

WITNESS

SEPTEMBER 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

Grace and Peace Happy New Year! Methodist New Year that is.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a brief overview of the church we call Methodist.

Every year a President and Vice-President are elected to serve the people called Methodist – travelling to 'grass-roots' level to hear the joys and concerns faced by the many faithful members across the country. They listen to what God is doing (and he is!) so that they can share that with others as an encouragement. Its part of living together in Connexion, a network of support and advice as we seek to 'serve the present age' as Charles Wesley put it; to join in with what he's doing in planting and building his kingdom.

That involves stilling our minds and souls to hear what God wants rather than rushing ahead with our own ideas and plans (not always easy). It also involves listening to the stories of others as they've experienced God in all their struggles and triumphs.

This forms the theme for this year's President (Rev Barbara Glasson) and Vice-President (Clive Marsh) who have written an excellent book called 'So What's the Story...' encouraging us to become bolder once more in sharing the good news, perhaps in the way a certain Jew 2000 years ago told stories of God's love and care?

God's story of love and care is what we will celebrate when we share with Anglican friends at the Harvest Festival on Sept 29th at St Johns.

God's story of a world that he saw was good and so rested; God's story of a world in urgent need of action over climate change; a world that needs a new story – of Hope in God's future.

This is the title of a report issued by the Methodist Church looking at the issues that tax our politicians and galvanise our youth which is well worth a read as together we face an uncertain future, where we are increasingly learning our interconnectedness.

May our stories be those of God's kingdom values

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 SEPTEMBER all commence at 10.30am

1st Sept - Rev Melanie, Holy Communion and Covenant Service

8th Sept - Sandy Osgerby All Age Worship

15th Sept - Sandy MacFarlane

22nd Sept - Rev Margaret Roe

29th Sept - Rev Melanie - Harvest Festival and United Service

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!!

I hate it when people act all intellectual and talk about Mozart while they've never even seen one of his paintings

I must say I was disappointed with the British Soap Awards... Over two hours and not one award for Dove, Lifebuoy or even Imperial Leather..

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)

LADIES CIRCLE

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

17th September - Kenneth Moore "The Dickin Medal"

15th October - Rev M Doughty "What's in a Motto?"

19th November "The Fusion Singers"

17th December - "Christmas Carols and Readings"

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

AN INVITATION

You are invited to join the Bible Study group on Monday afternoons from 9th September at 2pm. This session we are going to revisit the readings, theme and message from the Sunday morning service. If you are interested please have a word with one of us or just come along. You will be most welcome. Rosemary

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

NOMAD TRUST

Coffee day at Greenside, Station Road,
Heighington

On Friday 22nd November

10.30am - 2.30pm

Coffee and cake from 10.30am

Lunch from 1pm.

There will also be a Tombola stall and any leftover tins will go to the Trust.

I hope you'll be able to come and support this worthy cause.

Julie

Not meeting during August! Gospel Singing

A group are meeting to sing gospel music in the chapel.

Once a fortnight from 10.00

Anyone who is interested is invited to attend - women and men

Next date: 2nd September



Islamophobia Awareness Day

Keynote speaker **Akeela Ahmed MBE**

Chief Inspector **Steve Williamson**

Tell FAMMA

Remembering Srebrenica

Friday 10th October 2018
Washington Methodist Church, 154-157
9.30am - 3.30pm

Booking email: pallidichurchweb@bt.com.uk

Please note that
this event
is being held here
At Washington
10th October
9.30-3.30.

Please endeavour
to
attend the event if
you are able.
Booking through
the Circuit Office is
essential.

My thoughts on the house moving experience some of us from
Church experienced!

THE MOVE!

*We were, we did, and boy was it hard in that unusual
weather*

*First it was hot, in fact, one of the hottest days ever
known !*

*I dripped and even as they say ladies don't , they really do!
We went back and forth, boxes carried with aching bone!*

*Then the rain, a monsoon swept down and flooded the
land,*

*Quite biblical but not when we are moving home and
tired.*

*No respite from searing heat, nor tempest falling and yet,
We managed to accomplish that move with fervour fired.*

*Would we do it again? Not likely, sleep deprived, and
fretting,*

*Would it all come together we asked, it did but at a price!
Not just in money but stress, fatigue and weird weather,
So yes we have moved and our new homes are very nice.*

*Thank you all, for your prayers to ease are moving
moment,*

*Thank you for your thoughts and good wishes in our
endeavour,*

*We found it tough but eased by your very heartfelt
support!*

I do not envisage ever repeating the experience again, ever!

Sheila Wright.

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.

Visit to Beth Shalom
Jan 24th 2020

2020 marks 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz Gikeras
To commemorate this there will be a visit to the National
Holocaust Centre and Museum near Luton.

Exact details of the visit need to be clarified but will include:
Time to view the 2 permanent exhibitions, one looking at the
Holocaust through the eyes of a Jewish schoolboy
Time to enjoy the memorial gardens (weather permitting)
Listening to a survivor speak

Please see <https://www.bethshalom.org.uk> for more details

The cost will be £7.50 (allows free visits for the next 12 months)
Lunch (hot drink/soup/sandwich) can be provided for £6 if pre-
ordered

At this stage we need an expression of interest only.
Firm numbers will be needed around a month before the visit
Please give names to Rev Malcolm Greenall by Sept 2nd 2019

This is intended
to be a joint
visit by
ourselves and
St. John's.

Jan 24th is
Holocaust
Memorial Day

HOW MANY CHRISTIANS LIVE IN SUDAN?

Two million Christians live in Sudan – less than five per cent of the total population of 41.5 million.

WHY ARE CHRISTIANS PERSECUTED IN SUDAN?

Historically, Islam is deeply embedded in Sudan's society and the ruling elite aims to enforce an Islamic regime in the country. Sudan has been run by an authoritarian regime ever since al-Bashir came to power through a coup in 1989. The government is strictly implementing the policy of one religion, one culture and one language. There is no freedom of the press and no freedom of expression.

In the Nuba Mountains thousands of Christians have been killed and displaced as the government seeks to ethnically cleanse the region of minority groups.

Leaving Islam to follow Jesus is illegal and can be punished with the death sentence, and believers from Muslim backgrounds often keep their faith completely secret. Some have been put under house arrest by their families when their new faith was discovered

WE TRUST GOD FOR A SOLUTION, HE IS
ABIE AND GREAT"

God in Love Unites Us

This report was brought to the Methodist Conference this year following several years of discussion and debate about the church's view on marriage and relationships.

The report can be accessed via <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships-2019/> where you can also find *Frequently Asked Questions*, a guide to the proposed timeline and some of the background to the report's conclusions.

Having been accepted by an overwhelming majority at Conference the report has been recommended to be discussed at District Level

There are deeply held, differing opinions on the report.

You might want to explore these further by accessing responses to the report from Dignity and Worth at <https://dignityandworth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/United-in-Love-draft-5a.complete.pdf> and Methodist Evangelicals Together at <https://methodistevangelicals.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=231667>

Some words of John Wesley seem apt and should remain at the forefront of our thinking: "Do not allow yourself one thought of separating from your brothers and sisters, whether their opinions agree with yours or not"

As part of the debate the Marriage and Relationships Task Group has prepared this model statement which I hope we can all agree to abide by.

Living with Contradictory Convictions

- We continue to believe that God has been revealed in Jesus Christ, accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and live in communion with God and in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- We cherish our place within Christ's Church recognising that it is Christ alone who chooses, calls and confirms us as members of His church, the body of Christ.
- Whilst we may not all agree about everything, we recognise the importance of the truths which bind us together as well as the issues which currently divide us.

Therefore, we resolve:

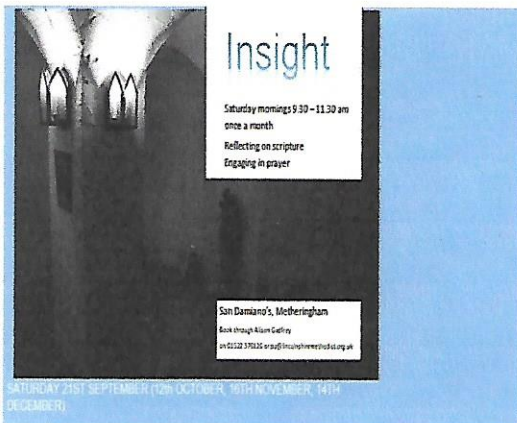
- To engage with each other openly, honestly, prayerfully and graciously
- To treat each other with respect and dignity, recognising the sincerity of the faith of those who may see things differently
- To seek to learn from one another as we travel together as fellow pilgrims
- To renounce all language and behaviours that attempt to coerce others to change their views or beliefs
- To seek, as far as conscience allows, to preserve the fellowship of Christ's Church
- To unite under the authority of scripture as we seek live as authentic Christian disciples in our own generation

Revd Melanie

Days of Reflection
Arranged by Rev Margaret Doughty

SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER
SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER
10AM TO 2.30PM
ALL WELCOME TO ONE OR BOTH
BYO LUNCH

PLEASE LET MARGARET KNOW IF
YOU WISH TO ATTEND



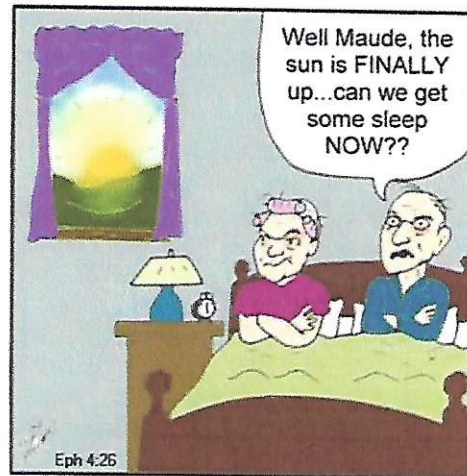
SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER - LINCOLNSHIRE CHURCHES TRUST

"RIDE AND STRIDE": This is a national event for walkers, cyclists or even those who drive, to visit many Churches around our beautiful county. Scothern Methodist Church has been asked to be one of the stopping points for people to sign in as they tour around, and the Church will be open from 10am to 5pm for refreshments and live music throughout the day. You don't have to be taking part in the "ride and stride" to pop in

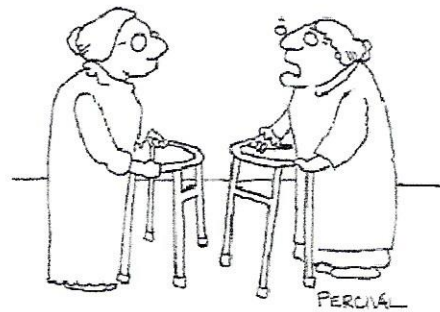
Peace: It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.

Worship Leader Training Course

We are starting a Worship Leader Training Course in the autumn and would like to encourage anyone who is interested in Worship Leading in their church (or potential Local Preachers) to come to an introductory evening at St Giles Methodist Church on Thursday 12th September at 7.30 p.m. The evening will include worship, a discussion on the role and requirements of a Worship Leader, an outline of how the course will be taught and some initial work from the course.



"Do not let the sun go down on your wrath." Letting it come up on your wrath isn't good either.



"The trouble with today's generation is that they can't stand on their own two feet."

When I was young, I used to admire intelligent people; as I grow older, I admire kind people. - Abraham Joshua Heschel

Circuit, District, Conference

As we start a new connexional year on Sept 1st it seems apt to remind ourselves that we belong not just to the local church but to a larger community, the Connexional Methodist Church.

This reflects our historical and spiritual roots: in the 18th century a 'connexion' meant those connected to a person or group e.g. politician's network of supporters.

John Wesley firmly believed belonging and mutual responsibility were fundamental Christian qualities so used the language of connexion to express this interdependence.

It also builds on Jesus' words in John chapter 15 about a vine and branches and Paul's words to the Ephesians, Romans and Corinthians about the Body of Christ.

This interlinking is partially expressed in the cycle of meetings that take place each year.

In June/July Conference meets (representatives from all over the country) to debate matters of life and faith. This can result in reports/recommendations shared among the people called Methodist via District Synods (representatives from across Lincolnshire in our case), Circuit Meetings and local Church Councils, all meeting in September/October each year.

In the spring the process is reversed so Church Councils pass on comments/concerns to the Circuit Meeting then to District Synod which in turn feeds back to Conference in the form of 'memorials.'

Each of the 'layers' has a part to play as do we.

The Circuit (a group of churches served by a team of ministers)

A minister will have pastoral charge of one or more churches, but will preach and lead worship in different local churches in the circuit.

The circuit is led by the superintendent minister who with lay and ordained colleagues facilitates and encourages mission throughout the circuit.

Circuit stewards have responsibility for maintaining, buying and selling circuit property (usually manses), managing financial resources wisely and for the general welfare of the ordained and employed staff in the circuit. Circuit is where staffing capacity and closure of chapels is debated, and where fresh expressions of church or new pioneer ministries are launched.

The District

The District exists primarily to advance the mission of the Church, providing support for circuits in line with connexional priorities.

District Synod acts as a link between the Conference and the Connexional Team on the one hand and circuits/local churches on the other. It has oversight of all district affairs, formulating and promoting policies, through its various officers and committees to assist the mission of the Church, to give inspiration to leaders in circuits and ensure the interrelation of all aspects of the Church's life throughout the district.

The synod meets in representative session at least once each year and holds a presbyteral session, which is an opportunity for training as well as for debating issues

District support to local churches and circuits includes:

- offering or subsidising training
- giving pastoral care to presbyters, deacons and key lay people
- having an overview of legal obligations
- organising large initiatives

The Conference

The Methodist Conference first met in 1744 under John Wesley, who gathered together his ordained ministers and itinerant lay preachers to confer together about 'what to teach, how to teach, and what to do, i.e. how to regulate our doctrine, discipline and practice.'

The contemporary Conference is a gathering of representatives, lay and ordained, from each Methodist district, along with some who have been elected by the Conference and some ex officio members and representatives of the Youth Assembly. *Revd Melanie*