



THE METHODIST CHURCH

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

NENE VALLEY CIRCUIT



**Superintendent Minister:**

Rev Margaret Eales  
01933 312778  
margareteales@yahoo.co.uk

**Circuit Ministers:**

Rev Nigel Bibbings  
01933 401953  
revdnigel@gmail.com

Rev Elizabeth Dunning  
01933 622137  
elizabeth.dunning@methodist.org.uk

Dear Friends,

In so many of the scripture readings that are shared in worship at this time of year, as we travel through Lent and journey on towards the cross, we see a different side to Jesus. Here no longer is the “mild, obedient” little child of Christmas, but a full grown adult prepared for controversy as he contends for what is right.

The gospel readings come from Luke’s gospel chapters 4, 9, 13 and 15 (look them up in the circuit plan). Already we have seen Jesus setting out what God has sent him to do and challenging the expectations of those in his own town, as well as being revealed for who he is in all his glory. In the coming weeks we shall hear of him facing fierce temptations; sorrowing over the people of Jerusalem and presenting a stark challenge – “Repent or perish”, then concluding with a parable about ‘lostness’ – that of the prodigal son and his elder brother.

The Jesus that we see in these passages is no ‘pushover’, he has some uncomfortable things to say and he doesn’t mince his words. What is also revealed is his compassion, in that he wants everyone to be able to respond to his challenge.

When I was a small child, my parents taught me to say as a part of our prayers together at bedtime, the first verse of Charles Wesley’s “Gentle Jesus, meek and mild, Look upon a little child”. This was all very well, but I had to allow Jesus to grow up, and to allow myself to ‘grow up’ in Him. Otherwise I would have stayed like a ‘child’ in my own faith and my appreciation of what God was doing in Jesus would have been stunted.

My point is, that we should each be looking to “become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching... Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the head, that is, Christ.” (Ephesians 4 v 13b-15).

If we are to travel with Jesus this Lent, on the way to his cross and glorious resurrection, we shall need all the love, grace and selfless courage that he has shown us.

May you draw close to him this year.

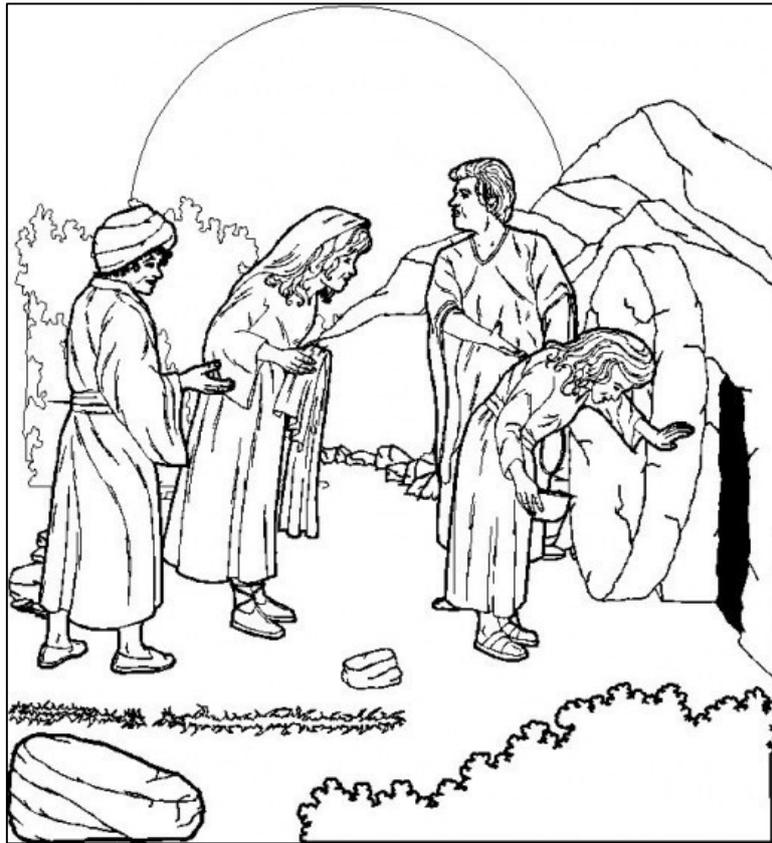
God bless,

Rev Nigel.

#### **CIRCUIT DATES.**

March 24<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday Service 7pm at Kingsway.

March 25<sup>th</sup> Good Friday Service at Wollaston.



The angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here. He was raised, just as they said. Come and look at the empty tomb." (Matthew Chapter 28 verses 5 and 6).

#### **NEWS FROM WOLLASTON**

Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 Silent auction from 11am. Lunches served if pre-booked.

Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> Woman's Own Ralley at 2.45pm.

Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am Woman's Own Anniversary conducted by Mrs Elisabeth Bibbings.

Saturday and Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, Church Anniversary. Saturday TBC, Sunday at 10.30am Rev. Alison Boddington.

#### **NEWS FROM GREAT PARK STREET.**

Church- but not as we know it! Our Christmas service-planning meeting explored why our Christmas Eve service is popular with those who don't come to church at other times. Is it because we advertise it widely? Is it because we feel more comfortable inviting people we know? Is it because we feel more confident visitors will find the theme accessible and will enjoy the experience regardless of their faith background? Are we more aware of the welcome

our visitors receive? With these questions going mostly unanswered the Contact team have decided to offer a different style of worship on the first Sunday of every month starting 7th February at 9.30am with the focus on welcome and accessibility for all.

Our other plans for 2016 are very much about communication, ensuring everyone remains in the church loop of plans, hopes, prayers, events away days, outreach and in reach.

**WARNING!! If you are on a diet, trying to lose weight or preparing to give up something for lent do not continue to read this page.**

**Pasha- Easter cheese cake from Russia. Pasha has been a traditional rich Easter dessert in Russia for generations. It should be made the night before eating.**

**Ingredients:**

50g/2oz butter, 50g/2oz sugar, 1 egg yolk, 340g/1lb curd cheese, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, 60ml/2fl oz soured cream, 50g/2oz chopped almonds, 50g/2oz mixed glace fruit, 180ml/6fl oz double cream, Glace cherries.

**To make:**

1. Beat butter and sugar in large bowl until fluffy, using an electric mixer or lots of time and effort.
2. Beat in egg yolk, curd cheese, soured cream, almonds and vanilla until smooth and well blended.
3. Whip 150ml/5 fl oz of double cream then fold into the mixture.
4. Place mixture in a greased bowl and refrigerator overnight.
5. Just before eating, turn cheesecake out onto a serving dish and decorate with the remaining whipped cream and the glace cherries.

Enjoy, but you have been warned!!!

If you are a young person, ask an adult to help you.

Wash your hands and wear an apron.

**A thought...** *“Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you (Methodist Covenant Prayer)*

Sometimes we can fall into the way of thinking that says that we prove our Christian discipleship by our activity – in other words, but focusing on being employed for God. This is true, but as the words from the Covenant Prayer reflect obedient discipleship isn't necessarily about being constantly active. In fact, there are times when we're called to be still.

For some, age or illness may prevent us from being active – yet we still have the activity of prayer and contemplation which cannot be taken away.

For others, though, we may be tempted to fill our time with activity because this means we do not have to face up to what might come up in our contemplations.

Allowing ourselves to be 'laid aside' for God requires us to let go of power, of influence, of identifying ourselves with our output rather than purpose. Allowing ourselves to be 'laid

aside' for God can sometimes require more courage and honesty than being really active for God.

Ponder and pray – what is God calling us to lay aside? Do we need to see our inactivity in a new light of opportunity for prayer and contemplation? Are there powers or influences that fulfill our egos but not our discipleship?

### **NEWS FROM IRTHLINGBOROUGH**

AT the time of writing this Christmas is a distant memory (but not the reason for the season), and will be even more so by the time this newsletter is printed. But, at this time of year we are no doubt studying our new diaries and learning random facts such as on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1869 chewing gun was first patented. On January 1<sup>st</sup> 1909, the first payment of the old age pension was made (5 shillings a week- 25p!) Also, on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 1927, the first live commentary of a rugby match took place-England v Wales at Twickenham. Amongst the plethora of information, I'm sure that you remember that front seat belts became law in Britain on January 31<sup>st</sup> 1983! Such a plethora of useful information and all you are trying to do is get organised!

Having said all that, dates for Irthlingborough Methodist Church calendar (other than the monthly coffee mornings; first Saturday of the month from 10am and monthly lunches; third Wednesday of the month from 12 noon) are still to be confirmed. An events meeting is scheduled for February, after the copy date for this newsletter. We will however be planning another "cinema afternoon". The annual Full English Breakfast Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June from 9am.

Some folk may be aware of the large beautiful cross hanging in our Goliath Hall. It was felt that users of the Hall should be aware that they are on Church property. One of our members, Jamie Poole (professional artist) designed the cross for us and is now making smaller, hand-held crosses for anyone who would like one. Jamie uses texts, scripture verses or favourite poems to decorate these crosses. Please look at our Facebook page or website to see examples of his work. You can contact Jamie via Jamie Poole Artist (Facebook) to view his work and discuss your requirements and cost. Lovely gifts for special occasions.

Finally, as a church we are now looking forward to the wedding taking place in April of two of our young folk: Josh and Danii. We ask God's blessing on them, both at this time and throughout their life together.

### **NEWS FROM EARLS BARTON.**

At Earls Barton we had a wonderful time at our annual Christmas celebration concert in December, where an appreciative audience joined us. "Musical Roots" our local folk group led the evening, alongside the junior school choir, and with other talent from our church this was a most enjoyable time. £540 was raised for "Action for Children".

After considerable thought and discussion, we have decided that the 1<sup>st</sup> Earls Barton Boys' Brigade must close. Since 1977 after the recommencement of the Company, (after a 14 year break), we have endeavored to lead boys from all walks of life in the way of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we have seen many fine Christian men go out into the world to share in God's work. We have been blessed with most faithful officers and helpers, and a supportive church here at Earls Barton. We have also received support from friends around the Circuit, and for that we are so grateful.

We will treasure so many wonderful memories of our work with the Boys' Brigade and we praise God for all that is past and trust Him for all that is to come. Please remember us in your prayers, and give thanks to God for all that the Brigade has meant to so many young people.

“Prayer and Share” is held every Tuesday from 10:30am – 12 noon, and this is a time to share our faith journeys, read the word of God together and pray for all the world. There is an open door to anyone who would like to join us, and of course coffee, tea and biscuits are always served. Our next two dates are: March 5<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Come and join us- you will find a warm welcome.

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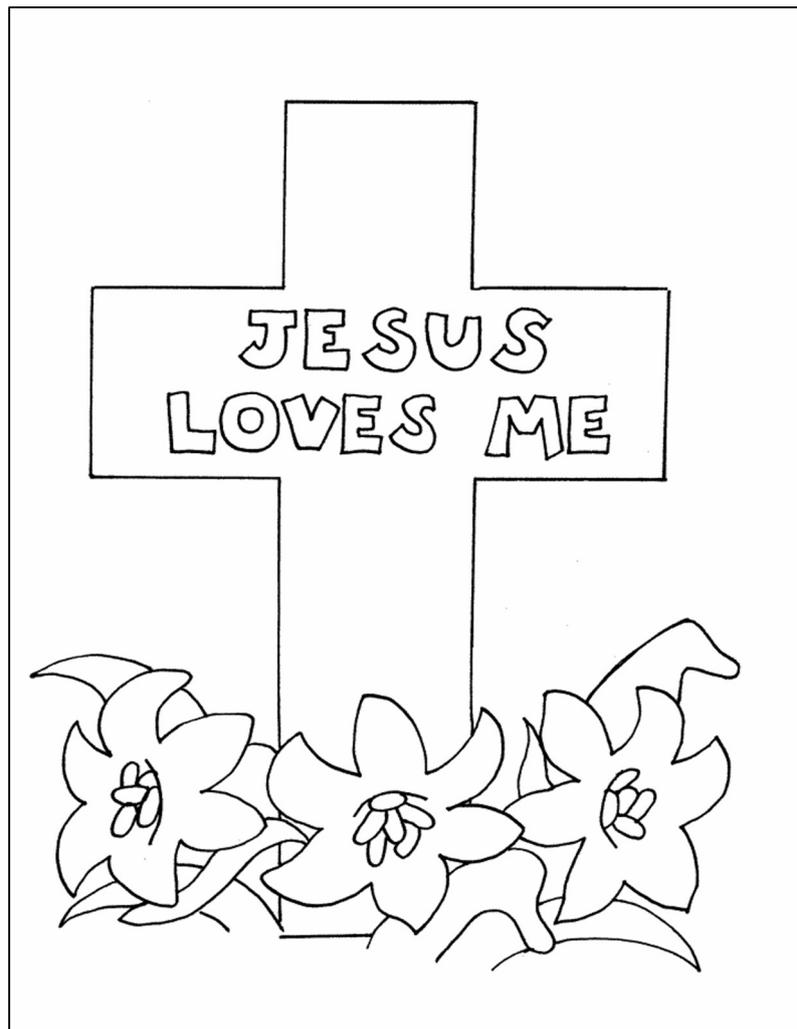
MARY, JESUS, ALIVE, GARDEN, GETHSEMANE,

RISEN, TOMB, PETER, ANGEL, EMPTY

**Based on Matthew Chapter 28.**

The next \_\_\_\_\_, the women who mourned Jesus made their way to the \_\_\_\_\_. They were carrying sweet-smelling spices which they would use to anoint Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_. As they arrived there was a great \_\_\_\_\_ and the ground shook. An \_\_\_\_\_ appeared and spoke to the \_\_\_\_\_. The angel spoke to the women and said, "Do not be \_\_\_\_\_. I know you are looking for \_\_\_\_\_ who was crucified. \_\_\_\_\_ is not here. He has \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead. The angel also told the women to go and tell Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ what they had \_\_\_\_\_ and been told. The women were \_\_\_\_\_ but ran to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ all they had seen and been told. Peter and John went to see the empty \_\_\_\_\_ for themselves and discovered that it was just as the women had \_\_\_\_\_ them. They looked in the tomb and saw the burial \_\_\_\_\_ lying on the ground. The \_\_\_\_\_ disciples did not know what to think, so they \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of Gethsemane and went home to think about all they had \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_!

A picture for younger children to colour in.



### **News from Raunds**

The parable of the loaves and fishes – feeding the 5,000 is one that is often quoted at Raunds Methodist Church. As a Christian community we see one of our main missions and outreach as providing hospitality not only for the church family but also for the wider community. As part of this we run monthly lunches on the second Sunday of the month (no booking required apart from Christmas) and hence the frequent references to the above parable. This month there were 45 of us some months it is nearer 70, we never know how many we will cater for but there is always enough to go round. We also support the Whitechapel Mission in London, they are open every day of the year providing breakfast to the homeless or those in hostels who otherwise would go hungry. Each year we go down and participate in their breakfast challenge cooking and serving to those who need it – anything from 120-200 breakfasts at a busy time.

As a wider community there are lots of ways that we can care for each other on a daily basis. Random Acts of Kindness are something that can be done on an individual basis and can be as small as a smile and acknowledgment of someone in the street, to offering to carry someone's shopping or buying someone a coffee. When I was in London with a friend we were looking for somewhere to have lunch and a man selling the big issue commented

on the quality of the food in the pub he was outside. Following his suggestion and went in to eat. Whilst there we observed him offering directions to tourists, interacting with those walking by always and always with a smile. After we had eaten we left and bought the Big Issue and commented on his friendly nature – just taking time out to speak to him and treat him as a person, especially when he told us there are times he is spat and sworn at. We can all make someone's day in a small way – it doesn't have to be financial. Let's work together as a community.

### **Easter Morning by Lilian Butler (published 2006)**

With spices friends came to the tomb,  
just as the day was dawning.  
They wanted to anoint their lord.  
With hearts brought low in mourning,  
they wondered who would move the stone  
that sealed his three day prison,  
when angels said, "He is not here, for Jesus has risen."  
In fear, some fled the garden tomb  
to share their puzzling story,  
but Mary stayed to mourn her love,  
so saw His risen glory;  
though at time grief blinded her.  
It's strange that she did not know him,  
until he gently called her name.  
Then tears of joy were flowing.  
He calls us each by our own name,  
O may we hear that calling  
and own him master of our lives  
as Mary did that morning.  
O let us come with heartfelt joy; renew our dedication.  
He lives again in us, through love: this calls for celebration.

### **Who were this family?**

The story concerns a couple who were very close to each other. The couple had three children, although one died in tragic circumstances.

At first everything was idyllic. However, the woman became dissatisfied and wanted more and more out of life. She pressurized her husband and very soon they were involved in a property dispute. Eventually, her pressure led to theft. Even after that, she became obsessed with clothes and this almost led to a breakdown in the relationship between the couple. However, after counselling, the couple resumed life together, but they were never quite the same again. This remains the most publicised domestic incident ever. Who were they?

(Answer on page 17)

### **16<sup>th</sup> Final Circuit Holiday to Paignton in Devon.**

We have decided that our 16<sup>th</sup> Coach Holiday to Paignton will be the last. If you would like to join us the dates for your diary are: 16<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> July this year. The price is £395.00 each and includes coach fare, hotel accommodation, half board during the week and full board on Sunday together with a packed lunch when you come home.

Contact David Hudson on 01933 353878 for further details.

### **Daily/Morning Prayer**

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning” Lamentations 3:22-23

I lift my heart and mind to you, the living God of never failing love.

Give me strength for this day,

To weep when I should weep,

To accept the comfort that memories bring,

To face decisions with courage,

To meet people – those who love me, those who want to help me,

those who want to comfort me, but don't know what to say.

Thank you for them all.

O God, help me so that, having your peace,

I may be able to comfort others.

Amen

(Contributed by circuit member who wishes to remain anonymous).

If you would like to contribute a prayer, a meditation or a religious themed poem to the next Faith and Fellowship newsletter please email the Editor on [robnenevalley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robnenevalley@yahoo.co.uk)

**Please pray for those members of each church congregation who hold the office of Church Steward.**

### **GPS Nene Valley Circuit Choir**

GPS Nene Valley Circuit choir and friends wish to inform all churches within our circuit that the Choir strives to achieve.

First of all, we meet at Wollaston Methodist Church every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm. Taking a Church Year in music is what we like to do, so for Easter this year we are hoping to perform a Joseph Martin Cantata entitled “A Time for Alleluia” on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at Park Junior School at 7:30pm, and then at Stonewall on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> “Stainer's Crucifixion” at 7:30pm.

For the rest of the year we would be possibly looking at arranging a “Songs of Praise” in one of our churches and a concert of lighter music for September/October time, but we do have some weeks off during the summer months.

At Christmas we will be singing a Christmas Cantata at Wollaston Church on a date to be arranged, followed by a Candlelight evening at Park Junior School, Wellingborough, possibly the Tuesday evening before Christmas. This was a great success last December.

We seem to have a lot going on, and could also take part in other services elsewhere in the Circuit if asked. What I am really asking is that if anyone in the Circuit would like to join the Circuit Choir, you would be made most welcome. Personally, I would like to have a lovely group of singers willing to take part in most of the work we sing. We have a great time of fellowship together, enjoy singing together and making music for the Circuit would be good.

Angela Ferguson, Choir leader

(Answer to question on page 15): Adam and Eve.

### **NEWS FROM HOPE.**

#### **FUNDRAISING FOR REFURBISHMENT.**

NEXT event February 20<sup>th</sup> ·Film Night -A look at the Past. 7-9pm at the Roman Catholic Church Hall. Rushden NN10 6AG. Movie scenes from Rushden, Higham Ferrers, and the surrounding district from the 1950s to the 1970s, including: The Queen's visit to Higham Ferrers in 1965, inside John White's shoe factory in Rushden, demolition of the Irthlingborough cement works and much more.... Nibbles included in price of ticket

Tickets £5.00 from Chris Marshman on 07949694206.

FUTURE EVENTS: March 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Fun 11AM -1PM, Games and stalls-cakes, Easter eggs, crafts and a tombola- Roman Catholic Church Hall.

More future dates with further information to be provided later:

April 23<sup>rd</sup> Model Railway Exhibition

May 7<sup>th</sup> Mayor's Market

May 21<sup>st</sup> Quiz Night 7pm

MAY???. Sponsored Bungee Jump (you're not expected to do the Bungee Jump-just the sponsoring!!)

CHURCH	CONTACT	TELEPHONE NUMBER
EARLS BARTON	DIANE THOMPSON	01604 811958
GREAT PARK STREET	ANGELA FERGUSON	01933 277375
	JANE NEILD	01933 678357
HOPE	CHRIS KIRK	01933 357965
IRCHESTER	TOM WILLMOTT	01933 359099
IRTHLINGBOROUGH	RUTH ROLLINGS	01933 652410
	LENA MAYES	01933 651642
KINGSWAY	JEAN HINCHLIFFE	1933 675256
RAUNDS	DEBBIE CRAGGS	01933 626616
THRAPSTON	RAY BARRATT	01832 734115
WOLLASTON	EDNA TREADWELL	01933 664513
YELDON	MICHAEL ELLIS	01933 355106

**Next Circuit Meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 @ Kingsway @ 7.30pm**

**Please note:**

**The next Faith and Fellowship Newsletter will be due to be delivered to Churches mid-May. Please have your contributions (on A5 please and no borders and simple format) to Rob Gould: [robnenevalley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robnenevalley@yahoo.co.uk) by the end of April. Thank you.**