

WALSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH
THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOLLOWING
RENOVATION AND RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH

FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER 1987 — 7.30p.m.

SERVICE CONDUCTED BY THE REV. N. ROY COPPACK
(Superintendent Minister)

WELCOME BY PASTOR B. G. BARTON

WALSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Society was formed in the town in 1779. John Wesley visited the town on 30th October 1781. He preached at 2pm most possibly in the Common Place near the pump for he went on afterwards to visit both the Augustinian Priory and the Franciscan Friary. Our Wesleyan Chapel was built in 1793/4 and the Dissenter's certificate granted to William Douton by the then Bishop of Norwich is held by the Church. There had been a smaller chapel in 1782 but its site is not known. This present Church was built on the site of the lay folks cemetery of the Grey Friars Friary close to the Friary Main Entrance. The ground was consecrated in 1341.

The Methodist Church is the oldest Methodist Church in East Anglia in which services are still held. It is a Listed Building. The seating in the gallery is original, but the pews downstairs are Victorian as is the pulpit. The original pulpit was as high, but much smaller in area. The organ in the gallery was first in the Primitive Methodist Church in the town.

Extensive renovation work to renew the Church at a cost of £24,000 has now been completed. A sum of almost £6,000 still needs to be raised to clear the cost.

HYMN

1 GREAT is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand has provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)

Prayer and Lord's Prayer: Rev. ELIZABETH BELLAMY

HYMN

1 SING to the great Jehovah's praise;
All praise to him belongs;
Who kindly lengthens out our days
Demands our choicest songs.

2 His providence has brought us through
Another various year;
We all with vows and anthems new
Before our God appear.

3 Father, thy mercies past we own,
Thy still continued care;
To thee presenting, through thy Son,
Whate'er we have or are.

4 Our lips and lives shall gladly show
The wonders of thy love,
While on in Jesus' steps we go
To see thy face above.

5 Our residue of days or hours
Thine, wholly thine, shall be,
And all our consecrated powers
A sacrifice to thee.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Bible Reading by a Circuit Steward

*Greetings from The Rt. Revd. ALAN C. CLARK
(Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia)*

*Greetings from The Rt. Revd. DAVID BENTLEY
(Anglican Bishop of Lynn)*

Offertory received and dedicated by Pastor B. G. BARTON

HYMN

- 1 JESUS, where'er thy people meet,
There they behold thy mercy-seat;
Where'er they seek thee, thou art found,
And every place is hallowed ground.
- 2 For thou, within no walls confined,
Inhabitest the humble mind;
Such ever bring thee where they come,
And going, take thee to their home.
- 3 Dear Shepherd of thy chosen few,
Thy former mercies here renew;
Here to our waiting hearts proclaim
The sweetness of thy saving name.
- 4 Here may we prove the power of prayer,
To strengthen faith and sweeten care,
To teach our faint desires to rise,
And bring all heaven before our eyes.
- 5 Lord, we are few, but thou art near;
Nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear;
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,
And make a thousand hearts thine own!

William Cowper (1731-1800)

PRAYER

Lord God, mighty creator, we worship and adore you. You are the one who began all things. You are the one who throughout all time has guided and empowered your people. We worship and adore you.

Lord, God of our forebears and our God, we give you thanks and praise for our heritage here. For all those who have worshipped you in this church through nearly 2 centuries; for all those who have worshipped you on this consecrated site through over 6 centuries; for all those who have worshipped you in this community, both resident and pilgrim, through countless years - we give you thanks and praise.

Lord God, for our high calling to be your people, a royal priesthood, stewards of the resources we inherit, and fellow-workers together and with you in bringing all to fulfilment in you, we give you thanks and praise.

In this church, in this community and through us in all the communities we represent, may your will be sought and your Name glorified, thro' J.X. our Lord.

AMEN

Lord's Prayer

BLESSING

Sermon by Rev: RICHARD G. JONES, Chairman of the East Anglia District, President Designate of the Methodist Conference.

Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall in the High Street after the service.