



**THE METHODIST CHURCH**

**NENE VALLEY CIRCUIT**

**Faith**

**Fellowship**

**NEWSLETTER**

**June2016-August2016**

Dear Friends

Summer is almost upon us and thoughts turn to holidays, trips out and hopefully sunshine. It is often a season of journeys; usually ones that we plan to places we want to see. Our lives though are about journeys too. We travel not just from place to place but also along paths of work, family and relationships including our relationship with God. We come to road junctions and crossroads on our life journeys and we have to choose which way to go, which path to follow. Often the choice is obvious, other times a choice can be hard to make. Sometimes the choice is about a career path, or moving on in a relationship, but God is part of our lives and he asks us to make choices and follow paths that can look daunting and we may prefer an easier path.

This summer sees change in the circuit with Nigel and Elizabeth moving on in their ministry. They are being called to follow their calling to new circuits, opportunities and challenges. They have worked hard in this circuit and have brought much to the work of God here. We wish them God's blessing for their future work and a sense of His calling and strength in their lives in the years to come. We will have the opportunity to share with them and Elisabeth and Jonathan in a service of thanksgiving at Irthlingborough on July 24<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Please come to the service, celebrate and give thanks for their gifts and the work they have done here and wish them well for the future.

The journeying of the circuit will continue and we will be spending time and prayer to see what God calls us to do here in the time to come. We have a new minister, Rev Kim Shorley, joining us in Irthlingborough, Raunds, Thrapston and Yelden and the circuit. We welcome her at a service on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at Raunds so please come and give her a good welcome as we pray for God's blessing on her and her family at the start of the journey of her ministry.

At a crossroads in our journey, we are being challenged to look at how we work as a circuit and what our vision for the circuit

is and where God is calling us to be. We are not being appointed a new minister to take over from Nigel and we must work creatively to cover the circuit work. However we must also spend time together working through the challenges of where and how God is calling us to work in the coming years. It is a journey we are called to travel together, to share, support and strengthen one another as we seek the way ahead. Deacon Sylvia Kempson and Rev Michael Alderson are offering some of their time to us and will be joining me and Kim in the leadership of the circuit. They will bring the experience of their past ministries to the pastoral needs of Great Park Street, Earls Barton, Kingsway and Wollaston and Sylvia will be using her gifts to look at work in the community. We need your prayers and support if we are going to manage all that we are being called to do.

To this end we are having a Circuit Vision Day on May 21<sup>st</sup> at Wollaston, starting at 10am. Please come along and let us share together on this day. Rev Jill Marsh, District Mission Enabler, is coming to help us in our thinking and planning, so bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. We will plan to finish at 3pm. It is important that representatives from all the churches come to bring their hopes, wishes and plans for the future so that we can share together and begin to build a picture of where we are meant to be and what God wants us to do. Please hold the day in your prayers both in your churches and privately.

Where is God taking us on this new journey? Which way will we go and what will we do? We will work together with God to find the way forward and discover the path he wants us to follow as we move on in the circuit to discover God's work for us in our lives.

With every blessing for the way forward.

**Rev Margaret.**

### **The value of friendship.**

What happens to the people you meet through the passage of your life- through school, work, worship and socially? Some fall by the wayside as you grow older or as you move around the country. Some you meet in later life. Some you get to know as you come to worship, and although you may not be a full member of a church, they make you feel welcome, even if you're not sure where your faith belongs.

Friendly people can help you through times of distress, but though they may get close to you in those times, some may back off as time goes on, not realising that you would like to stay close to them, and you feel unable to tell them how you feel.

BUT you have one true friend all through your life- and beyond in God! Even though you can't see Him or touch Him, if you believe, He's there to help you whenever you need Him.

(contribution from member of the circuit who does not wish to be identified)

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 the members of the Circuit Leadership Team: the ministers and the lay members of our circuit who give of their time, energy and effort to take our circuit forward so that we are a vibrant community who listen to the calling our Saviour, Jesus Christ, has given to us and put that calling into action.**

## NEWS FROM RAUNDS

Lent has been a busy time and as a church community we again looked at 40Acts which encourages and challenges us as individuals and communities to give back over the 40days of Lent. This year we decided to have Toilet Twinning as our chosen charity.

2.4 billion people don't have somewhere safe, clean and hygienic to go to the loo. That's more than a third of the people on the planet. By twinning your toilet, you help those in desperate poverty to have access to a proper latrine, clean water and the information they need to be healthy. For more info see [www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org)



We set out with the challenge of twinning 1 toilet (£60), however, it soon became clear that we were achieving that easily so then challenged ourselves to twin each of the toilets in the chapel – 6 in total. We are very proud to say that we again exceeded our goal and have in fact raised over £400 which we enable us

to twin with 7 toilets.

The Easter holidays also saw us join with other local churches to provide lunches 1 day a week for children and families who are entitled to free school meals through the national MakeLunch network.





Our next excursion to cook breakfasts at Whitechapel is 30<sup>th</sup> July. If you would like to join the team to help spread Christian love and service please speak to Peter Whitney.

For up to date information on activities and news why not check out our website: [www.raundsmethodist.org.uk](http://www.raundsmethodist.org.uk) or like our page on facebook.

Find us on 

### **NEWS FROM WOLLASTON**

Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> Strawberry Tea from 3.30pm- 5pm

Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> Afternoon tea with various stalls from 2.30pm.

Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> Summer Fayre Tea and various stalls from 2.30pm.

## **SUMMER PUDDING (the Editor's Favourite)**

ASK AN ADULT TO HELP. WASH YOUR HANDS. WEAR AN APRON.

THIS RECIPE SERVES 4 PEOPLE. YOU WILL NEED: 1lb/450g of raspberries, 4oz/100g red currants, 4oz/100g sugar, slices of day old white bread, crusts removed.

- 1 Cook the fruit and the sugar for 2-3 minutes.
2. Leave to cool
3. Line a fairly deep bowl with the bread, bottom and sides so no juice can escape.
4. Fill up the bowl with the fruit (save some juice- put in fridge).
5. Cover with a layer of bread.
6. Put a plate on the top of the bread, exactly fitting inside the bowl.
7. Put something heavy on top of the plate.
8. Put in the Fridge overnight.
9. To serve, turn out on a dish and then pour over the left over fruit juice.
10. You can eat as it is or you can serve it with double cream or crème fraiche or vanilla ice cream.

IF YOU WANT YOU CAN ADD A FEW STRAWBERRIES OR BLACKBERRIES OR BLUEBERRIES TO YOUR FRUIT MIXTURE TOO. HOWEVER YOU SERVE

IT – ENJOY IT AND THEN GO JOGGING!!!!

# **Circuit Vision Day**

**Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 10am -3pm**

**Wollaston Methodist Church**

**Event led by Circuit Ministers**

**Rev Jill Marsh, District Mission Enabler  
will be present.**

**Bring a packed lunch.**

**Tea and coffee will be provided.**

**If unable to attend please hold the event your prayers.**

## **NEWS FROM IRTHLINGBOROUGH**

Once again, looking at a diary there are yet more useless facts listed, unless you are looking to enter endless quizzes. For instance:- Did you remember that England beat Germany in the world cup on June 7<sup>th</sup> in 1966? (Everyone from a certain era actually remembers that!). The first Oxford and Cambridge boat race was won by Oxford on June 10<sup>th</sup> 1829. Enough! However, the more important dates for us at Irthlingborough Methodist Church are as follows:- on 8<sup>th</sup> April we celebrated the marriage of Josh and Danii Horne, (it was fabulous), followed by a triple baptism on the 10<sup>th</sup> April. What a joyous weekend. We then had a double baptism on 24<sup>th</sup> April; three more are already booked for this quarter. (Three weddings have also been booked, so it's going to be a busy time).

On 27<sup>th</sup> April we hosted the third Community Cinema event. The film shown was 'The Lady in the Van' starring Maggie Smith and Alan Bennett. The film proved to be 'a hit'; it looks as though we might have to have some 'House Full' notices printed!

**SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2.30PM - 4.30PM**

**H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH 11**

**90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION TEA**

**Children's crown making competition, quiz, music, photographic display by Irthlingborough Historical Society**

**\*\*\* THIS AS A TICKET EVENT \*\*\***

Adults £5    Children under 16    £2

Tickets may be purchased at monthly coffee mornings/lunches or after Sunday Morning Worship. This event will replace the annual Breakfast Coffee Morning

In recent weeks a Church Mission Group has been set up, hopefully to create a more positive outreach to townsfolk in Irthlingborough. It is hoped to launch it officially at our ACM. For quite a few years we have worked through an alphabetical list of Irthlingborough street names, praying for streets and roads beginning with a particular letter. The Mission Group has now produced a flyer that can be delivered to residents in the relevant streets for which prayers are being said. The leaflet, with excellent, bright and colourful eye-catching artwork has information about our Church and its activities. The wording also gives the recipient the opportunity to let us know if there is somebody or something they would particularly like us to pray for. We would please ask you to remember this new group in your prayers as we endeavour to reach out to the residents of Irthlingborough and raise the profile of the Methodist Church in the town.

If you want to keep up to date with what is going on at Irthlingborough, view photos of our events, and check on times of our activities, please check our website or Facebook page.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 10am Proceeds from this monthly coffee morning will be donated to 'Action for Children'. Please come along and support this very worthy charity.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm Community Cinema. SUFFRAGETTE  
Cert 12A £5 - pay at the door - includes tea/coffee.

## **NEWS FROM IRCHESTER**

Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm Model Fairground and Railway Exhibition to be held at: Irchester Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Irchester, NN29 7AB.

Tickets    Adults    £2.00  
              Children £1.00  
              Under 5's free

Refreshments will be on sale

Parking available at either the Working Men's Club or the Village Hall Car Parks ( both in School Road) . Proceeds from money raised will be shared between Irchester Methodist Church and the Rev. Gabriel Kijjambu's Luwero Community Project in Uganda.

The project is currently building a new secondary school and the share of the money raised will be used to buy basic school equipment. For more information contact Mr David Arthur on 07840 829820.

## **Goodbye to friends.**

It is with much sadness that we, as members of the Nene Valley Circuit, have to say goodbye to the Rev Nigel and Mrs Elisabeth Bibbings as they move to a new circuit and take up new and exciting responsibilities and challenges. Nigel and Elisabeth, we wish you well and say thank you for your time with us here in the Nene Valley Circuit.

We also have to say farewell to the Rev. Elizabeth Dunning, as she too moves to new responsibilities and exciting challenges in her new posting. Liz, we say thank you for the time you have been with us and we wish you well for the future.

We look forward to the time when you will step back into the Nene Valley Circuit as guest preachers, bringing before us God's message of love, grace and forgiveness.

### **Just a thought.....**

In Psalm 46 verse 10 we are told, “Be still and know that I am God.”  
Read Isaiah chapter 30 verses 15 to 26.

On a very hot, muggy, sunny day, what a joy it is to be able to stand under a great spreading oak tree, just basking in the cool, cool shade of the tree's spreading branches. As you look up you can see the sun peeping through between the green leaves and the branches. Looking at the huge trunk and the spreading branches, you can see the strength of a tree that may have stood for more than one hundred years, its roots lying deep in the soil and spreading wide and far.

It's easy in such a lovely situation to “Be still and know that He is God”. It is, however, very different when one is in a difficult situation. In such circumstances it is easy to try, frantically, to solve that problem without speaking to God about it.

In reality, it is far better to be still and seek God first in an unhurried manner. Then we would find that gradually the Lord would reveal His answer to the problem being faced. As you will have read in Isaiah Chapter 30 verse 15, “Come back and quietly trust in me. Then you will be strong and secure.” Remember, God has been there a very long time, much longer than the oak tree you're sheltering under!!

L	I	F	E	G	U	A	R	D	S
A	S	E	A	P	O	O	L	S	W
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S	H	E	L	R	O	C	K	C	G
O	R	P	A	D	D	L	I	N	G

**A holiday word search.**

**Find: sea side, swimming, paddling, rock pools, sand castles, crabs, fish, shells.**

### **News from Hope Methodist Church**

Summer is on its way and with it lots of things to look forward to at Hope Methodist Church . Pray for us as things move forward and we continue to raise funds to complete our project.

Events:

21st May **Quiz Evening** 7pm in the Roman Catholic Church Hall Teams of 4 . Tickets £6 includes Hot Potato Supper from Chris Marshman

11th June **Table Top Sale** 9.30 am -12 midday in the Roman Catholic Church Hall . To book a table Ring Chris on 01933 317719

Looking ahead:

8th October **Dinner Talk** Harvest in the Tudor Period. Venue to be arranged.

19th November **Film Evening** Local old films Details nearer the time.

**Many things in the pipe line, so watch this space.**



Are you going to the seaside for your summer holidays? Colour in this picture of the seaside scene.

### News from Earls Barton.

We recently held Lent Study Groups in the village, and these were on the subject of “Encounters with Jesus”. Following on from these, Churches Together in Earls Barton held a March of Witness on Good Friday, and together we shared in the sorrow of the cross and the joy of Easter Day, when our Lord Jesus Christ triumphed over death.

We will have a strong presence at the village festival in June and we invite you to join us at the following events: **Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>** is Carnival Day, and the Earls Barton Churches Together will have 2 stalls displaying details of our work and witness both within the community and the wider world. The event is held in the Village Hall Recreation Field, with the parade starting at **1.30pm** and entering the village centre at **1.45pm**. On **Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from 3pm** we hold a “Songs of Praise Big Sing” again on the recreation field. There will be hymns and songs old and new, and afterwards cake tea/coffee will be served free of charge.

On **Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>** we invite you to join us at our Midsummer Fayre at the Chapel from **10am-1pm**. Various stalls to visit and refreshments will be available.

On **Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10.30am** we shall hold our farewell service for the Boys Brigade, and we extend an invitation especially to past B.B. members to join us, to give thanks to God for all His blessings. It would be good to see you at any of these events.

God bless and be with you all.

## **A Meditation about the current Refugee crisis in Europe.**

A Final Challenge.....

I was hungry and you formed a working group and  
discussed my hunger

I was imprisoned  
and you crept off quietly to your chapel  
and prayed for my release

I was naked  
and in your mind you debated the morality of my  
appearance

I was sick  
and you knelt and thanked God for your health

I was homeless  
and you preached to me of the spiritual shelter of the love  
of God

I was lonely  
and you left me alone to pray for me

You seem so holy, so close to God.  
But I am still very hungry and lonely and cold.

From Churches Together in the Merseyside Region

## Dear Friends

Some of you will have met my nephew Simon, who now teaches music and R.E. at a school in Leatherhead. I received a letter from him earlier this month and part of this may interest you.

The flies he mentions in his letter to me, were seen on a very hot evening in the chapel when it looked as though someone had been throwing currants on the floor. These were flies dropping from the ceiling and kept landing on me and on Simon as he was at the organ.

In his letter Simon wrote, " I wonder if the chapel at Old Weston has been sold yet? I miss that place so much and have such fond memories of those Sunday evenings with you and Uncle Frank. It felt to me as if we were travelling back decades in those car rides down country lanes, past Parish Church and farm to tiny Chapel and faithful few. I am so grateful to you for those evenings. I felt more human and more content there, in a strange sort of way, than in any other place. Perhaps it was the simplicity of it all: the smell of the dusty pews down to the dropping flies."

Maybe we dismiss too easily the influence of our little isolated chapels, which were built with love, faithfully served their community and welcomed all who came to worship. Old Weston has certainly made a lasting impression on Simon. Doreen Ingram.

The editor writes: The issue of the closure of small chapels is a delicate and emotive subject. However, it is a subject many circuits face and have to make difficult decisions about. We may even have to face it here in the Nene Valley Circuit so your prayers are surely needed if we do.

### **NENE VALLEY CHURCH CONTACTS**

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

**Next Circuit Meeting: June16th @ Irchester at 7.30pm.**

**Please note:**

**The next Faith and Fellowship Newsletter will be due to be delivered to Churches mid-August 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 July.**

**If you don't have access to email post me your contribution.**

**Thank you.**

**Superintendent Minister**

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