



**Histon
Methodist
Church**

NEWSLETTER

December 2024– January 2025



Minister's Message

What were you doing this time last year? It's a question which is often discussed in our household as we reflect on the year which has passed us by and we look forward to the next year. It's been an incredible year for Histon and Castle Street with many changes and momentous events. Histon have installed new toilets and held an amazing flower and quilt festival; Castle Street have had so many baptisms and confirmations I've almost lost count and had a fantastic weekend away with 3Generate.

For many of us, it will be the coming of the end of our adventure with the Bible as we complete reading it in a year: a huge congratulations if you made it this far, and I know we've all been challenged and inspired all at the same time (and I'm pretty sure we've all wanted to throw our Bibles across the room at some point in frustration!) And if you'd like to start a new adventure in January (see the notice elsewhere in this newsletter), you're welcome to do so and join me for another year of reading!

There are a few last things to look forward to as we bid farewell to 2024: there's the annual Open Manse for carols and mince pies (perhaps we should call it manse pies!) 2–5pm on 15th December at the manse. All are welcome.

We also enjoy our family Christmas services which are open to all and accessible for all ages. This year we will be exploring the role of reindeers in

the Christmas story—trust me, it will all make sense! Come along to this service with friends and family for a reindeer activity packed service. We have our usual services over Christmas which all are welcome to.

Looking forward to next year, we will be holding some cyber security training in the church to help educate and refresh ourselves on how to stay safe online: criminals get cleverer and more savvy every day, and it's important that we also keep up to date in our learning and understanding. This is not compulsory, but optional for anyone who would like to learn a bit more!

Our church family weekend away 21st–23rd March is going ahead at Sizewell Hall in Suffolk and bookings are open to the general church. If you would like to come and reserve a space, please let Rev Jenny or Denise know—places are limited and it's on a first come first serve basis.

As we enter this period of watching and waiting for the coming of our Lord, we remember the story of the Christ child, who was born into occupation and homelessness, and became a refugee. In the midst of our preparations, we pray and remember those who also watch and wait, but who fear persecution because of their faith; those who are homeless; and those who are refugees.

Rev Jenny

Minister: Revd Jenny Pathmarajah

Email: jenny@cambridgemethodist.org.uk

Phone: 01223 343990

Editor: Chris Whitworth

Email: newsletter@histonmethodist.org

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 December 2024

Sun 1 Dec	Preacher: Rev Mark Wakelin	11am
Sat 7 Dec–		Sat 10am–4pm
Sun 8 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival	Sun 12:30–4pm
Sun 8 Dec	Service at Castle Street	10am
Wed 11 Dec	Games Afternoon (see notice)	2–4:30pm
Thu 12 Dec	Bible in a Year Meeting	7:30pm
Sat 14 Dec	Coffee Morning	10am–12noon
Sun 15 Dec	Preacher: Rev Barbara Garwood	11am
Fri 20 Dec	Country Dancing (see notice)	8–10pm
Sun 22 Dec	Carol Service with Holy Communion led by Rev Jenny Pathmarajah	11am
Sun 22 Dec	Christmas Service	4:30pm
Tue 24 Dec	Midnight Service	11:30pm
Wed 25 Dec	Christmas Day Service at Castle Street	10am
Wed 25 Dec	Christmas Day Service at Salvation Army, Histon	10:30am
Sun 29 Dec	Preacher: Mr John Boocock	11am

Histon Diary for January 2025

Sun 5 Jan	Preacher: Mrs Judy Wynn	11am
Wed 8 Jan	Games Afternoon (see notice)	2–4:30pm
Sat 11 Jan	Coffee Morning	10am–12noon
Sun 12 Jan	Preacher: Mr John Baker	11am
Fri 17 Jan	Country Dancing (see notice)	8–10pm
Sun 19 Jan	Covenant Service led by Rev Jenny Pathmarajah	11am
Sun 26 Jan	Preacher: Rev S Coleman	11am
Thu 30 Jan	New Testament in a Year Study Meeting	7:30pm

Please note: there will be **no** Besom Prayer meeting in December or January

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

Castle Street Diary for December 2024

Sun 1 Dec	Morning Worship: Kirk and Judith Wakelin	10am
Sun 8 Dec	Preacher: Rev Jenny Pathmarajah	10am
Sun 8 Dec	Church @ Castle: Margaret Cooper	6:30pm
Sun 15 Dec	All-age Carol Service and Gift Tree Dedication led by Rev Jenny Pathmarajah	10am
Sun 15 Dec	Open Manse	2–5pm
Sun 22 Dec	Holy Communion led by Rev Rose Westwood	10am
Wed 25 Dec	Christmas Day All-Age Service led by Rev Jenny Pathmarajah	10am
Sun 29 Dec	Church @ Castle at St Luke's	10:30am

Castle Street Diary for January 2025

Sun 5 Jan	Preacher: Mrs Tess Maddin	10am
Sun 12 Jan	Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by Rev Jenny Pathmarajah	10am and 6:30pm
Wed 15 Jan	Pastoral Visitors meeting	
Sun 19 Jan	Preacher: Rev Rose Westwood	10am
Wed 22 Jan	Table Talk (new term)	7–9pm
Sun 26 Jan	Preacher: Rev Rose Westwood	10am
Wed 29 Jan	Table Talk	7–9pm

Please note: there will be **no** Coffee Morning on 25 Dec and **no** Strength and Balance class on 1 Jan

Castle Street Gift Tree

Don't forget to pick up your gift tree tag and support our two charities this year, Concrete Rose and Jimmy's. Pick up a tag, buy the present on the tag, wrap it and then bring it to the service on 15th December, where we will bless the gifts ready for collection: it's a great way to give at Christmas and support local charities. Thanks to everyone who helps support and make this project happen.

Eco Tips

Cooler temperatures can lower tyre pressure and under-inflated tyres reduce your car's efficiency. It takes just a few minutes to inflate your tyres to the proper pressure and it will help decrease your fuel bills and decrease your CO2 emissions for the journey.

John Wyborn

New Year Resolution for 2025

Have you ever wanted to dive deeper into the life and teachings of Jesus and the early Church? This year, Rev Jenny invites you to join her on an inspiring journey to read through the **New Testament in a Year**. Together, we'll explore the Gospels, letters, and revelations that have shaped our faith and continue to guide us today.

This is an opportunity to immerse yourself in God's Word, gain fresh insights, and grow in your faith. Whether you're a seasoned Bible reader or opening its pages for the first time, this journey is for everyone. You'll be amazed at how daily readings and reflections can transform your understanding of Scripture and strengthen your connection to God.

To make this journey accessible, booklets outlining the daily readings will be available from Rev Jenny or the Church Stewards. These resources will guide you through the New Testament, offering a manageable plan that fits into even the busiest schedule.

Let's embark on this journey together as a church community: imagine the joy of sharing insights and encouragement with one another as we discover the richness of God's Word.

Start the New Year with purpose and faith—pick up your booklet, and let's walk this path together. If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to speak with Rev Jenny or one of the Stewards.

We will meet and share at Histon Methodist at 7:30pm on: Jan 30; Feb 27; Mar 27; Apr 24; May 22; Jun 19; Jul 24; Aug 21; Sep 25; Oct 23; Nov 27; and Dec 18.

Let's make 2025 a year of spiritual growth and discovery: will you take the first step?

Rev Jenny

Big Issues

Thanks to everyone for all your support and prayers as I completed my training with Wizz on the Airbus 321: I've been flying officially now for several months. I'm on a random roster pattern which means on the 15th of each month, my schedule is published for the forthcoming month. It makes planning very difficult (Jenny will second this!) and doing anything with regularity almost impossible. I'm keen to start Big Issues again, but it would not be on a regular schedule as previously done: I would have to wait until the roster is published and find a date I could do and the church is free. If you're keen for Big Issues to restart and understand that I'm tied down by these dates, please let Jenny or myself know and we will see what we can do in the New Year. Thanks

Paul Curtis

Histon Wednesday Coffee Shop

After another busy month, donations amounted to a magnificent £1006.

Please note we will be closed both Christmas Day and New Year's Day, so everyone can spend time with family and friends.

The team would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers, past and present, for continuing to support us and wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Challenge Cafe

On Saturday 18th January and 15th February John and I will be running a 'challenge cafe' during the time of the Farmers' Markets (from 9:30–12:30). We intend to serve tea, coffee, cheese scones and bacon butties. Please come along to support us: all proceeds will be given to the Development Fund.

Anne Wyborn

Castle Street First Friends

First Friends has had a wonderful two years at Castle Street. We have welcomed over one hundred families to our playgroup and enjoyed a fruitful ministry with the local community. Sadly, since the summer, our numbers have dwindled and we have taken the difficult decision to close for the foreseeable future. We've really enjoyed our time doing this, and we end with joy at what we've achieved: maybe we might re-open another time, but in the meantime we celebrate an amazing two years. An enormous thanks to all the volunteers who have given so much time, energy, and support to our little family: it's been a great time together.

Histon New Toilets Opening Day

About one year on from the start of the 'Talents' project to raise money for the toilet refurbishment works, it was with excitement and joy that the official opening of the newly finished block was conducted by Rev Jenny after the service on 17th November.

Present for the momentous occasion were Sam (via video link) and Michael who project managed the operation; representing Tim and his team of builders from AT Consulting were Tim's parents John and Sue; Gareth the chair of the fund panel from Thalia; and Steve, the representative from the Circuit, along with many familiar faces from Histon and Castle Street. Further thanks were given to Angus from Wesley who helped the cause and represented the Hunter Rowe Trust, whose support was invaluable.

This project has been a labour of love for all. The hours put into baking, pickling, quizzing, raffling, quilting, flower arranging, and calendar printing have come to fruition with fully accessible, user friendly, warm, and welcoming facilities that will serve hundreds of thankful visitors to Histon over the years. By investing in such a basic human

need, and going over and above expectations, shows just how much Histon Methodist Church cares for one another and values each and every person who steps through those doors.

It is also worth applauding Jenny on her ability to weave toilet themed ideas, lessons, and narrative throughout an entire service—from putting pen to loo roll allowing us to flush away our sins, to discussing the many cisterns and wells dotted throughout the bible, or sharing in best and worst toilet stories!

Kirk Baillie

Book of Christian Poetry

Margaret Jude, from Histon Baptist Church, has just published a book of Christian poetry called "Flame of Faith—Forged in Verse". Margaret has been writing poetry in various styles for many years, both humorous and serious, and this book is a collection of poems inspired by Bible stories, personal faith and experience, and God in creation, as well as reaction to events in our modern day, including the pandemic. The overall message of the book is about the power, sovereignty, and overwhelming love of God in every aspect of life. The books are £6.99 per copy, with 50% of the profit going to Addenbrookes Charitable Trust, and they are available directly from Margaret, either in village events leading up to Christmas, or at: marpetj30@gmail.com.

Joy McCombie

Histon Games Afternoons

The next two Games Afternoons will be on Wednesday 11th December and Wednesday 8th January, from 2:30–4:30pm. Do come along and try out some old or new board games. There is a charge of £4 towards Church Development funds.

See you there.

Kathryn

Histon Family News

We were sorry to hear Ted Bailey had a nasty fall and has been in Addenbrookes Hospital for two weeks. He is progressing slowly, but needs rehabilitation before he can return home; we send him and Veronica our love and best wishes.

We continue to remember Pete Davis and Wesley Graham and their families.

At this festive time of year we think of members of our church family for whom Christmas is a difficult time and assure them of our prayers.

Histon Country Dancing

We shall be dancing again on Friday 20th December and Friday 17th January, from 8–10pm. Dancing is an excellent way of keeping fit. All the dances are walked through. Our Caller for December is Peter Giles and we will be accompanied by our excellent musicians.

Adults: £4.00 Accompanied Children: 50p.

Kathryn

Histon Christmas Market

November 23rd 2024

Our Christmas Market day dawned wet, cold and windy, but the inclement weather did not deter our customers who attended this popular annual event. A steady stream came through our doors as soon as they were opened.

Attracted by our stalls groaning with goodies—our usual homemade preserves, cakes, delicious refreshments, an enticing raffle, groaning bookstall, together with bargains on the bric-a-brac, puzzles, jewellery and homegrown plants and bulbs—not forgetting *Guess the Weight of a Beautifully Decorated Christmas Cake*, *Guess the Number of Sweets in a Jar* and *Guess the Birthday of a Large Fluffy Teddy*.

A buzz of friendly conversation and laughter completed this fun annual event in our church calendar: an event involving much planning and preparation, but all those involved—stallholders, contributors to the stalls, and customers alike—were rewarded by the enthusiasm and appreciation shown. We were delighted that as a result £2,382.82 was raised for the Church Development Fund.

Judy Wynn

The deadline for the February 2025 newsletter is Friday 24th January

Please email contributions to newsletter@histonmethodist.org

or hand them to Chris or Naomi Whitworth
