



**Histon
Methodist
Church**

NEWSLETTER

April 2025



Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

As Easter approaches, we are reminded once again of the incredible hope we have through the resurrection of Jesus. The Easter story is not just about Jesus overcoming death—it's about the new life and fresh hope that God offers to each of us. Just as the stone was rolled away from the tomb, revealing life where there was thought to be only death, Easter reminds us that even in the darkest times, God is working to bring light and new beginnings. Whatever challenges we face, the promise of Easter is that God's love is stronger than death, and hope is always within reach.

What a fantastic time we had at the Church Weekend! Thank you so much to everyone who helped organise and run it, to everyone who came along, and to those who supported us with their prayers. It was a real time of fellowship, laughter, and growing together in faith. The sense of community was truly special, and we hope to do it again before too long!

We are so grateful to those who have recently switched from giving through the envelope system to regular online giving. It's already made a significant difference to our workload and helps us manage our finances more efficiently. If you still give by envelope—thank you so much for your faithful giving! But please do have a chat with me about the benefits of switching to online giving: a recent change in legislation has added quite a bit

of extra work when processing physical donations, and I'd love to explain how making the change could help us manage things more smoothly..

March was a marathon month—quite literally in some ways! There were some tough long days and weeks, but we got there, and I'm so thankful for all your prayers and encouragement. Your support really made a difference. I'll be taking a bit of time off in early April to recover and recharge, ready to celebrate Easter with you all.

As we step into the joy of Easter, may you know the deep hope of the resurrection in your heart. May the risen Christ fill you with peace and strength, and may the light of Easter morning guide you through any darkness you face. God's promise of new life is not just for Easter Sunday—it's for every day. May you walk in that hope and joy, today and always.

With love and blessings,

Rev Jenny

Plan Change

Castle Street! Despite what the plan says, on 13th April, we will be joining our friends for a Palm Sunday service at **Histon Methodist** at 11am. This was a mistake on the plan. Elsie Salmon is not coming to preach—come to Histon! Apologies for the error.

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Histon Regular Activities

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

Histon Diary for April 2025

Tue 1 Apr	Church Council	7:30pm
Wed 2 Apr	Besom Prayer Meeting	2:30pm
Sun 6 Apr	Preacher: Mrs J Wakelin	11am
Sat 12 Apr	Coffee Morning	10am–12noon
Sun 13 Apr	Palm Sunday (Section Service) led by Rev J Pathmarajah	11am
Thu 17 Apr	Maundy Thursday Service led by Rev J Pathmarajah	7:30pm
Fri 18 Apr	Good Friday morning activities at St Andrews and Histon Methodist (see notice)	
Sun 20 Apr	All-Age Easter Communion Service led by Rev J Pathmarajah	11am
Thu 24 Apr	New Testament in a Year Study Meeting	7:30pm
Sun 27 Apr	Section Service at Castle Street	10am

Histon's Fancy Toilets—No Switches Required!

We know you love our lovely new toilets as much as we do. We've had a bit of a learning curve as a church with learning to flush, but everything is now working smoothly—and the best part is that it's all automated.

The lights, the taps, the hand dryers—they're all controlled by clever sensors, which means there's absolutely no need to touch any switches or buttons. When you walk in, the lights will come on automatically, the taps will run when you put your hands under them, and the hand dryer will spring into action when you need it.

Because the system is designed to look after itself, we kindly ask that you **don't** switch anything off! The automation works best when left to its own devices—turning off switches could confuse the system and leave the next person in the dark (literally!).

So, please sit back and enjoy the convenience of modern technology—no switches required! And if anything does seem a bit off, just let us know.

Happy visiting!

The Development Team

Histon Coffee Shop

We have been delighted to see customers returning to coffee shop now that the weather has started to improve and in February we raised £700.

We are very pleased to welcome new volunteer Zulfiye, who has come to live in Histon with her family and wants to get involved with village life.

The stewards have agreed with the suggestion that every quarter we raise money for a charity that the church is currently supporting. Therefore on the 30th April, all money donated will be sent to Mercy Ships.

Thanks

Anne and John Wyborn

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 April 2025

Sun 6 Apr	Preacher: Rev S Burgess	10am
Sun 13 Apr	Palm Sunday (Section Service) at Histon (see notice)	11am
Sun 13 Apr	Palm Sunday Evening Service—preacher: B Sheridan	6:30pm
Thu 17 Apr	Maundy Thursday Service at Histon Methodist	7:30pm
Fri 18 Apr	Good Friday Service led by Rev J Pathmarajah	10:30am
Sun 20 Apr	Easter Sunrise Service on Castle Mound	8am
Sun 20 Apr	Easter Breakfast at Castle Street	8:30am
Sun 20 Apr	Easter Communion Service led by Rev J Pathmarajah	10am
Sun 27 Apr	Section and Church@Castle Joint Service with Holy Communion led by Rev J Pathmarajah	10am
Sun 27 Apr	Church Lunch Club (see notice)	After service
Wed 30 Apr	Table Talk	7–9pm

Table Talk Update

The Table Talk team have had a fantastic Lent season! We've explored a wide range of important and thought-provoking topics, including the challenge of homelessness and how we, as a faith community, can respond with compassion and action. We also made time to relax and recharge with a games night during fifth week blues—it was great to take a break from the busyness and just have some fun together. Plus, we were busy planning our student service, which went really well!

As we head into Easter term, we know that the pressure of exams and deadlines will be weighing on many of us. With that in mind, next term we'll be taking things at a gentler pace, creating a more laid-back space where students can simply come, rest, and be.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support for Table Talk. We're really looking forward to this next season together.

Table Talk

Lunch Club

Castle Street have really enjoyed all our lunch clubs, and we're happy to be having an extra special one!

After the Section Service at Castle Street on Sunday 27th April, why not keep the fellowship going and join us for lunch? We'll be heading over to the Castle Inn (just over the road) for a relaxed and friendly meal together.

It's a great chance to catch up with friends old and new, share some Easter joy, and enjoy some good food and conversation.

If you'd like to join us, please let Denise know so we can book enough spaces. We'd love to see you there!

Thank You!

I celebrated my special birthday by having a party for over 60 guests, which included friends, neighbours, coffee shop friends, Windmill Grange knit and natter group, and some church members. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Thanks very much to Rosemary and John Watson, Helen and Paul Allen, Mary Marston, Joy McCombie and Judy Wynn for all their hard work; preparing and clearing the tables and serving endless cups of tea and coffee.

Thank you very much to everyone who joined me, for cards, presents and/or donations to the Church Development Fund. £450 was raised, which was an excellent result.

Joy Folley

Thank you, Joy, for the generous donation to our Development Fund, which will go towards our next project.

Histon Methodist Stewards

Histon Family News

We were delighted that Vara Hedge was able to join the first part of our service on 2nd March, following her 100th Birthday the previous weekend. She thanks everyone for their cards and good wishes; we all enjoyed a piece of her birthday cake after the service.

Belated birthday greetings to Jenny Phillipps who celebrated her 80th birthday on Friday 14th March. She enjoyed a birthday lunch in the small private dining room at Bramley Court with family and friends. After lunch Matthew McCombie provided musical entertainment on the piano in the residents' lounge which was greatly enjoyed and much appreciated by all.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Vera Dudley who will be celebrating her 90th Birthday on 11th April; we hope she has a very happy day.

We are pleased that Kathryn Coles has now moved to Etheldred House for respite care. She has settled in well, is pleased to be nearer home, and is enjoying taking part in the various activities on offer; we hope she continues to make good further progress.

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Janice Edwards, who passed away on 19th March in Addenbrookes Hospital. We send our deep condolences to Katie, Wayne and Serenia and all their family.

Roger Pepper has been unwell recently and is awaiting results of tests and investigation. We continue to pray for Geoff Marston undergoing treatment, Mary Easy on her new drug trial, Wesley Graham and other members of our church family who are currently unwell.

Histon Churches Together Good Friday Activities

On Friday 18th April, there will be an ecumenical service at St Andrews Church, Histon at 10:30am, followed by hot cross buns served at the Methodist Church from 10am–12.30pm.

The Holiday Club team are organising a Good Friday family event titled **Easter Hope**, with two planned activities at St Andrews culminating in an outdoor (weather permitting) activity at the Methodist Church (plus of course hot cross buns!)

The first activity—**“Creation is Good”**—will be in hall 1, and will include a Lego garden, food craft, and felt work.

The second—**“Creation Spoiled”**—will involve a Christmas tree and looking towards the light. Seeds will be provided to take to the third activity—**“God’s Rescue Mission”**—where they will be planted, with addition of a cross and a stone, ending on a theme of Easter Hope.

Holiday Club 2025

Please note that Holiday Club this year will run between Tuesday 22nd and Friday 25th July.

Please put these dates in your diary as help will be needed with the activities involved and with refreshments for the volunteers. Do consider becoming part of this team which endeavours to share the love of God with our young people, as we have fun and hope to bring the Bible to life for them.

A reflective poem for Easter

*Today, tomorrow and the next day
to Jerusalem I'm bound.
No threats or fears or rumours,
can make me turn around.*

*I know what there awaits me
betrayal, death and pain;
my friends will all desert me
yet from a cross I'll reign.*

*From that day, its morrow and the next one,
the darkness turns to bright.
Death's power by God is broken
with Easter's radiant light.*

*Today, tomorrow and the next day,
you too will tread your road;
but I will walk beside you—
so let me bear your load.*

**By Don Dowling:
Featured in a recent Lenten Service at Histon.**

From Deacon Ian Murray

Many of you will already have been aware that I was due to be moving on from Cambridge in the summer of 2026, when I would have reached the end of 13 years of ministry here. An announcement was made at the Circuit Meeting in March to explain that this date has been brought forward by six months. My appointment here will come to an end in late January 2026 so that I can move to a new appointment in the following month. I am being stationed to the Milton Keynes

Circuit, and am to serve in the Watling Valley Ecumenical Partnership in the city.

This kind of 'mid-year' move is less common in the Methodist Church but it does happen from time to time in response to particular needs and circumstances. A month ago I was asked by the Warden of my religious order (the Methodist Diaconal Order), to explore a possible move with my family. This is in response to the number of appointments which remained unfilled after the usual, annual stationing processes for ministers. Those processes were seeking to appoint ministers to begin new work from September 2025. The churches that I will be serving in Milton Keynes will be waiting six months longer than they had hoped before their new Methodist minister takes up post.

There was already work under way in the Cambridge Circuit to begin assessing the way forward in respect of ordained ministry. The Circuit meeting has appointed its invitation committee to pursue this further and prepare profiles for ministerial posts that will end in 2026. This committee will be chaired by Revd Stephen Burgess and there will be updates and conversations along the way. Our new Superintendent minister, Revd Kevin Highfield, is expected to take up his appointment from September 2025 and he will be taking over pastoral charge of Chesterton and Wesley from Revd Rose Westwood after she retires this summer.

I look forward to continuing to share with you over the months ahead. Remember us in your prayers as we adjust to this earlier move together.

With love and prayers,

Ian

The deadline for the May 2025 newsletter is Friday 18th April

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

To the church family at Histon and Castle Street

Three days ago, I was given notice that I had been offered a studentship (funding) by the Cambridge Trust. I have therefore accepted my offer to study for an MPhil in Early Modern History at Christ's College and expect to return to Cambridge in October.

It has been an exciting and challenging year for me. I have learnt a lot from the congregation at Christchurch in Ilkley, and I look forward to sharing my experiences with you all, as well as hearing about everything that has happened at Histon and Castle Street since my departure last summer. Comparing Ilkley and Cambridge is rather like comparing apples and oranges, and I am convinced that the year ahead will present new challenges and opportunities, but it'll be good to be back.

With prayers,

Reuben Baldwin

A Month at Rothera: Life on the Edge of Antarctica

It's been a month since I arrived at Rothera Research Station, and while a month may not seem like a long time, it feels like a lifetime in this remote corner of the world. Life here moves at a different pace, shaped by the isolation and the tight-knit nature of the community. Small inconveniences can feel monumental, while events that would dominate headlines elsewhere seem distant and inconsequential.

Each morning, at first smoko (or as I like to call it, bacon sandwich time), we receive a daily news bulletin—a relic from the pre-Starlink days—offering bite-sized summaries of the world's most pressing issues. These global affairs, distilled into neat paragraphs, feel strangely removed from our reality, yet a moved recreation trip or an exploding toilet can spark gossip that lasts for days. As

worldly and well-traveled as many of us are, we all become village gossips as the nights grow longer and we're drawn closer together, sheltering from the howling winds outside.



Yet, despite the seclusion, we are not as cut off as one might think. Even though we are further south than most commercial ships dare travel, visitors still pass through. Just a few days ago, the Canadian naval icebreaker Margaret Brooke arrived, and I had the chance to tour the ship. Before that, a team from the Antarctic Heritage Trust sailed in aboard the tiny Ocean Tramp, sharing a fascinating talk on the historical sites they work to preserve. And until recently, we were in the middle of the flying season, when Rothera acts as a major air gateway to the eastern side of Antarctica, hosting visitors from America, Germany, Russia, Korea, Japan, and, for some reason, a particularly high number of Canadians.

But now, the season is turning. The nights stretch longer, the winds grow stronger, and the snow is beginning to stick. In just a few days, Rothera has transformed from a craggy rock outcrop into a landscape truly fitting of Antarctica. Winds now hover around 20–40 knots, and temperatures, though still relatively warm at -5°C , are steadily dropping. This makes everyday tasks harder and slows down certain jobs, but there's one thing that has everyone quietly excited—skiing season is back.

For months, our usual recreation area—a stretch of inland terrain on Adelaide Island known as "Vals"—has been out of bounds due to worsening crevassing. But with a fresh layer of snow, these paths will reopen, and for the first time in months, we'll be able to ski in Antarctica once again. It's an experience I can't wait to take advantage of.

That said, life here isn't all about recreation. With just seven weeks left, the sheer amount of work still to be done feels monumental. There are towers to climb, catenary wires to tie (once enough snow falls to safely place a ladder), and cabling to reorganize. I'll be working on fixing antennas on East Beach, likely with someone standing nearby wielding a long stick to fend off swooping skuas and nosy seals. My main focus remains researching communications issues with the MF radar, which plays a vital role in meteorological research. Then there's the ongoing task of inventorying and relocating engineering gear as part of our station-wide move into the

Discovery Building. And, if all goes well, I'll finish installing a new tower control system for our runway.

In just one month, I've climbed glaciers, weaved through sleeping seals, sailed among icebergs, toured naval ships, and celebrated St. Patrick's Day in Antarctica. I've stood on towers overlooking an endless expanse of ice, played in the world's most southerly game of Gaelic football, lost the world's most southerly game of Quidditch, and watched Cliffhanger in the top loft of Fuchs House, surrounded by decades-old field records and climbing gear, during an event called Secret Cinema.

Down South, we have a routine called "scheds"—regular check-ins for those working out in the field. So, consider this my sched with you all. I'll report back next time, but until then, I hope you all have a wonderful Lent season.

Jacob Wyborn

Science *meets* Faith

Valerie Voon MD PhD

Professor of Neuropsychiatry and Neuromodulation,
University of Cambridge

Behavioural Addiction: gambling and sex



XXX

Wesley Methodist Church, Christ's Pieces, Cambridge CB1 1LG

Tuesday 8 April 2025, 7.30pm

Refreshments from 7.00pm

Free admission - retiring collection to cover expenses and remainder to Mind

Church adventures at Sizewell Hall

One weekend in March, forty people from Histon, Castle Street and Chesterton met up at Sizewell Hall in Suffolk for our first church weekend away together. When we arrived on Friday, we got settled into our rooms and then gathered for a warming meal of jacket potatoes. Then we did some activities: Bible study with Rev Sam, a discussion on prayer with Rev Mark W or crafts in the lounge with Judith. Before bed, we had an evening prayer.

Sizewell Hall looks like a grand mansion with big gardens located right next to the sea. On Saturday morning, some of our group saw three adders bathing in the sun and three seals swimming in the sea. There was lots of choice for breakfast including bacon rolls, cereal, pastries, and fruit. We then had more activities: I chose to do the Bible study and discussed how the church is like a body (the theme of the whole weekend was the Body of Christ). We talked about things that we liked and disliked about the church and then studied a Bible passage from Ephesians and answered questions. Before the coffee break with delicious cakes, the children played rounders with Rev Jenny in the garden.

For my next activity, I went to the library and listened to a discussion led by Rev Mark W about different ways into prayer and how to deal with distractions. We had a buffet lunch with sandwiches, sausage rolls, salad, crisps, and yoghurts. In the afternoon, we had free time—my family walked to Aldeburgh with another family and climbed trees, ate ice cream and explored The Scallop sculpture on Aldeburgh beach.

After dinner of lasagne or macaroni cheese, we took part and watched the talent show—I was in a sketch with Rev Jenny, Naomi and some other children. Other acts included singing, comedy and magic! Some of us then went down to the beach

with Gordon to look at the stars: we saw the Big Dipper, Castor and Pollux, Mars and a shooting star!

On Sunday we started with morning prayer and then had another activity before worship. I made soda bread with Rev Mark R which we used for communion. The service also included a special hymn written by Don. After lunch, some children played a big game of hide-and-seek which was really fun in a big house!

A big thank you to Rev Jenny, Denise and Gordon for organising the weekend, to Lucy and Alan for the delicious food and to Rev Sam, Rev Mark R, Rev Mark W and Judith for leading the activities. It was a really enjoyable time together and I would definitely recommend going next year.

Rosa Williams

Methodist Myths - Part 1

Over the next few months, we're going to share—and debunk!—a few myths about the Methodist Church and John Wesley. Hopefully these will be entertaining and edifying in equal measure!

Kicking off with some oft-quoted “words of John Wesley”:

*“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”*

While he said or wrote elements of this separately, and it might be thought a fair summary of his social message, he did not say (or write) this together. Moreover, there is no mention of God, which for Wesley would be essential!