



**Histon  
Methodist  
Church**

# NEWSLETTER

## August 2024



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## Minister's Message

I hope you're enjoying the summer months, or what we've had of them anyway! At the coffee morning recently, someone told me the reason we've had bad weather is because there have been so many sporting events and now they're almost finished, we're bound to have good weather!

Thanks to everyone who has been supporting myself and Paul as he continues his training with WizzAir—there's a late-breaking update elsewhere in this newsletter!

This summer the time has come to take my Rangers to Switzerland for 10 days—it feels like a million years ago we were doing a fundraising coffee morning for this trip and helped lead the service at Histon. Please do pray for myself and Fiona from Castle Street as we embark on this adventure, and I look forward to sharing all the stories with you on our return. Paul and I also have ten days at the end of August where we will have some time together: this will be the first time we've had since March so we are both looking forward to some precious time with each other.

August is generally a quiet month in the life of the church, and so I encourage you to use this time to rest in the presence of God and spend some with God in God's gorgeous creation, because come September, we have a million things to look forward to!

Our toilet redevelopment at Histon will shortly commence and as a consequence we will be

having a scaled down Harvest Festival. However! We will be having a joint harvest supper at Castle Street on Saturday 21st September. It will be a bring and share like last year, and will most likely feature a few fun games as well. Neither church will be having extravagant displays this year, but will be focusing on goods for the food bank and making a display within the service itself. If you'd like to make a commitment to supporting the food bank over the summer, please do add one of the following to your weekly shops and bring in your food bank bounty at the Harvest festival: soap, oil, stock cubes, sugar, and passata.

We had an incredible Old Testament Day with Professor Judith and we were so blessed to share her wisdom and knowledge last month. She has kindly agreed to do another study morning, focusing on the New Testament, to help support anyone who is doing Bible in a Year—but if you have a thirst for knowledge and want to know a bit more about the New Testament, do come along! All are welcome on Saturday 23rd November.

Thanks to everyone who came to the open manse last month: it was great to have some time together and fellowship, and I wish you every blessing this 'restful' 'sabbath' August.

**Rev Jenny**

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## Histon Regular Activities

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

## Histon Diary for August

<b>Sun 4 Aug</b>	Preacher: Miss E Salmon	11am
<b>Wed 7 Aug</b>	Besom Prayer Meeting	2:30pm
<b>Thu 8 Aug</b>	Bible in a Year Meeting	7:30pm
<b>Sat 10 Aug</b>	Coffee Morning	10am–12noon
<b>Sat 10 Aug</b>	Summer Garden Party at Abbey Farm (see notice)	
<b>Sun 11 Aug</b>	Preacher: (local arrangement)	11am
<b>Wed 14 Aug</b>	Games Afternoon	2–4:30pm
<b>Sun 18 Aug</b>	All-age Worship, Holy Communion: Rev J Pathmarajah	11am
<b>Sun 25 Aug</b>	Preacher: Rev S Burgess	11am
<b>Sat 31 Aug</b>	Tea and Toast	10am

## Future Dates for your Diary

<b>Sun 21 Sep</b>	Bring and Share Harvest Supper at Castle Street	
<b>Sun 22 Sep</b>	Harvest Service	11am
<b>Sun 22 Sep</b>	Circuit Service at Castle St with new District Chair Rev Helen Holland	6:30pm
<b>Thu 26 Sep</b>	Pastoral Visitors' meeting	2pm
<b>Fri 25 Oct</b>	Flower Arranging Demonstration (in aid of development fund)	
<b>Sat 26 Oct</b>	Methodist Women in Britain Meeting at Histon Methodist	
<b>Sat 9 Nov</b>	Christmas Market	
<b>Sun 22 Dec</b>	Christmas Service	4:30pm

## Summer Party at Abbey Farm Histon

Join us from 5–7:30pm on Saturday 10th August for an informal party in aid of the redevelopment:

- Tea and biscuits on arrival
- Guided walk around the grounds (for those who wish, others can relax)
- Fun activities and games—with prizes!
- BBQ, deserts and drinks

Tickets £15 adults, £7.50 children; from

Rosemary ([j.watson12@icloud.com](mailto:j.watson12@icloud.com), 07749238976) or Michael ([m.r.wats12@gmail.com](mailto:m.r.wats12@gmail.com), 07803023879)

## Histon Coffee Shop

Wednesday Coffee Shop donations came to £724 in June; this money goes towards the normal running costs of the church. Money donated on a Saturday goes to the Development Fund; Sunday donations, after the service, are given to our chosen charity—currently The Red Hen Project, but from September this will be Mercy Ships. Many thanks to all who give so generously.

## Castle Street Regular Activities

<b>Sunday</b>	Morning Worship	10am
<b>Sunday</b>	United Church at Castle (Second Sunday of the Month)	6:30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Community Coffee Morning (not 7th or 14th)	10:30am–12pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Strength and Balance Exercise Class (not 7th or 14th)	12–1pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Table Talk (Student Ministry, University term-time)	7–9pm
<b>Thursday</b>	First Friends (not during school holidays)	10am–12pm

## Castle Street Diary for August

<b>Sun 4 Aug</b>	All-Age Worship: Deacon Ian Murray	10am
<b>Sun 11 Aug</b>	All-Age Worship, Holy Communion: Rev J Pathmarajah	10am
<b>Sun 11 Aug</b>	Church @ Castle: Rev J Pathmarajah	6:30pm
<b>Sun 18 Aug</b>	Preacher: Morris-Chapman	10am
<b>Sun 25 Aug</b>	Church @ Castle at St Luke's	10:30am

## Castle Street Treasurer

At the Castle Street AGM, we discussed the need to find an assistant to Mike, our beloved treasurer. Time is now becoming critical, and we need to find someone to shadow him as soon as possible, to learn the ropes. This isn't a commitment to becoming the treasurer, but to help and support Mike, who will need to step down at some point and we will need to find a replacement. For good governance and to ease handing over, it would be good to find someone to help do this. Sadly, Mike's health has brought the timeline for this transition forward and it is essential that we as a church support him pastorally, and with his role as treasurer. Ultimately, Castle Street cannot operate as a church without a treasurer and without this key person in role, we will have some difficult questions and unavoidable consequences to face. Please pray for Mike and for this situation. For more information, please talk to a steward, Mike, or myself.

*Rev Jenny*

## Castle Street Coffee Morning Update

We have been blessed to have many years of a thriving coffee morning every Wednesday at Castle Street where Mike and Joyce Sharpe have been the primary coordinators. Mike and Joyce have had to step back from this responsibility for the time being, and the stewards are making an appeal to the wider church community to look for a volunteer to take on running and coordinating this important ministry. If we can't find someone, we will have to make the difficult decision to meet either fortnightly, or monthly depending on who we can find to help run and coordinate this. I appreciate that many people are working on a Wednesday morning, but it could be you're willing to coordinate a rota! Please do think and pray about how we can sustain and support this ministry. For more information on what's involved, please contact John Boocock.

*Rev Jenny*

## The deadline for the September newsletter is Wednesday 21st August

Please email contributions to [newsletter@histonmethodist.org](mailto:newsletter@histonmethodist.org)

or hand them to Chris Whitworth

## Histon toilet project update

We are delighted to report that we have now raised enough funds to start the toilet redevelopment.

Thanks to everyone for their fantastic response to our fundraising effort, however we still need to continue fund raising through to the end of the year to complete the project.

The builders will begin on 2nd September and are expected to be finished by the end of October.

We envisage that all activities in the church and hall will continue as normal—however there will be no access to the old kitchen or the corridor. Please bear with us as the work is carried out.

When the contractors start work we will have to restrict parking at church to allow them clear access. So, for approximately six to eight weeks starting 2nd September, Mondays to Fridays 8am–5pm, there will only be parking for 3 cars, and these will be for blue badge holders only. If this applies to you please can you park parallel to the road. There will be no parking on the right hand side area facing the church. Weekend parking should not be affected.

Two portable toilets, one wheelchair accessible, will be positioned on the car park in front of the meeting room/vestry. These will be unlocked at times when the building is in use.

*The Development Committee*

## Methodist Conference Digest

We hope you have had a chance to see the digest from this year's Methodist Conference—it has been sent round by email but please speak to a Steward if you would like a copy—unfortunately the whole thing is too long to include here. We were pleased to see the memorial from the Cambridge circuit about AI was considered and discussed by conference.

Full and detailed coverage of Conference, including a link to watch the business sessions and read the daily record, can be found on the Methodist Church website: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/structure-and-governance/the-methodist-conference/conference-2024/>

## Histon Family News

We were sorry to hear that Michael Simmonds had a fall recently which involved several hours in A&E at Addenbrookes. He received a nasty cut on his head and obviously was rather shaken up but fortunately nothing more serious. He jokingly said he still has a brain—we are pleased you still have a sense of humour Michael.

We are thinking of Liz and Pete Davies, as Pete is in hospital again.

We also remember Gillian and Derek Slaymaker; Gillian has been in hospital and is now being cared for at Etheldred House.

We assure them all of our prayers

### Prayer Request

I was wondering if I could put in a prayer request for my mother in law Rita and my Father in law David.

They have attended Histon Methodist on several occasions whilst they have been staying at their caravan in Comberton, from their home in Sheffield. Very sadly in recent weeks, Rita has been diagnosed with advanced cancer. I suspect she will not make the journey to Histon again but I know they have very much enjoyed and benefited from the times when they have visited Histon Methodist.

We would be most grateful if you could remember both Rita and David in your prayers, I know that it would mean a lot to them both at this time. With my best wishes;

*Katherine Goller*

## Paul the Pilot Update

Thanks to everyone for your prayers for Paul as he continues his training. He was meant to have his first observed flight with actual passengers on the day of the Section Service at Histon. For those who were there, he didn't have his first flight and turned up to surprise me at church and help at the open manse! It was great to see him and I know everyone enjoyed having him there.

He had one final simulator check to pass which he failed—but not through any fault of his own. The examiner was being examined himself by the CAA and the examiner failed his exam which meant that Paul's test was null and void! Instead of staying at the airport waiting for the details of the next exam, he took a risk and came to Histon to share with us.

By the time you read this he will have had his first of 50 observational flights and after that he will be fully qualified. It's been a long journey since 20th March but we are nearly there!

Thank you everyone for your support and prayer.

*Jenny and Paul*

## Castle Street Communion Rota

We are looking for more volunteers to help with our Holy Communion Rota on a Sunday at Castle Street. Communion takes place on average once a month. During term time, the students take responsibility for coordinating Communion, but we are looking for some more volunteers to help with this important ministry outside term time. The job requires someone to look at the plan, spot when the services are, contact the volunteers, see which ones they can help with, and send out the rota. The Communion steward needs to arrive before the service starts and bring a gluten free roll or take one out of the freezer, fill up the communion cups and lay the table with cloths. It is helpful if they also steward during communion and finally wash up after the service. I was a

communion steward for many years before ministry and it's quite a fun job! Realistically because the students can help out, this is a commitment which will be about 6 times a year. Please contact me if you are interested in doing this or can coordinate the rota.

*Rev Jenny*

## Thanks from Red Hen

Dear Friends at Histon Methodist Church,

Thank you for all the support you've given us this past year. Your contribution is making a lasting, positive impact on vulnerable children and families in Cambridge, a city marked by significant inequality.

Thanks to your support, our holistic approach of long-term, intensive one-to-one support and community outreach provides a lifeline for families in crisis. We are preventing tragedies in families experiencing challenges that are making life difficult, such as poverty, poor mental health and domestic abuse. Together, we are reducing the risks of children falling away from education, breaking often intergenerational cycles of poverty, trauma, and disadvantage, and giving them a chance to thrive.

I'd like to share a quote from our recent blog post, Building Community Through Creativity (see <https://redhenproject.org/sewing/>). This is a great example of how we are improving family life for children, in this case, by supporting the mental well-being of their parents.

*Getting out of the house has been a big benefit for me. Being around new people in a relaxed setting has been great. I lost my confidence when I became disabled, but this course has helped me gain it back, learn new skills, and feel like I've achieved something.*

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your help has made a real difference. We're so grateful to have you as part of our Red Hen family.

## Testimony

*Sarah joined Castle Street Methodist Church about a year ago because she was interested in Christianity. She works alongside Jess, who simply said "you don't need to go to any other church but ours" and invited her to join Castle Street. She's been a regular ever since when her shifts allow and was baptised and confirmed on Christmas Eve 2023. This is her testimony from that service.*

For those of you who I have not had the chance to meet yet, my name is Sarah. Please bear with me, words have never been my strong point, but I will try my best.

I haven't been attending Castle Street long, but in this short time, I have come to meet some amazing people—people that have shown me compassion and kindness. People that have really opened my eyes and been so welcoming. I feel honoured to become a part of this lovely family here at Castle Street.

Jessica played a big part in my journey to start attending church just a few short months ago. After a few questions, I knew I wanted to come and see what it was all about for myself—and I'm glad I did. The feeling I get when I walk into this church is like no other I've ever experienced. I feel happy, I feel like I am not judged—which unfortunately is a feeling I know all too well.

During my childhood religion was never talked about: the only little part I had was the hymns in school, which I looked forward to everyday even though at that time to be honest I couldn't understand them as much as I do now—to me they were just songs where as now they come to me more like stories and I understand the meanings behind them more.

I was not part of a religious background growing up; this was something that we did not talk about as a family. I did not feel that I could open up to my parents and share with them what I may have learned from school, the hymns or even the occasional church trip which I would so often keep

to myself—so coming here and deciding to get baptised was for sure not a quick decision; it's something I had been thinking about for a while.

My life has been a bit chaotic: I've not had the easiest of times growing up, but I am thankful for the lessons I have learnt along the way and know that there are others in life going through some hard times too, especially this time of year.

My parents separated when I was at a very young age. I then moved around a lot—which at that age was fairly fun: to have a new bedroom as often as I did. I attended new schools what felt like every week: it was actually very hard to fit in being the new kid often having no friends and spending my lunchtimes in the bathroom alone.

We stopped celebrating Christmas when I was 10, and I would often open presents alone Christmas morning with nothing to look forward to for the remainder of the day.

There would be times we would sit in darkness and in the cold due to not having enough money for bills. But even after all of this, it's taught me so much; it made me very independent and I grew up quick which isn't always a bad thing.

To be baptised today of all days is something I can look back on and remember as Christmas has never really been a magical time of year for me, but it is now something I can look on with joy and hope for my future when this time of year comes around.

I thank the Lord for the path he has lead me down. Without Him I wouldn't be who I am today. I believe God has been around me my entire life looking after me and watching over when I needed Him the most.

On this new path I pray that god will give me the wisdom I need in life. I thank God for this new start.

**Sarah**