



**Histon
Methodist
Church**

NEWSLETTER

May 2024



Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you, but I'm very excited about the **Quilt and Flower Festival** which is taking place at Histon Methodist Church during the first bank holiday weekend in May. It's going to be an amazing experience and showcase the talent of so many people. I strongly encourage you to come and support us—and an enormous thank-you to all the people who have helped make this happen and for the thousands of hours of work you've put into it!

That Sunday (5th May) we will be worshipping as one community at Castle Street Methodist Church where we will be welcoming one of our students Izzy into membership and confirming her. Please do join me in praying for her as she prepares for this.

May is a busy month and includes **Christian Aid Week**. There will be opportunities to support his fantastic charity, so do look out for envelopes and give generously: Castle Street will be having a Christian Aid service on 12th May. And around the corner in June, we will be remembering the work of **Methodist Homes for the Aged**, and there will be opportunities to support this great charity as well.

May is also a sad month for the Circuit as, at the end of April, we said goodbye to Miriam Webb who has served as the Circuit administrator for 9 wonderful years. She moves to a job a bit closer to

home but she will be sorely missed by the whole circuit. She had a leaving and farewell at the end of April and both Churches were represented and gave donations towards her leaving present. Please do pray for her as she moves roles. This does leave a big hole in the life of the Circuit and if God is calling you to apply to be the next Circuit Administrator, do send Superintendent Minister Rose Westwood an email. If you know of anyone who would be interested, do speak to myself, a steward or any minister.

Thank you to everyone who has been praying for myself and Paul as we get used to this new way of living. He's got a few days off towards the end of May and so I look forward to seeing him and spending some time with him. If I'm not as available as usual, I hope you understand why! Paul has passed the first two set of exams on the A320 and is progressing nicely with his qualification—he sends his love and best wishes.

With love and prayer

Rev Jenny

Eco Tips

Fairtrade is much more than bananas and coffee. In fact, there are over 6,000 Fairtrade products including flowers and gold, chocolate and tea, cotton and beauty. Look out for the Fairtrade mark when you shop.

John Wyborn

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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 May

Wed 1 May	Besom Prayer Meeting	2:30pm
4–6 May	Quilt and Flower Festival (see notice)	
Sun 5 May	Service at Castle Street	10am
Wed 8 May	Games Afternoon (see notice)	2–4:30pm
Thu 9 May	Bible in a Year meeting	7:30pm
Fri 10 May	Country Dancing (see notice)	8–10pm
Sat 11 May	Coffee Morning	10am–12pm
Sun 12 May	Preacher: Mrs T. Maddin	11am
12–18 May	Christian Aid Week	
Sun 19 May	Preacher: Rev J. Pathmarajah (Holy Communion)	11am
Sun 26 May	Preacher: TBC	11am

Future Dates for your diary

Fri 21 Jun	Behind the red-brick facade: a tour of Robinson College's gardens, followed by cream tea (details to follow)	2pm
Sat 22 Jun	Quiz Night (see notice)	

Histon Quilt and Flower Festival

Our Quilts and Flowers will make a wonderful show

As those who have been before will surely know.

The church is transformed by our artists' talents and skills,

A riot of colour and scent, guaranteed to banish all ills.

Alongside the displays enjoy some delicious eats,

So do come along, join us, and give yourself a treat!

As well as the quilts and flower displays, there will be paintings by Min Warren.

- Saturday 4th May: 10am–4:30pm
- Sunday 5th May: 2pm–5pm

- Monday 6th May: 10am–4:30pm

All donations for Histon Methodist Church development fund and Cambridge Cancer Care hospital.

Quilts and paintings will be for sale.

Judy Wynn

Histon Coffee Shop

The coffee shop takings for March were £834. We thank all of our regular attendees for their continued support.

Anne

Quiz at Histon

Advance warning! Kirk and Rev Jenny will be transforming Kirk's £10 talent challenge money into a fun quiz night on Saturday 22nd June at Histon Methodist Church. It will be a jacket potato supper followed by a fun quiz. Put it in your diary!

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 May

Sun 5 May	Section Service (with Histon) led by Rev J. Pathmarajah	10am
Sun 12 May	Preacher: Mr J. Boocock	10am
Sun 12 May	Church @ Castle; Preacher: Miss Abigail Perrow	6:30pm
Sun 19 May	All-Age Worship led by Rev Rose Westwood	10am
Sun 26 May	Preacher: Miss P. Salmon	10am

Fund for Human Need

If you've been in the Methodist Church for a while, you've almost certainly heard of the **All We Can** charity and their valuable work around the world. You may not, however, be so familiar with the **Fund For Human Need**, which is the Methodist Church's charity supporting people in the UK. Their focus is on making grant payments to some of the most vulnerable and needy individuals, giving not just money but love and hope.

See their website www.fundforhumanneed.org.uk for more information.

Table Talk

Table Talk began again on the last week of April and we welcome back all students and anyone young at heart! This term we are fortunate to be joined by the author of a recently published book on the environment and the bible. Bryony will be leading us in 8 sessions and exploring environmental theology throughout the term. All are welcome on a Wednesday night 7–9pm during university term time.

With Paul unable to volunteer, we are looking for some extra people to come and help host Table Talk. If you could spare one or two Wednesday evenings in a term, please speak to Rev Jenny or Fiona and we'd love to have you on the team.

Junior Church at Castle Street

We're very lucky to have so many families at Castle Street, and love the vibrancy and energy they bring. Recently, due to other commitments, our leaders have had to take a step back in organising. If you have a heart for children and young people's ministry and would like to explore how you can serve at Castle St, please talk to Rev Jenny or Anna about this exciting opportunity. This wouldn't mean committing to anything weekly(!)

Castle Street Antarctica Talk

£160.25 was raised at the splendidly illustrated talk given by Jacob Wyborn about his experience as an engineer working for four months with the British Antarctic Survey. All the donations were given to Histon Methodist Church towards the costs of the latest phase of the Church Refurbishment Project.

The deadline for the June newsletter is Sunday 19th May

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

A Tribute to Janet Houghton

16th July 1931- 15th March 2024

The Thanksgiving service for the life of Janet Houghton was a fitting tribute to a much loved and respected member of our church family.

Having been born into an active Methodist family, Janet contributed much to the life of Addiscombe Methodist Church in Croydon, having efficiently held almost every possible office throughout her time there. On moving to Histon she became an active member of our church and supported all the various activities. After moving to Cottenham Court when she needed more care, Janet's interest in our church and its members continued, always wanting to know what was going on even when she was unable to attend.

Janet was a highly regarded teacher for all her working life. She was conscientious, generous with her time, and took an interest in all the children in her care, showing exceptional patience and ensuring each child felt valued.

She was proud to become head of Annerley Infant School, where she spent 17 years until it was amalgamated with the Junior School in 1989 and where she was able to play a key part in the smooth transition.

Key points in Janet's character shone through all the many tributes and anecdotes received from family, church friends and work colleagues.

She was a truly independent woman: she knew her own mind and wasn't afraid to speak it, and was respected for it!

She also had a real sense of humour and fun; family members and friends all had an enjoyable time when they visited her home.

Janet was a good listener and encourager, caring, thoughtful, considerate, and kind.

Her strong Christian faith as a member of the Methodist Church was the cornerstone of her life,

and she was a shining example to us all. She will be greatly missed and affectionately remembered.

A Prayer for our Community

Written by Janet for a service she contributed to in Cottenham Court 2 years ago:

Gracious God we thank you for all that we enjoy in this community and we ask your blessing on all who work among us meeting our needs for medical care, working in our shops, caring for the elderly and housebound, working with children in schools and nurseries and all who in any way enable this community to thrive.

We pray too for the churches in our community and ask that each one may be a source of blessing, a place where the love of God is made real and where all who come feel welcomed and valued. Help us to work together for the glory of your name and the growth of your kingdom.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

Farewell My Friends

The poem below was read at the memorial service for the mother of Janet and Chris, and at Janet's request it was read at her own service by her great nephew Matthew. It was written by the Hindu poet, Rabindranath Tagore.

Farewell My Friends

*It was beautiful
As long as it lasted
The journey of my life.*

*I have no regrets
Whatsoever save
The pain I'll leave behind,
Those dear hearts
Who love and care...
And the strings pulling
At the heart and soul...*

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*The strong arms
That held me up
When my own strength
Let me down.*

*At every turning of my life
I came across
Good friends,
Friends who stood by me
Even when the time raced me by.*

*Farewell, farewell
My friends
I smile and
Bid you goodbye.
No, shed no tears
For I need them not
All I need is your smile.*

*If you feel sad
Do think of me
For that's what I'll like
When you live in the hearts
Of those you love
Remember then
You never die.*

Histon Family News

Congratulations to Pam and Roger Wright who will be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 16th May. We send them our love and best wishes for a Happy Day.

We were sorry to hear that Belinda Fallon had a short stay in hospital recently. She is now home and improving slowly; we send her our love and best wishes.

Pete Davis is feeling a lot better—still a few problems to sort out, but is now home after a long spell in hospital. We hope he continues to improve.

Our prayers are asked for Liz and Pete's grandson, Freddie, who is on the Teenage Cancer Unit awaiting treatment. His illness came as a shock to them all.

The funeral of David Coles was held on 18th April at Torpoint in Cornwall, where he lived for many years before moving to Papworth. We continue to pray for Phyllis and her family.

We remember Joy Folley who is recovering at home following a recent operation, we miss seeing her in church and coffee shop.

We also continue to pray for Wesley Graham and family as he awaits further treatment.

We pray for all members of our church family who are struggling with health issues and other problems which are making life difficult for them.

*We are pilgrims on a journey,
And companions on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load
StF 611*

Histon Church Council Secretary Wanted!

After much reflection and prayer, I've decided to step down from the role of Church Council Secretary, which I started in April 2022, due to increasing work commitments. So, there is now a need for a new volunteer who can continue as the Church Council Secretary from June 2024 onwards.

This role is a wonderful opportunity for someone who feels called to serve in a capacity that supports both the Church's spiritual mission and administrative needs. As the Secretary, you'll keep an accurate record of church council meetings, noting actions, matters arising, and decisions made. While experience in administration or minute taking is beneficial, it is not a prerequisite!

If you are interested in learning more about this role, please come and chat with the Stewards, Rev Jenny, or me over the next few weeks to learn more.

Sarah Westwood

Graham Marsh RIP

Local Preacher Graham Marsh led our Church Anniversary service at Castle Street last October. Sadly, he died in March at his home in Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, aged nearly 95.

Graham was born in Haymarket Terrace, Castle Hill area in 1929, and brought up within the Castle Street congregation and youth club where his father Percy Marsh was a Local Preacher, amongst other roles. He attended the Perse School and was, I believe, a conscientious objector, so instead of National Service served on the farm at NIAB on Huntingdon Road.

His grandparents Arthur and Caroline Marsh are remembered in the ornate plaque near the sound desk in our church. There were three other sons (Arthur, Henry, and Herbert—thus uncles to Graham) all of whom became Methodist ministers, with Herbert especially having an important influence on our church in 1915 when he stood in for our appointed minister John Day Thompson during his year away as President of the Primitive Methodist Conference. Herbert lived to 101. Graham's parents and grandparents are buried and have memorials in the nearby Histon Road Cemetery for non-conformists.

In his life, Graham served in the councils of several counties as a Social Services Children's Officer. Tennis was his major pastime apart from being very active in church affairs.

His first wife was Cecelia Cadamy, daughter of a Methodist minister retired at Thetford. They married at Castle Street in 1954. She died in 2015, so he married again to a retired URC minister Jean Wilkinson who also pre-deceased him a year ago. He leaves a son Neal, a doctor in Somerset, and a daughter Caroline in Auckland New Zealand.

The Marsh family have many connections to Castle Street and the Cambridge area. They originate in the village of West Wrattling near Linton where the father, John Precious Marsh, was also a local preacher as well as an agricultural labourer, as recorded in the census.

Graham's cousin Leslie (son of Herbert) also became a Methodist minister; he is currently retired in Oxford, but likely to move to Cambridge soon as his daughter Louise is married to the recently arrived director of music at Lt St Mary's Church.

Graham's uncle Arthur started his ministry in 1910 in the Sleaford, Lincs circuit, where his senior was a certain Nathaniel Boocock, grandfather of the writer of this note!

John Boocock

Histon Games Afternoon

Come and join us for yet more fun and games at Histon Methodist on Wednesday, 8th May, at 2:30pm

Kathryn

Country Dancing at Histon

Our next evening of dancing in Histon will be on Friday, 10th May, at 8pm, when we shall be accompanied by our excellent musicians and caller. All abilities catered for so why not come and give it a try? Or, just come and listen to the music, if you prefer!

See you there;

Kathryn



Methodist Women in Britain Conference

MWIB Conference

A few of us went to—and really enjoyed!—our weekend away at the **Methodist Women in Britain Conference** in Swanwick. It's a beautiful setting with views of the Derbyshire hills.

Our own Rev Jenny was one of the keynote speakers, on the theme **Words Make Worlds** and she drew on her linguistics degree to help us reflect on Biblical translation, the importance of our words, and even to make our own translations of the Lord's Prayer. Fascinating workshops ranged from juggling, weaving, and creative writing to poverty, domestic violence, and Bible study. Do ask any of us about it!

Vera, Mary F, Judy W, and Naomi