

WITNESS

AUGUST 2019

Newsletter of Washingborough Methodist Church

Our purpose is to:

- Share Jesus's message of love and hope with everyone we meet
- Provide a Christian spiritual focus for the community of Washingborough and surrounding villages
- Support good causes and fight for social justice through our words and actions

www.washingboroughmethodistchurch.co.uk

Dear Friends

'Its one small step for man.....'

As I write this the world has been remembering the day 50 years ago when those words were first uttered as man successfully set foot on another world. A year later it could have been a very different story. In the film Apollo 13 we see how a series of disasters crippled the mission but by some miracle they managed to get 3 men safely home against impossible odds with Flight Director Gene Kranz declaring to a despairing director "I believe this is going to be our finest hour."

How? They all pulled together and made the impossible happen.

Imagine what would have happened if they'd sat back and watched.

I'm reminded of Paul's favourite analogy of the church being like a body with everyone having a gift, where everyone is valued and has a role to play, but where each is expected to be part of it, to use what they've been given. As one commentator says "its not about going or coming to church, its about being part of the church, an active participant in the life of this community, what goes on daily affecting the whole, the worship life and every other aspect of its work and witness."

Just think how one part being in pain can affect the overall body.

In the same way Paul says one missing in action Christian can affect the whole church.

Do we sometimes leave too much to the gifts of the few?

At our church family meeting on July 7th we noted several key roles had been filled (very well I may add) by the same person for many years and we were looking for others to take on some of that responsibility (with appropriate support and training).

In the words of the old wartime poster its not 'your country needs you' but 'your God needs you'; your church needs you.'

I'm not saying there will be a disaster as catastrophic as the loss of the Challenger space craft if we don't act but it will become increasingly unlikely that we can carry on as we are at present.

Please give some serious thought and prayer about what it means to be part of God's plan in this place and time. Can you offer some skills and time? Can you recognise gifts in others and encourage them to offer their skills and time?

Please speak to me or one of the church stewards.

Grace and Peace

Every Blessing

Melanie

OUR REGULAR EVENTS

Monday

Bible Study 2pm ; Contact Joy Joy Tel 820394 or Rosemary Lester Tel 795084

Tuesday

Coffee Shop - Hall 10am to 12am
Monthly Ladies Circle 2pm ; Contact Lily Amery Tel 790838

Wednesday (2nd and 4th of the month)

Fellowship Group -7.30pm - Contact Lesley Shapcott Tel 790644

THURSDAY

Blokes Who Sing 7.30pm - Contact Keith Laffin Tel 790277

Blokes at the Bar 8.30pm (last Thursday in Month) Contact Andrew Shapcott 790644

Saturday

Coffee Morning and Prayer in the Chapel - 10.00am to 12pm

Sunday

Sunday Club 10.30am - Contact Joan Bennett

Branston Methodist Fellowship Group - Fortnightly meetings in Branston at All Saints Parish Church Hall.

The 60 member Group meets for fellowship and social activities.

Contact Glenys Creasey. 01522 791399.

OUR PREACHERS FOR THE MONTH

All Services 10.30am

Services for AUGUST all commence at 10.30am

4th Aug - Rev Melanie, Holy Communion

11th Aug - Dr Roy Jackson

18th Aug - Rev Alan Robson

25th Aug - Rev Margaret Roe

GENERAL CHURCH ENQUIRIES

Please contact LESLEY SHAPCOTT Senior Steward

01522 790644 OR

Lesley.shapcott@hotmail.co.uk

Tuesday Coffee shop

The Coffee Shop welcomes each and every one of you to pay a visit and enjoy a warm welcome and friendship.

Perhaps you might like to help out on occasions!!

My Postman is going to Spain for his holiday

I asked him where to?

“Parcelona” he said (Get it?)

CONTACT INFORMATION

WITNESS: GRAHAM R PECK

gpeck65@gmail.com

Or

Tel : 792170

Deadline is normally last Wednesday before Sunday of publication

SHEEPWASH TIMES : GRAHAM R PECK

(before 10th of the month)

"Without support we could not live. God has saved us during these seven years of war, God gave us help through the church."



LADIES CIRCLE

Meet on 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Wesley Room at 2pm

On the 3rd THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH a group will meet to pray for our own church's needs and for all those who meet here.

from 10.15-11.30

All welcome at 23 Scholars Way Fen Road Heighington LN4 1SY

Tel: 790845 if you need more info.

Gift Aid

This allows the church to claim approximately 20% more than your gift, from the government,

Please make sure you are signed up for gift aid if you are a tax payer.

Please see Carolyn for more information and GIFT AID forms

PASTORAL NEWS

ANY OLD RAGS???

As several of you know I volunteer at the Lincolnshire Wolds Railway, a small heritage railway staffed entirely by volunteers. One of the things you need when working in the sheds, on the track or on the footplate is plenty of rags.... And we have very few. So my request is next time you have a clear out and you are about to throw away any old sheets, towels etc. (not woolly things and curtains as these cause problems), anything you would think of using as rag, we can use, just pass them onto me.

Ralph Osgerby

How come you never see a headline like 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

Covenant Service — Sept 1st 2019

In Exodus and several other places in the Old Testament God makes the astonishing offer to the people of Israel to be their God and they his people as part of a covenant relationship. John Wesley saw this as being like a marriage between humans on one side and God in Christ on the other. He encouraged the people called Methodist to pause each year in a Covenant Service; to remind themselves of God's commitment to them and his call for a response of giving our lives and choices to God.

It is not so much about getting a relationship with God as it is about living within the loving relationship that God has already offered us.

This year we are holding our annual Covenant Service on September 1st to tie in with the Methodist New Year.

Please do come along to hear of God's tremendous patience and grace, to be challenged by his call and to seek the strength by which we can be the people we were created to be.

PRAYER TREE

Please use our Prayer Tree for your requests. Each month they will be taken to our monthly Prayers for WMC and, if appropriate, read out at that time. They will then be shredded. Please remember, too, that specific requests can be given to Rosemary for her Prayer Letter.

SUMMER SIZZLER BBQ

ITS BEEN AND GONE!:

13th July marked the 12th annual Washingborough Methodist Church BBQ! The weather was not quite the "sizzler" of last year, but it stayed mostly dry and warm. Well over 50 people attended and not long after the coals were lit we were all enjoying burgers, hot dogs, salads and desserts.....and the odd beer ☺ . Many thanks, once again, to all who came along, gave a donation, or contributed food and raffle prizes, and helped make this yet another very sociable and enjoyable celebration of Fellowship. Special thanks go to Roger for his help preparing the garden; Ben Shapcott and Graham Heslop for their cooking skills; Rachel for helping with the raffle; and to Lesley and Andrew Shapcott for inviting us all to their home once again. A special mention must also go to Lacy, Mackenzie and Heidi for helping draw the raffle so expertly. Apologies if anyone's been missed out. We made around £350; on the suggestion of David Thompson, this has gone to Marie Curie, in memory of our dear friend Marilyn, who we lost earlier this year. Thanks again one and all, we couldn't do it without you!

Philip

Pastoral Care /Pastoral Links

We are each responsible for our walk with God, but we also need each other to keep us on the straight and narrow. Sometimes life throws hardships our way that threaten to knock us off course.

Writing to the Galatians Paul says we need those around us to share the load (Galatians 6:2).

He encourages them to make the church a place of mutual support and encouragement.

This informed Wesley's view on *watching over one another in love* that was the watchword for his system of having everyone be part of a class.

Today it informs the church's teaching on the importance and value of pastoral care enshrined in Standing Orders.

Its important to note that this is more than a friend looking out for a friend. Its done on behalf of the church and so certain checks and balances need to be in place, principally ensuring any concerns are handled or referred appropriately.

Traditionally this has meant a team of pastoral visitors have each been given oversight of several members and regular attendees, visiting to provide support and assist growth in discipleship.

At the recent church family meeting an amended system of Pastoral Links was proposed where support could be varied according to need at any given time e.g.

1. Chat after church service

Some people may feel sharing coffee with their link person is sufficient. In this case, as in all others, the link person should alert the stewards/Minister if someone has not been seen at church for sometime

2. Meet for Coffee

To be arranged at a frequency and location to suit both

3. Phone call/email

This may be appreciated by those unable to attend church regularly for whatever reason. Frequency to be arranged to suit both

4. Home visit

Those unable to attend church may value a face to face conversation, at a frequency to be arranged to suit both.

This would include those wishing to receive home communion

Notes

- If at some point more support is needed e.g. during a time of illness people may move from phone calls to regular visits and then back to phone calls once things become easier
- If the assigned link person is unable to physically visit, another link person may do this on their behalf (sharing such information will be done in line with Data Protection regulations)
- Records of any concerns noted and action taken e.g. refer to minister or safeguarding officer would still need to be made in a diary

Next Steps

- To make this work we need people to volunteer to be link persons and tell Harold with whom they are in regular contact e.g. via Ladies Circle, Blokes who Sing, bowls, golf etc
- We need each person to identify which contact option they'd currently prefer.
- Harold and I will collate this information and produce a list of links and their contacts.

Hopefully this system will continue the tradition of care provided here but reduce the chances of People falling through the gaps

Rev Melanie Greenall

**Sunday 1st Sept 10.30am Covenant Service Rev
Melanie Greenall Holy Communion**

**SUNDAY 29TH SEPT - HARVEST FESTIVAL -
10.30AM UNITED SERVICE AT ST JOHN'S**

WEDNESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER - DISCIPLESHIP MEETING: The Discipleship Group is one of the CLT subgroups, and they are looking to recruit new members from within the wider Circuit. The group will be meeting at Burton Road Methodist Church at the beginning of September, and if anyone with a heart for discipleship in our Churches would like to join them, then you will be most welcome. Please contact Margaret Doughty or Helen Hooley for more details.

SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER - DAY OF REFLECTION: Margaret Doughty is holding another Day of Reflection at Central Methodist Church, from 9.30am (for a 10am start) until 2.30pm. Drinks will be provided, but you will need to take your own packed lunch. These days are popular, so please ring Margaret (697177) to book your place. All details can be found on the attached poster.

Church leaders' letter to the new Prime Minister: a no-deal Brexit is gambling with the basic needs of our poorest citizens

An open letter to the new Prime Minister from leaders of seven Christian denominations expresses concern that failing to agree a deal on Brexit will "hit those held back by poverty very hard indeed". The Church leaders say they have been "compelled" to write to the new Prime Minister because of his position that leaving the European Union without a deal is acceptable.

The letter states that "At a time when increasing numbers of families have difficulties putting enough food on the table, we believe it is irresponsible to consider a course of action that is expected to make that situation worse".

The Church leaders say that "It is notable that assurances about our ability to cope with a no-deal Brexit, while frequent, are yet to be supported by substantial evidence" and ask the Government to publish evidence of the impact a no-deal Brexit on disadvantaged communities.

The letter also invites the Prime Minister to visit one of the many social actions projects run by churches to support millions of citizens who live in poverty.

The letter is signed by leaders from the Methodist Church of Great Britain, the United Reformed Church, the Baptist Unions of Great Britain, Scotland and Wales, the Church of Scotland, the Salvation Army, Quakers in Britain and the Scottish Episcopal Church, which together have approximately 700,000 members.

Specific concerns over food supply, pricing as well as availability of medical supplies and energy are raised in the letter.