



**Histon
Methodist
Church**

NEWSLETTER

March 2024



Minister's Message

March is a time of preparation—the time of Lent as we look towards Easter at the end of the month—and as a church we have lots of things to look forward to.

On Wednesday 6th March Castle Street coffee morning will be hosting the Museum of Cambridge **Museum on a Bike**, where they will come with some exciting artefacts for us to look at and handle whilst explaining a bit about their history and where they come from. It's going to be a great day!

Both churches have made commitments to being a **Fairtrade Church**: Histon are in the process of re-registering and Castle Street are one step closer. The eagle eyed readers of Castle Street's weekly newsletter may have noticed that our logo dropped off for a while when our registration had lapsed, but now we're back on the wagon! Both churches are making a commitment to support and serve fairly traded products where possible.

Castle Street are having a big spring clean on Saturday 16th March. We've had significant problems with our cleaning recently and are in the process of looking for new cleaners. If you have any thoughts or ideas about finding a cleaner, please speak to one of the stewards. In the meantime—we will be having a church family spring clean on this day. Bring your sandwiches and your favourite duster for a fun-filled day!

The toilet/cloakroom redevelopment project at Histon is going from strength to strength. It's been amazing to see all the fantastic projects with the £10 challenge. If you've completed your talent and fundraising, please give the money to Kathryn who will put it in a specific high interest account. We will be having a service in the summer to celebrate our talents, so please do take pictures of what you've done and send them to me for that Sunday celebration service. If fundraising is your passion, we have a dedicated fundraising club—I don't want to call it a committee!—if you'd like to join this, please see Sam Weller for more details. There is something that everyone can do to help this project and, if you don't believe me, talk to me or Sam and we will happily change your mind!

Please note that if you received an electronic version of the March/April/May plan, there is a small change to the services for Histon: 5th May is a Section Service at Castle Street, not Histon, due to the amazing flower and quilt festival Histon will be hosting. This quarter, there are two Section Services at Castle Street and in another quarter, we will be hosting two at Histon. I have altered all the printed plans in Church to show the right information. It will also be a confirmation service for one of our students at Castle Street, Izzy. Please remember her in your prayers.

We've been asked to find an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer for each Church from the Circuit. Denise McMillan from Castle Street has

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Histon Regular Activities

Sunday	Morning Worship	11am
Monday	Craft Club (now weekly)	2–4pm
Wednesday	Community Coffee Shop	9:30am–12pm
Wednesday	Besom Prayer Meeting (1st Wednesday of the month)	2:30pm

Histon Diary for March

Sat 2 Mar	Tea and Toast (see notice)	10am–12noon
Sun 3 Mar	Preacher: Rev J Pathmarajah (Holy Communion)	11am
Wed 6 Mar	Besom Prayer Meeting	2:30pm
Thu 8 Mar	Bible in a Year Meeting (see notice)	7:30pm
Sat 9 Mar	Coffee Morning	10am–12noon
Sun 10 Mar	Preacher: Prof J. Lieu	11am
Wed 13 Mar	Games Afternoon (see notice)	2–4:30pm
Fri 15 Mar	Country Dancing (see notice)	8–10pm
Sun 17 Mar	Preacher: Mr K Bailie	11am
Tue 19 Mar	Big (Philosophical) Issues	7 for 7:30pm
Sun 24 Mar	Preacher: Mrs V Bullen	11am
Thur 28 Mar	Maundy Thursday Service: Rev J Pathmarajah	7pm
Fri 29 Mar	Good Friday Holiday Club Event (see notice)	10am–12:30pm
Fri 29 Mar	Good Friday Service at Castle St	10:30am
Sun 31 Mar	Easter Sunday: Rev J Pathmarajah (Holy Communion)	11am

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offered to be a Section EDI officer to cover both churches. However, if this is a job you feel passionate about, speak to me about joining this team.

Don't forget, if you'd like to come to the Methodist Women in Britain's annual conference where I am the keynote speaker: make sure you book! We've a small group from Histon going and it's going to be so much fun! Details are in the advert in last month's newsletter or ask Rev Jenny!

During this time of Lent, may you be blessed and find God in new and wonderful ways and the joy of resurrection be in your heart and all you do.

Rev Jenny

Histon Wednesday Coffee Shop

We are very pleased that we have a few new volunteers helping with coffee shop and also a new provider of cake! Grateful thanks to all concerned.

In January income amounted to £1,100 (a five-week month) and from January–December 2023 total income was £9,480 which goes a long way towards the running costs of the building.

Anne and John Wyborn

Calling all musicians!

The Circuit are hosting a Circuit Service on 19th May in the evening at Chesterton and would like to have a Circuit music group. If you would like to be involved in this, please contact Phil Howie at philip.howie@gmail.com.

Castle Street Regular Activities

Sunday	Morning Worship	10am
Sunday	United Church at Castle (Second Sunday of the Month)	6:30pm
Wednesday	Community Coffee Morning	10:30am–12pm
Wednesday	Strength and Balance Exercise Class	12–1pm
Wednesday	Table Talk (Student Ministry, University term-time)	7–9pm
Thursday	First Friends (not during school holidays)	10am–12pm

Castle Street Diary for March

Sun 3 Mar	Preacher: Mr M Haslett	10am
Wed 6 Mar	Museum on a Bike at the Community Coffee Morning	10:30am–12noon
Sun 10 Mar	Student-led Service (see Table Talk notice)	10am
Sun 10 Mar	Church at Castle United Service led by J Boocock	6:30pm
Sat 16 Mar	Big Church Spring Clean (see Minister's Message)	All day!
Sun 17 Mar	Preacher: Mr J Baker	10am
Sat 23 Mar	Giraffe Drive for Break (see notice)	3–5:30pm
Sun 24 Mar	Preacher: Rev J Pathmarajah	10am
Thu 28 Mar	Maundy Thursday Service at Histon	7pm
Fri 28 Mar	Good Friday Service: Rev J Pathmarajah	10:30am
Sun 31 Mar	Easter Ecumenical Service on Castle Mound (see notice)	8am
Sun 31 Mar	Easter Breakfast (see notice)	8:30am
Sun 31 Mar	Easter Sunday: Rev J Pathmarajah (Holy Communion)	10am

Table Talk

This term we've been looking at different types of theology and learning about their history and their impact across the world; Eco Justice, Queer Theology, Liberation Theology, and Disabled Theology to name a few. On 10th March, the students will be leading a service and sharing some of their thoughts and learnings with the congregation; we look forward to hearing what God has put on their hearts and we pray for them in their preparations.

Games Afternoon at Histon

The next afternoon of fun and games will be held on Wednesday 13th March at 2:30pm. It is your opportunity to try out new games or, if you prefer, stick to ones you know. I have a wide selection to cover all tastes. See you there.

Kathryn

Country Dancing at Histon

We shall be meeting on Friday 15th March at 8pm for our next dance evening. Our Caller this month will be 'Spikey' Griffiths and the music will be provided by our excellent musicians. Do come along and have a go at the dances or just to listen to the band. All welcome.

Kathryn

Easter Breakfast @ Castle Street

If you're an early bird and love the morning, come and join us for our ecumenical service on Castle Hill Mound at 8am and then come down for an Easter breakfast at 8:30am at Castle Street Methodist Church. Lots of food and celebrations to be had! Let Denise know if you're coming for numbers and we look forward to welcoming and praising God together with food, fun and fellowship.

Snowdrops

As part of the £10 challenge we are selling snowdrop bulbs for £2 a clump.

Please phone 01223 573168 to advise how many clumps you would like and to arrange delivery.

We will also take orders for Algerian Iris plants, the beautiful Iris which flowers from late winter through to late spring as seen on the outside edge of the little gardens at the front of our church in Histon, £3 per plant. Thank you

Helen and Paul Allen

Rolling for a Cause

Mark your calendars for an afternoon of excitement, camaraderie, and charitable giving as we roll the dice for a noble cause. Our giraffe wrangler Kirk—with the wonderful team at Castle Street—proudly presents a beetle drive fundraiser, where you will engage in a classic game of skill and chance in support of the charity, **Break**.

The beetle drive—or giraffe drive in this case—is set to take place at Castle street Methodist Church, from 3pm ‘till 5:30pm(ish) on 23rd March. This event promises an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need whilst enjoying the thrill of the classic British game of beetle! Plus there will be prizes to be won on the day.

By participating in the giraffe drive fundraiser, you'll be contributing directly to **Break**, a charity dedicated to supporting vulnerable children and young people leaving the care system. Your participation and generosity will help provide crucial resources and support systems for those who need it most.

So, go round up the troops—be they friends, family, or stranger—for an afternoon of wholesome fun. The game of beetle encourages social interaction and teamwork, fostering a sense of community spirit that aligns perfectly with the Standing Tall campaign's mission of unity and solidarity. See you there!

Kirk

Afternoon Teas

Thank you to everyone who supported our Afternoon Tea to help raise money for refurbishing our church toilets. We hope it brightened up a very wet Thursday afternoon! We will be having another similar event in our home very soon, we will pass the word round when we've decided on a date!

Rosemary and John Watson

Bible in a Year

Many of us have embarked on reading the Bible in a Year and have been meeting monthly to talk about what we've read, discovered, and what has surprised us. It's a way of encouraging and supporting each other to get through to the end of the year. If you want to start, it's not too late! You can jump in at any time and start your year whenever—booklets are still available. If you can't come to our group but would like some support with this, write down and share with Rev Jenny each month:

- What has surprised you?
- What has encouraged you?
- What has made you do a double read and think “What?!”
- What would you like to ask God?

Our next meetings are 7th March and 11th April, 7.30pm, at Histon Methodist Church.

The deadline for the April newsletter is Sunday 24th March

Please email contributions to newsletter@histonmethodist.org
or hand them to Chris Whitworth



**Tea & Toast
Morning**

**SATURDAY 2ND MARCH
10AM - 12PM
HISTON METHODIST
CHURCH,
HIGH STREET,
HISTON
CB24 9JD**

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE HISTON METHODIST CHURCH
DEVELOPMENT FUND



Museum on a Bike

Come and engage with stories of local history,
brought to you by bike from the Museum of
Cambridge

6th March
at the
Castle Street Methodist
Church Coffee Morning

Outspoken!
Cycles

LDS™
Leaflet Distribution Specialists



**SAINT
ANDREW'S
Centre**

Tech Support

**WEDNESDAYS IN TERM TIME | 2.20-3.20PM
SAINT ANDREW'S CAFE**

Come along for support in using mobile phones,
tablets and laptops

For more information contact the Church Office

British Antarctic Survey Talk

Saturday 13th April, afternoon/early evening
Castle Street

One of our students has recently spent 4 months as an Engineer with the British Antarctic Survey and will be giving a talk with lots of pictures about his time in Antarctica.

Come and hear about this incredible once in a lifetime experience, ask questions and enjoy lots of beautiful, stunning pictures with Jacob Wyborn.

There will be a retiring collection in aid of the redevelopment project at Histon Methodist Church.

Histon Family News

Our love and best wishes to Vara Hedge who celebrated her 99th Birthday on 22nd February; she wishes to be remembered to all who know her and sends her love.

Chris Houghton is currently being cared for at Bramley Court Care Home; we think of him and all his family at this difficult time for them all.

We continue to remember Wesley and Helen Graham who are still with Julie in Northern Ireland awaiting a decision concerning Wesley's treatment.

There are others in our church family anxiously waiting for results of hospital tests, and decisions on treatment, we assure them all of our prayers.

Histon Holiday Club Good Friday Event

The theme and focus this year is **What is The Hope of Easter? The Promised King Brings us New Hope.**

This event will run from 10am–12pm with five stations on the Village Green and one in our Church Hall, where we will focus on *The Picnic on the Beach*. We will be serving Hot Cross Buns and drinks throughout the morning and will remain open until 12:30pm to enable the helpers on the

Green to have refreshments. We would be very grateful for offers of Hot Cross Buns and help with refreshments, so please see Judy Wynn or Judy Houghton if you are able to volunteer in any way.

Many thanks in anticipation;

Judy W and Judy H

Big Philosophical Issues

I am writing this a few days before the next BPI, due to take place on Tuesday 20th Feb, presented by Izzy Solomon on **AI Chatbots**, so I hope it all went well, many supported it and raised some more money for Histon's toilet redevelopment! Many thanks to Izzy for giving up her time to do the presentation.

The next event will be on Tuesday 19th March, with Dr David Ellis of Leeds Trinity University continuing the AI theme on **AI and Religion**. Then provisionally on Tuesday 16th April it will be the postponed January talk on **What is Truth?** presented by Dr Paul Curtis (subject to change due to availability). Please put these dates into your diaries and pass on the word to those you feel may enjoy some deep thinking and philosophical discussion with others. See you there.

Paul

What to read in the Bible **(Found in the Gideon Bible)**

- When you worry: *Matthew 6:19–34*
- When you are a bit down: *Psalms 34*
- When you need to know God cares for you: *Psalms 139*
- When you are lonely or fearful: *Psalms 23; Psalm 121; Psalm 27:1,2,5*
- When you need confidence: *Psalms 46*
- When you are discouraged: *Isaiah 40:28–31*
- When you feel overwhelmed with worry: *2 Corinthians 12:9–10*

Vera

Eco Church Award Scheme

At the last Church Council meeting it was decided that we should aim for accreditation of the Eco Church Award Scheme.

We can congratulate ourselves as we have now been awarded a bronze level in Eco Church after Nick's nimble fingers keyed in our answers to an online questionnaire. That was the easy bit! We are now starting our journey along the path to attain a silver award.

Some of the questions we had to say we did not do certain things but with a bit of coaching we could easily do, for example changing to dual-flush toilets.

So, starting in this issue of the newsletter we will have an Eco corner with some tips of what we can do to reduce our effect on the environment, not just in church but in our everyday lives. When Bryony spoke in our service in January she commented that her church first suggested that people try to not have the tap running whilst cleaning their teeth hence reducing their water usage.

This month's tip is:-

If you need to print documents, did you know that some fonts can be up to 30% lighter in their use of ink? That's less ink cartridges, less plastic and less money! Switch from Ariel to Century Gothic, Times New Roman or Calibri.

John Wyborn

Besom in Histon and Impington

The Besom Network is a national Christian ministry, and in Histon and Impington, our volunteers from local Churches are passionate about helping followers of Jesus put God's love into action.

We enable people to give generously, creatively and effectively to anyone who is in need. People give their time, their things, their money, and skills to help people and to demonstrate God's goodness. Our local work includes helping those in need with decorating, gardening, collecting and delivering household goods from donors—all without charge.

We'd love some more volunteers to join our team—if you're interested contact besomhi@gmail.com or phone 07591 194880, or see thebesomnetwork.org for more information.

Days Out with the Salvation Army

The Salvation Army in Histon are running days out throughout the year to a variety of attractions for anyone who wishes to attend. These begin on Tuesday 26th March with a trip to Cadbury World in Birmingham (priced at £35 including coach travel).

Future days out include a St George's Day afternoon tea and swing dance, and a trip to the famous Thursford Christmas Spectacular in Norfolk.

For more information contact Captain Rob Symons either via 01223 236788 (Church Hall) or email histon@salvationarmy.org.uk, or call Daphne on 07919 024857.