.30pm	Beetley, Wendling, Gressenhall Bible Study at Beetley	contact: John Hull
Mon	7.45pm	1 st & 3 rd in month: Christian Meditation, in vestry	Watton MC
Tues	9.15am	Stepping Stones for mothers, carers and their youngsters	Holt MC
Tues	10.00am	Bible Study	Blakeney St Nicholas
Tues	10-11am	1 st in month: Coffee Morning.	Gt Ellingham MC
Tues	10.30-12.00	3 rd in month: Coffee Morning	Gt Cressingham MC
Tues	2.30pm	2 nd & 4 th in month: Fellowship	Gt Ellingham MC
Tues	2.30pm	2 nd & 4 th in month: Singing Group	Watton MC
Tues	2.45pm	Women's Own, details from Olwyn Brough	Dereham MC
Tues	3.15pm	2 nd in month: 'Messy Church'	Blakeney St Nicholas
Tues	5.45pm	Centring Prayer Group	Blakeney MC
Tues	7.00pm	2 nd in month: Toftwood Forum	Toftwood MC
Tues	7.00-8.30	All except 2 nd in month, Bowls Club	Toftwood MC
Tues	7.30pm	3 rd in month: Young People's Group	Blakeney MC
Tues	7.30pm	Fortnightly Bible Study Group, details Jacky Woor	Dereham MC
Tues	7.30pm	Fortnightly House Group, details Aveen Speakman	Holt MC
Wed	9.30-12.00	Coffee Morning	Watton MC
Wed	10.00-11.30	1 st & 3 rd in month: Coffee Morning	Toftwood M C
Wed	10.00-12.00	Coffee Morning	Tittleshall M C
Wed	10.15-11.30	Church open for quiet time	Watton MC
Wed	10.30am	Prayer & Praise followed by coffee/tea & biscuits	Wells MC
Wed	10.30-11.00	Mid-week worship in large vestry	Watton MC
Wed	10.30-12.00	2 nd & 4 th in month: Coffee Morning in chapel	Wendling MC
Wed	2.00-3.00	1 st & 3 rd in month: Drop-in & Chat	Beetley MC
Wed	7.30pm	Ladies Wednesday Club, details Jacky Woor	Dereham MC
Thurs	9.00-9.30	Prayer Time	Dereham MC
Thurs	10.00am	Prayer followed by coffee	Blakeney M C
Thurs	10.00-12.00	2 nd in month: Coffee Morning for all	Shipdham LEP
Thurs	10.00am	1 st & 3 rd each month: Coffee Morning	Dereham M C
Thurs	10.30-12.00	Coffee Morning	Litcham M C
Thurs	10.30am	4 th in month: Mid-week Holy Communion	Dereham MC
Thurs	11.00am	Service at Lloyd Court	taken by Holt MC
Thurs	12.00	2 nd in month: Luncheon Club, details Pam Beardsmore	Dereham MC
Thurs	2.00pm	Bowls Club	Toftwood MC
Thurs	2.30pm	2 nd & 4 th in month: Thursday Group for adults, all-ages.	Swaffham MC
Fri	9.30-10.00	Prayer Group	Swaffham MC
Fri	9.30-11.30	Short Service followed by Coffee	Holt MC
Fri	7.30pm	3 rd in month: Ecumenical Prayer Meeting	Garvestone MC
Sat	9.30-12.00	Coffee Morning	Swaffham MC
Sat	10.00-12.00	1 st in month: Coffee Shop with stalls.	Hingham MC