



**Histon
Methodist
Church**

NEWSLETTER

October 2025



Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

Autumn is upon us: the leaves are turning, the evenings drawing in, and the air is full of that mix of freshness and fruitfulness that comes with the season. It's a time when creation reminds us that change and letting go are part of life's rhythm, and also a time when we give thanks for the harvest and God's constant faithfulness.

There's much happening in our churches this month that reflects those themes of change, growth, and gratitude. Our young people from both Histon and Castle Street are heading off to 3Generate, the Methodist Children's and Youth Assembly. This is such an exciting opportunity for them to explore their faith, meet other young people from across the Connexion, and bring back fresh ideas and energy to share with us all. I can't wait to hear their stories.

We've also had some sadness as we share in prayer with our new Superintendent, Rev Kevin, whose father passed away last month. Kevin understandably returned to America to be with family and say goodbye, which meant his welcome service had to be postponed. That service will now take place on Sunday 12th October at Wesley Methodist Church—and I encourage you all to come along and join in welcoming Kevin properly into his new role when he returns.

At the end of October, ministers across East Anglia will gather for a much-needed time of rest and spiritual refreshment. Please keep us in your

prayers as we pause to seek God's renewal before stepping back into the busyness of the year.

Locally, we have much to look forward to as well. At Histon, we'll be welcoming visiting preachers: Roy Swanston from Hertfordshire and Rev Hilary Cheng, who will lead our Church Anniversary celebrations. And at Castle Street, our eyes are already on next month, when we will celebrate our own Church Anniversary with special guest preacher Rev Karen Hilsden.

As autumn reminds us, every season carries both joy and challenge, both letting go and new beginnings. Through it all, God walks with us, faithful and true. May this season be one of deep gratitude and renewed hope for us all.

*With every blessing,
Rev Jenny*

Welcome Back Students!

A very warm welcome back to all our students—both those returning to Cambridge and those arriving here for the very first time! We're delighted to have you as part of our church family.

Table Talk—our student and young adult group—starts up again on Tuesday 8th October. This term we'll be exploring the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—and thinking about what they mean for our lives today.

As always, there will be food, friendship, laughter, and plenty of space for open and honest conversation. All students and young adults are very welcome: just come as you are.

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	2–4pm
Wednesday	Community Coffee Shop	9:30am–12pm
Wednesday	Besom Prayer Meeting (1st Wednesday of the month)	2:30pm

Histon Diary for October 2025

Wed 1 Oct	Besom Prayer Meeting	2:30pm
Sun 5 Oct	Preacher: Mr R Swanston	11am
Wed 8 Oct	Games Afternoon (see notice)	2:30–4:30pm
Sat 11 Oct	Coffee Morning	10am–12noon
Sun 12 Oct	Preacher: Mrs T Maddin	11am
Sun 12 Oct	Welcome Service for Rev K Highfield (Wesley; see notice)	4pm
Fri 17 Oct	Country Dancing (see notice)	8–10pm
Sun 19 Oct	Preacher: Rev K Highfield (Holy Communion)	11am
Thu 23 Oct	New Testament in a Year Study Meeting	7:30pm
Sun 26 Oct	Church Anniversary led by Rev Hilary Cheng Followed by lunch (see notice)	11am
Fri 31 Oct	Light Party Event	5–7pm

Future Dates for your Diary

Tue 4 Nov	Church Council Meeting	7:30pm
Sat 6 Dec	Christmas Market	9:30am–12:30pm

Holiday Club 2025: We Need You!

Histon Churches Together are beginning to explore what kind of summer activity we might run for children and young people next year. It could look like our traditional holiday club, or it might take a new shape – but for anything to happen, we need a team of people willing to get involved.

Right now, we're looking for people who can offer their skills – whether that's craft, games, music, storytelling, admin, safeguarding, refreshments, first aid, or simply being a friendly face who enjoys working with children.

We'd also love to hear from families and young people about the kind of activities they'd enjoy taking part in.

If you'd be interested in helping, or if you have ideas to share, please speak to Rev Jenny or one of the stewards by 7th October.

Our next planning meeting will be on Wednesday 8th October at 3pm at the Saint Andrew's Centre, where we'll gather up offers of help and ideas to see how we can move forward together.

Charity Giving at Histon

We have just sent a cheque for £476.86 to Mercy Ships—our charity for 2024/2025—which gives a total throughout the year of £962.82. Thank you very much for your support for this worthwhile charity.

Our new charity for 2025/2026 is Concrete Rose and you will be receiving more information as the year progresses.

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 October 2025

Wed 1 Oct	Don's Hymn-A-Thon	From 8:30am
Sun 5 Oct	Preacher: Mr J Boocock	10am
Sun 12 Oct	Preacher: Rev C Meharry	10am
Sun 12 Oct	Welcome Service for Rev K Highfield (Wesley; see notice)	4pm
Sun 12 Oct	Church @ Castle: Miss Margaret Cooper	6:30pm
Sun 19 Oct	All-Age Worship and Communion led by Rev Jenny Followed by Lunch Club (see notice)	10am
Fri 24 Oct	By Train into the Sahara–Talk by Brian Carter	7:30pm
Sun 26 Oct	Preacher: Rev C Tozivepi-Nzegwu	

Future Dates for your Diary

Sat 8 Nov	Love, Blues and Rock'n'Roll	7:30pm
------------------	-----------------------------	--------

Histon Games Afternoon

Do come along to our next Games Afternoon on Wednesday 8th October, 2:30–4:30 pm when you will be able to play various games, old and new.

Light refreshments provided; cost £2 towards Church funds.

Kathryn

Histon Country Dance Club

Friday 17th October is our next evening of dancing. Come along and make new friends whilst enjoying some fun dancing!

We have our excellent musicians to accompany us and all the dances will be called.

Light refreshments provided; cost £4 towards Church funds. See you there.

Kathryn

Histon Church Anniversary Lunch

We very much look forward to our 129th Church Anniversary on 26th October, when Revd Hilary Cheng will lead our worship.

As advised in our previous newsletter we will be having a buffet lunch in our hall following the service, to allow us all an opportunity to catch up with Hilary and Leo.

Jackie Waller will be providing a cold buffet of sandwiches, sausage rolls, cheese scones and cakes.

If you would like to join us for lunch please add your name to the sheet in the church, along with any dietary requirements. We will not be taking money in advance but will be requesting a donation of £10 a head per adult on the day to cover the cost of the buffet.

The deadline for the November 2025 newsletter is Friday 17th October

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

Histon Family News

Congratulations to Judy and Ray Wynn who are now proud great grandparents! A baby boy weighing 7lbs was born on 18th September to Jess and Arnie Richardson: mother and baby are doing well. At the time of writing we are waiting to hear what the newest member of the family will be called and look forward to meeting him in due course. A whole new chapter begins in the Wynn family!

Pauline and Bryan Bradley would like to thank everyone for the cards and best wishes they received on their recent 65th Wedding Anniversary. Unfortunately, they had to cancel their planned holiday as Pauline was unwell and spent nearly two weeks in hospital. We are pleased she was home before their anniversary, where they spent the day together quietly. We all enjoyed a piece of Anniversary Cake with our after-church coffee.

Our best wishes to Liz Davies following her recent knee surgery, we wish her a successful recovery.

We were sorry to hear that Mary Foister's planned knee surgery was postponed. We hope she will have had her operation by the time you read this, and making a good recovery.

Our love and best wishes to Margaret Wilson, affectionately known to us all as Nip, following several falls she is now being cared for at Bramley Court.

We also remember Joan Knott who has been unwell and is currently staying with her son and daughter in law.

We know there are other members of our church family who are undergoing treatment and tests and finding life a struggle, we hold them all in our prayers.

Vara Hedge Eulogy

Julia and I are fortunate that Mum has written an insight into her life.

Jonathan

My Life—Vara Eileen Hedge (nee Blunt)

On the 22nd February 1925, I was born at 74 Rooks Street—now number 174—Cottenham, in the house on the corner.

My Mum was Vara Dorothy and my Dad, George was a carpenter and joiner. Vara Dorothy was previously a milliner. My brother was Vivian and my two sisters—Una and Valerie—were also born in this house. We had loving and kind parents, and we enjoyed playing make pretend games in the big farm yard. My Dad helped to build the house we moved to in 1935, along Rampton road, number 28— now number 52—where we all grew up.

The old Margett Street school was the first school I went to, until 13 years old. I passed the exam to go to the Cambridgeshire Technical School for 2 years, studying on the dress making course.

It was war time then, when we had to take our gas masks everywhere with us!

On leaving the Tech I started work at Hutton's shop, Cambridge, as an alteration assistant: helping with alterations on the coats, costumes, and fur coats sold in the shop in Petty Cury, next door to J. Lyons teashop

My war work was at a war time factory in Leys Road, off Arbury Road, as a clerk, recording the hours and jobs workers did. But work on the bench looked much more interesting, so it wasn't long before I changed jobs, and then did soldering which I loved. We were unaware what our work was for: once I was told the job I was working on was for tanks. One saying in war time was: "remember walls have ears!"

Every day I cycled to Labgear, in Cambridge, working from 8am. to 5.30pm and on Wednesday

continues on page 5

continued from page 4

nights 2 hours overtime. In wartime, during the blackout, cycling home wasn't always good, especially when you could hear the enemy planes overhead. One night cycling in the dark along Arbury Road I nearly rode into a courting couple!

A small slit of light was allowed on your cycle lamp, otherwise enemy planes would see your light from above. Some dark evenings, the search light (which was at Ten Acre drove in Cottenham) would be sweeping the sky for enemy aircraft and so lit the road home from Histon. Soldiers lived at Ten Acre Drove in wood huts. After the War young couples, looking for somewhere to live in Cottenham rented and lived in these huts, as the soldiers had moved out.

One night coming home from Labgear I remember seeing and hearing wave after wave of German planes in the sky. The next morning we heard that these planes had been on their way to boldly bomb Coventry.

When the War ended I worked at Robert Sayle in Cambridge, at one of the shops belonging to John Lewis, as a sales assistant in the Baby Linen and children's wear department, where I had many friends

I met Sam who lived in Toesland, near St. Neots through knowing Olive and Cecil, his brother, who lived in Cottenham. On the 9th of June 1951 we married at the Methodist Church Cottenham. We had a lovely Wedding in June 1951, we always knew we were meant for each other.

This Church meant a lot to me: Sam sang tenor in the Choir and I was one of the sopranos. I was christened, went to the Sunday School and married there. Over the years I was a Sunday School Teacher, Steward, Boys Brigade Officer, Flower Arranger, Cradle Roll Secretary and various other jobs within the Church.

After being married for about 5 months Sam became ill and was in hospital for a time, where he was diagnosed with Bacterial Endocarditis which damaged the aorta valve of his heart. This marred our happiness. He died on the 2nd of September 1963.

However we had a lovely baby girl, Julia, in 1955, and a lovely baby boy, Jonathan in 1960. We were so proud of them. They both attended Margett Street School, where I eventually started working in 1965 as a lunch time helper and then as a teaching assistant at the new Lambs Lane School in Cottenham. This job I loved—working in various classrooms assisting the teachers and helping the children—so much so that I stayed working there for 29 years, receiving The Chairmans Long Service Award in October 1994, at The Shire Hall Cambridge, just 4 months from my 70th Birthday.

Hard work and happy days raising my family, while helping with the Boys Brigade. Pursuing a love of gardening, flower arranging for my family and friend's weddings, and flower festivals. Then latterly assisting with the Day Centre lunches for the elderly.

My Family grew up and Julia trained and worked as a nurse at Old Addenbrookes Hospital, also at the Evelyn Hospital and many years at the Nuffield. Jonathan worked at Rattee and Kett, and Hibbitt and Sons stone works, studying on a course in London to become a Carver Mason, working on many well known buildings across the country.

Julia married Martin. Jonathan married Stephanie. All together I have 5 grandchildren; Duncan, Joseph, Philippa, Jacob and George, 4 great-grandchildren, Mathew, Jasmin, Ethan and Phoebe.

I love all my family.

Welcome Service for Superintendent Minister Rev Kevin Highfield

We are all invited to attend the Circuit Welcome Service for our new Superintendent Minister Rev Kevin Highfield. This will be held at Wesley Church Cambridge on Sunday 12th October at 4pm, and will be followed by tea.

Castle Street Lunch Club

Lunch club this month will be after the service, Sunday 19th October. We will be going to the Castle Inn as normal, and hopefully their delicious roasts will be back on the menu.

Please let me know by 12th October, if you'd like to go so I can book a table.

November's lunch club will be after the section service at Castle Street, Sunday 16th November, and our friends from Histon are very welcome to join us all for lunch.

I look forward to lunching with you all,

Denise

Platinum Wedding Anniversary

70 years ago, on the 29th October, there was a most joyous occasion at Castle Street when Miss Beverley Yvonne Newman married Mr John Robert Baker—followed by a wedding breakfast in the school hall.

John and Bev have served Castle Street faithfully their whole lives and are both much-loved members. Their gentle love, care & support is always appreciated.

We hope they have a lovely day celebrating with their family and friends on this momentous occasion!

Histon Coffee Shop

Coffee Shop takings for August were £750—a little lower than usual, because of the school holidays. Thanks as usual to all customers and volunteers.

By train into the Sahara Friday 24th October at 7.30pm at Castle Street

Join well-known local amateur railway photographer and Past President of the Cambridge University Railway Club (and Castle Street steward and organist) Brian Carter as he travels the length and breadth of Morocco by rail on an eleven-day visit in October 2023. This trip included a special train from Oujda southwards into the Sahara Desert, to the town of Bouárfa, over the last-remaining section of a planned railway across the Sahara to Timbuktu, only part of which was built.

Entry is free, refreshments will be served afterwards, and there will be the usual baskets for donations in aid of the hall floor renewal fund.

Bible Society Supper and Talk: The Friendship between Science and Faith

Dr Denis Alexander is the co-Founding Director of The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge, where he is Emeritus Fellow of St. Edmund's College. He is a past chair of the Molecular Immunology Programme and Head of the Laboratory of Lymphocyte Signalling and Development at The Babraham Institute, Cambridge. He previously spent 15 years in the Middle East.

Details: Friday 17 October 6:30pm for supper; talk at 7:45pm. Queen Edith Chapel, Wulfstan Way, Cambridge CB1 8QN

Supper £10 (cash on the door), Soup, bread, cheese and an autumnal dessert

Please email penny.flynn@gmail.com to reserve a supper place or for the live-stream link.

Histon Communion Linen

For many years, Margaret Wilson (know to many as Nip) has been laundering the communion linen, but is sadly unable to continue to do so. We thank Nip for all her years of dedicated service.

We are looking for a volunteer who wouldn't mind washing and ironing the cloths, usually monthly, and if necessary starching them as well.

This is an important part of the worship in the church, and in recent weeks Jenny and other leaders of worship have been reminding us of the importance of service.

Please contact John Wyborn if you are willing and able to take on this task.

Little Willie Whatsisname of St Withit's

by Ernest Statham

Saint Withit's Harvest Festival attracted quite a crowd,

The ladies of the 'Fellowship' had reason to be proud.

They'd decorated all the church with flowers, fruit and veg.,

Assisted by their vicar, he's a 'modern', "Call me Reg".

Now at the morning service with his sister, dad and mum

Was little Willie Whatsisname, who wished he hadn't come.

Squashed in-between his mother and the tall end of a pew,

Against the wall, right at the back, he had a rotten view.

But on the wall beside the pew, a bunch of grapes was hung

That really looked inviting to a lad who was so young,

And as the service started and they all stood up to sing,

Then little Willie Whatsisname did such a silly thing.

He tried to touch the lowest grape, that's all that he had planned,

And he was quite astonished when it came off in his hand,

But little Willie Whatsisname was such a lucky lad,

His mother did not notice, she was talking to his dad.

When little Willie Whatsisname found out what he had done

And found he could not stick it back and could not turn and run,

He simply popped it in his mouth - what else was he to do?

Then when he thought the coast was clear he popped in number two.

Now when the service ended and they all went home to lunch,

Well little Willie Whatsisname had finished off the bunch;

But though he'd done it on the sly he owned up like a man

Then later on that afternoon they went to see his gran.

He told her that he'd been to church and heard the choir sing,

He told her all about the grapes, he told her everything;

"I know you've told me lots and lots," the words fell from her lips,

"But what you have not told me dear is where you put the pips".

Then little Willie Whatsisname looked grannie in the eye,

And just before he answered her he gave a great big sigh.

"I didn't use my pocket, gran, or drop them on the ground,

'Cos just as I had finished the collection plate came round".

Submitted by Margaret Owen