

Circuit Newsletter 1st Quarter 2024

South Holland Methodist Circuit



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The Advent Story.

Well, for me, this Advent was the best ever!!

Having missed the last Advent and Christmas, I was determined to make the most of it this year... and I wasn't disappointed. There was so much going on within the South Holland Circuit we were all spoilt for choice.

Our churches, big and small, all looked so beautiful; decorated with symbolic Christmas trees, Nativities on display, candles and lights to celebrate the wonderful event of the coming of the Christ Child.

Everywhere was full of activity with events that would suit all preferences. We had craft fayres, concerts with the Salvation Army and Community Choirs. Pop- Up Nativities - not forgetting the Chimes band at Holbeach (didn't we have fun!) Carol singing abounded, and visits from Schools and Air Cadets. Then, to take us into the Christmas Story, we had an Angel, Shepherd and Camey the Camel! (Alias Rev Luke in case you hadn't guessed!!) These wonderful events delighted people of all ages and welcomed people into our churches at this special time of year.

Celebrate in style we did!

Then for me, we had the highlight of our Covenant service. The words alone are wonderful. Rev Luke however, (with the aid of Lego) helped us to understand that we are all part of the whole; we don't stand alone. Everyone's gifts to serve are welcomed whatever they may be. Also, each church was of great importance, bringing all we had to offer to each other, and, more importantly, to the building up of God's church. Without doubt, the South Holland Circuit is an exciting place to be. It is welcoming, joyous, innovative and visionary. We are not, as people or churches, all the same- of course not. But each will prayerfully bring their own ways of telling the Gospel Story.

On behalf of the CLT I would like to thank you all for your hard work. For making Advent and Christmas such a special time. Of course, our sincere thanks are given to Rev Luke, who has worked tirelessly, we are so grateful. Rev Vivienne and Rev David...not forgetting Darren. You all serve us so well.

We have much to be thankful for within the circuit. So, let us do, in our own way, what we are all called to do this coming year. To discern the way forward and to serve God the very best we can. For we have a story to tell; Good News for All!

Libby Craggs.

REV LUKES NEWS

In November 2022 I was invited to preach at the Remembrance Sunday service at All Saints Church, Holbeach. As a result, I was asked if I would consider becoming the chaplain to 2430 (Holbeach) ATC. There then followed a process of interviews, references, form filling and training before I was appointed almost a year later. I started to visit the squadron and in November 2023 I attended a training course at Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre in Oxfordshire. As the chaplain (or Padre) I visit the squadron at least monthly and lead “padres’ hour” this is a time of conversation with the cadets on a moral or spiritual topic. When I visited in September, we had a conversation about Battle of Britain Sunday and in November it was Remembrance. As well as “padres’ hour” I see the role as offering pastoral support to cadets and staff. It also involved being involved with the enrolment of new cadets.

It was a delight to enrol 25 cadets at the squadron Carol Service at Holbeach Methodist Church in December.

For me it is wonderful being given the opportunity to share my faith with teenagers, to be honest it’s the only opportunity I get. When I was on the training course the Naval and Military Bible Society gave away sample cadet prayer books and new testaments with psalms. It was made clear that we were not able to hand literature out to cadets but make it available. I went along with 12 prayer books expecting to come home with all 12, but no, we ran out and the cadets were asking for more! Oh, my lack of faith! Not only do I get the opportunity to share with teenagers, but they seem to want to know more. I have ordered more copies of the prayer books and New Testaments with Psalms.

Please do remember 2430 (Holbeach) ATC in your prayers.



A wide context

I have been reflecting on the past few months of my ministry in the circuit (not including the advent/Christmas period).

In October I attended a residential rural ministry course, run by the Arthur Rank Centre. The course was a series of lectures on various rural topics. These included the agricultural year and some of the issues farmers face. Alongside how the church can support rural communities and engage in mission in a rural context. We also took a trip out to try “forest church” delighting in Gods creation outdoors. My experience of the course gave me ideas for the Plough Sunday services I led in January this year.

Then in November for the second year running South Holland District Council invited me to be the independent verifier for the annual rough sleeper count. As you might guess this involves counting rough sleepers in the early hours of a morning and as verifier attending a meeting to confirm the process was properly followed. The count I took part in was in Spalding (with other counts in Spalding, Holbeach, Crowland and Whaplode).

A rural course and counting rough sleepers were certainly varied in such a short period of time but all part of the mix of Gods world we are part of in His Kingdom.

The photographs show participants on the rural ministry course (from the Methodist Church facebook page) and myself and two others involved in the rough sleeper count enjoying a coffee at Mc Donalds at 3am when our shift was completed.

Blessings,
Luke



BICKER NEWS

Thinking back to November, Bicker Chapel played a big part in the Remembrance Service around the Memorial in the Village. Rev. Luke Smith was invited to lead this worship time and we had a very good attendance as there was about 60 people from the village joining us and the Parish Church congregations. We had been asked to host refreshments after the service, so we prepared the Savoury food and the Parish Church supplied the cakes including a special iced fruit cake with poppies adorning the top and side as decorations. About 40 attended this part of the day.

We also had poppies hanging from each window that had been hand crafted by ladies in the village and then stitched onto netting material so they looked like they were cascading. Very effective. The poppies were knitted and crocheted and were in shades of Red and Purple (these representing the animals during the war time). We had these on display for over a month and people were amazed at the show as they walked by the chapel. The people attending coffee mornings had an even better view of them inside.



At the end of November, we celebrated our Church Anniversary with a service at 3.00pm followed by tea prepared by all of our congregation members. We had some visitors at this occasion, boosting our numbers to over 30 and it was lovely to see people from around the Circuit supporting this event. Elaine Robinson led the Service and it was good to share fellowship together.

On 11th December it was very exciting as we had our heating changed in the Chapel into very modern electric Infra-red ceiling suspended heaters. These were chosen because of getting "instant heat" instead of waiting 4-5 hours for our old heating to make a difference. These were supplied by a Local Company in Sutterton so we were very pleased to support them. The first Sunday after this work was done was Carol Service on 17th December, so a good testing time to see if they made a difference. They were very efficient and are not intrusive, so nobody stared at them. We have noticed a considerable change in temperature already so hope when the really cold weather comes in, we will benefit. The same week on Wed. 13th December we also had new windows installed into the School room and they are UPVC material and already making such a difference to the warmth of the building. All the workmen were incredible at tidying up after and we soon cleaned the building and got everything back in place so nobody would know this had all been happening.

On Christmas Eve we enjoyed our Communion Service at 3.00pm instead of midnight and we had 20 attending. All in all, a very joyous December.

We are now looking forward to joining our Village Parish Church for the Plough Service on 21st January at 3.00pm. They do not have a Vicar presently, and Rev. Luke is keen to build up a relationship, and we are trying to work alongside them to offer the Community various events at both of our Church buildings. May 2024 bring us all Peace and Goodwill to all men.



BICKER LADIES GROUP

Programme

APRIL 2023 – MARCH 2024

First Thursday of the month

1.30 PM DURING WINTER MONTHS

7.30 PM IN THE SUMMER MONTHS

Chapel Schoolroom.

Everyone in the village area is very welcome to come along to these meetings.

Interesting talks, discussions, crafts, friendly chats, and refreshments

Only £3.00 per meeting

Chairperson: Sandra Eagles 820548

Treasurer/ Secretary: - Helen Bowler

821277

6th April '23

1.30 pm

My life as a Film Extra

Speaker: Sophie Maplethorpe

4th May '23.

7.30 pm

"A tour around Boston"

Speaker: Jane Keighley

June 1st '23

MEET AT 1 PM

Outing to "We'll meet again Museum"

£12 per head,

Includes refreshments

6th July '23

7.30 pm

"Be scam aware"

Speaker: Kelly Teasdale

3rd August '23

Ramble and Observation!

With the "hounds"

Time to be arranged

Meet at the Chapel

7th September '23

1.30 pm

My trip to Oberammergau

Speaker: Our own Rita

5th October '23

1.30 pm

"The History of Heckington Manor"

Speaker: Mrs Pinchbeck

2nd. November '23

Lunch

Venue TBA

7th December '23

1.30 pm

Christmas craft afternoon

1st February '24

"Cybercrime"

1.30 pm

Speaker Justin Mekkaoui

7th March '24

1.30 pm

A G M

Bring & Buy

GOSBERTON NEWS

Christmas Tree Festival

For the first time at Gosberton we held a Christmas Tree Festival. When we met to plan this event, we all agreed that the aim was to open our doors and invite the local community in to decorate trees and for them to come and look at them.

We are pleased to say this is what happened, trees were decorated by the village schools, businesses, churches and groups. The first day we opened we had a steady stream of school children through our doors, to hear the chatter and laughter of the children in church was so uplifting.

On the Sunday afternoon Luke led a carol service and our church was packed to the rafters with people. They all witnessed the visit of an angel, a shepherd and finally they couldn't believe their eyes when a king rode in on a camel called Camy.

As I look back over our festival the thing that touched me was the conversations that I had with people while they decorated and cleared away their trees. People spoke about things that had happened in their lives and how their faith had helped them to carry on. They felt able to talk with each other about what was going on in their own lives giving each other support as they faced difficult times. We drank lots of tea and coffee ate plenty of cake and laughed a lot to. So I'm delighted that our Church was able to provide a loving warm space where people could come and find Gods presence. Long may that continue.



Gosberton Church Snack Lunches

We open our church on the second Tuesday of every month, inviting friends & neighbours to enjoy a light lunch of soup, toasted sandwiches & and tasty homemade desserts! The charge is minimal, with the aim of extending hospitality & fellowship in a Warm Space.

Our next lunch will be held on Tuesday 13th February, 11.30am - 1.30pm.

Why not come & join us!



Do come along to the next Emporium Gathering, 27th January 10am to 12:30 noon (and 24th Feb). All Welcome, tea, coffee and cake available plus a friendly warm welcome. View the Aladdins cave that is the Emporium and find yourself a bargain or treasure. Lots of Jigsaws and books also on sale.



Emporium Sales 10am – 12.30pm

We are planning to continue our popular Saturday Sales Emporium Dates – 24th February, 30th March, 27th April. Even if you don't think you need anything please come along and enjoy a drink and slice of cake.

Easter Services

28th March Maundy Thursday 7pm - Supper to mark the night of the Last Supper.

29th Good Friday 10.30am - Worship with Hot Cross buns and coffee.

31st Easter Sunday – 10.30am Service with Holy Communion

Flower Festival 2024 - Theme "Hands Together"

Thursday 2nd - Monday 6th May from 10am - 4pm.

Thursday 2nd May 9.30am Short Opening Service

Sunday 5th May - No Morning Service. Evening Songs of Praise at 4.30pm Led By Revd Angela Long & Revd Luke Smith.

Tuesday 7th May - 7pm Service of Thanksgiving.

Come along and join us



met

Methodist
Evangelicals
Together



NEW SEASON; NEW FOCUS

**JOIN US ON TOUR AT A VENUE NEAR YOU
AS WE PREPARE FOR, PURSUE AND PRAY FOR REVIVAL TOGETHER!**

**INSPIRATIONAL WORSHIP AND PREACHING
PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND PERSONAL RENEWAL**

SPEAKER



REV DR DAVID A. HULL

285 years ago, the greatest revival these nations have known began.
It birthed our Methodist movement.
It has shaped our national life to this day.
Both church and nation now stand in need of revival again.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER,
GO TO REVIVE.ME.UK**

VENUE:

Gosberton Methodist Church, Salem
Street, Gosberton, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

DATE :

Thursday 25th April at 7.30pm (no
need to register)

UNBOUNDED LOVE

A LENT COURSE ON ASPECTS OF THE EASTER STORY

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH 2024 &

WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH 2024

2PM

GOSBERTON METHODIST CHURCH

EVERYONE WELCOME

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT LIBBY 01205 460 430



GOSBERTON CLOUGH NEWS

Gosberton Clough Methodist Chapel

We enjoyed having the Clough and Risegate Primary school with us for their Christmas sing- along on 13th December. The chapel was full to capacity with around 200 with children, parents and family members enjoying the festive season. It is always wonderful to have the chapel full and especially with young people at such a happy time. We look forward to welcoming them back at Easter.



Clough chapel at Christmas



Our very own visiting king

Our Plough service was held on 7th January. This annual service celebrates the start of the agricultural year, being held on the Sunday following Epiphany. Traditionally work on the fields then began the day after Plough Sunday. It has to be said that farming has changed over time and this was highlighted during the service by an interview with a local farmer who gave an interesting and informative account of life on the farm today. Another sign of the times was the very wet weather and flooding which has impacted farming and which we also heard about. It also prevented our vintage tractor and plough from being present at the service but we were still able to celebrate farming and the work of farmers with the Blessing of the Plough.



As 2023 drew to a close we called a halt to our coffee mornings and car boot sales until the spring. Perhaps because of our remote location we find ourselves with reduced membership and attendance at events and services. This brings challenges for the future of the chapel at Clough. Without support this chapel is in danger of closure as has happened to so many other village chapels. It has been a beacon of the Christian faith here since it was opened in 1935; we are able to conduct weddings and funerals. More than that, the building and surrounding field offers space and opportunity for the use of our community and surrounding villages; we are able to hire out the building for events. Having developed the field with trees and picnic tables, we are now planning work to improve the area at the front of the chapel. There is potential for this chapel to be used as a retreat for the use of our own circuit and others. It has already hosted Methodist Women in Britain in the summer of 2023 when the new IT screen proved very useful. There is plenty of room for children to enjoy their own regular church experience if sufficient help and leadership from committed helpers and volunteers could be forthcoming. Vision and support from district and circuit will be needed if Clough is to survive and thrive.

As we look ahead to 2024 we are going to change the time of our Sunday service. Regular Sunday services at Clough chapel have been 10.30 am to date. When the new Plan commences in March it will be at 9 am with bacon rolls and tea/ coffee once a month for early risers commencing on 3rd March at 8.30 am. All welcome.

Upcoming events will include:

- 23rd March, 7pm Talent evening, 'Clough's Got Talent'
- 7th April, 2.30 Teddy Bear Service

Please support our talent evening 'Clough's Got Talent'. This is a fun event and an opportunity for everyone to sing, play, read, dance, juggle or perform any other skill. We need willing volunteers/volunteers to come along and entertain, not to mention embarrass family and friends who come along to support you and add to the atmosphere. An opportunity not to be missed!!!

HOLBEACH NEWS AND DATES

Christmas at Holbeach

Here at Holbeach we kicked off the Christmas season quite early with a lovely concert on November 17th by the Holbeach Town Band. They had been before, and we had enjoyed their performance, so we expected a pleasant evening and we were not disappointed. Mel and his musicians treated us to a variety of pieces, some well-known, some new to us, and also gave us a chance to join in with a few carols. All in all a very enjoyable time was had by all.



Our next event was our Christmas fayre. The church hall looked lovely with varied stalls held by members of the church and wider community. It was a bitterly cold day and not many people found their way to the chapel but those who did kept our refreshments team busy supplying them with hot drinks and bacon butties.



Our newly formed chimes band performed in front of a select few on Monday 18th December. We, the players, enjoyed the occasions and members of our audience were kind enough to say that they did too.



On all three occasions it was lovely to welcome some of our friends from other chapels in the circuit. I hope you enjoyed your visits to us as I, for one, enjoyed mine to some of the event put on by other chapels over the Christmas season.



Above is a photo from our Christmas social event, a good time was had by all, and a very interesting Beetle Drive, which was Sheila's first experience and she had to have a lie down afterwards!

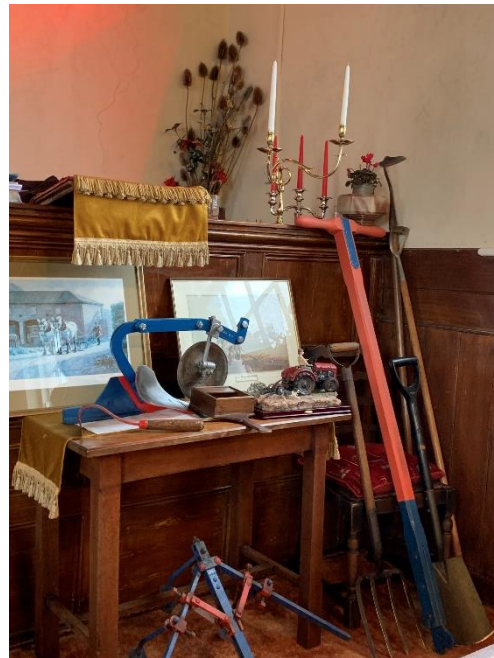
HOLBEACH DROVE

On Sunday 14th January Holbeach Drove Chapel had their Plough Service at 10.30am.

Rex had done a magnificent job decorating the chapel. Every window sill had foliage from the garden and small hand tools on them and the front of the chapel had farming pictures, model tractors and many different farming implements and ploughs. Several of us went outside and Darren blessed the plough. We sang harvest hymns with the emphasis on the local area producing our food throughout the year. Darren did an uplifting service.

Thanks must go to Rex and anyone else who helped him for the hard work and love shown to the chapel in the preparation for this service.

It was tinged with sadness at the end as it would be the last Plough Service at the chapel.



MOULTON CHAPEL NEWS

A Review of 2023 from Moulton Chapel

It takes many hands to make light work. Many hands we have not got with being a small and older community here at Moulton Chapel. However, the volunteers who stand and work alongside our church and are there when requested or needed help maintain our status quo and for this on behalf of the stewards, we are extremely grateful. This is a brief review of our year and we hope to contribute a bit more regularly in the future, so there is our new year's resolution.

A Passover meal alongside worshippers from the local Anglican church was well received by all. David Curran was the minister most people present participating with readings.

A Coronation tea involving a buffet tea and games was organised to offer a celebration opportunity to the community.

Tulip Parade activities/weekend was once again organised planned and managed very successfully by church members and volunteers, from the idea's stage to the glorious displays. Cooking managed in abundance for the very successful cake stall and the usual refreshments served from the kitchen.

A "Singing around the Piano" evening and supper was organised in September this unfortunately coincided with another circuit main event. However it was a trial to take an idea within one person's head into reality, to test interest. People arrived on the night and one gentleman commented after the fact 'what was achieved that night was rare' naturally I asked what that was, he said 'atmosphere!' Praise indeed for all those involved with the organisation of it.

The Church has also had some structural issues for a number of week's now, initially some plaster dropped from the ceiling, after one of the many storms we have recently all experienced. Services and Christmas was managed despite this and normal services pretty much prevailed with slight, necessary adaption (no meal at the plough service). Now after a bit of a disruptive time a new ceiling and a great deal of dust and a massive clean- up that is still on-going, things are looking better.

To enable this to happen has involved work/time from certain individuals including voluntary time by an expert and again support from various people during this time. Thanks wholeheartedly to you all.

Monthly meals have been provided throughout the year and remain consistently attended and well received by all. Tuesday Cuppa has now been running for a year or so and carries on being attended by a small consistent group. It provides a warm space once a week and a couple of hours of generally good company either chatting amongst ourselves or a discussion, depending on what's going on in the world whilst being served a variety of refreshments every week.

Wednesday Craft Club provides a social time whilst people create what they are currently working on which runs every second week pretty much throughout the year.

Coffee mornings on a Saturday running at Harvest time and Christmas still retain their popularity.

On the whole this last year has been a bit turbulent but we are all still here and we count our blessings for this when so many areas of the world suffer. Managing a church for us all is no doubt never easy but to all within the Circuit and to all those within our Church volunteers and stewards we wish you a peaceful and healthy New Year.



SPALDING BROAD STREET NEWS

Broad Street at Christmas Time 2023

Nativity Service with all invited to complete the scene.



Festive Fred follows the story of Jesus' birth with mum and a shepherd helping him along the way to Bethlehem.



The Christmas Tree decorated by the children with stars as the focus this year. Donations in the Church were for Christian Aid.

Christingle service where all were invited to make Christingles to remember the Light of the World.



Christmas trees decorated by Church members and Gateway Club to welcome people to the Christmas Fayre which was a great success again. Quality stalls and tasty refreshments were enjoyed by all. The popular poinsettias were all sold, enabling a friendly competition to see whose will last until New Year.



SUTTERTON NEWS

We have had a busy Advent season.

The Carol Service was held on 2nd December. The weather outside was freezing fog, but inside it was warm and welcoming. Revd. Luke took the service, and we also had a visit from the Angel Gabriel, a Shepherd and a Wise Man riding on a camel.

On the 15th we had the Salvation Army come. We had a very nice evening. The Chapel was “bursting at the seams” and the singing was good. It was nice to see the Church “full”. We had a collection for the Salvation Army, and we were told this money would go towards the cost of Food Vouchers. These were being handed out to whoever needed them this Christmas season.

We held the “Out of the Ordinary” Advent Meetings over four Tuesday afternoons. Libby took these meetings, and they were enjoyed by those who attended. - Thank you Libby.

We are now looking ahead and are already planning events.

We are going to hold our Flower Festival on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th May between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The theme this year is going to be “Lincolnshire”.

And in July, on the 6th we are having a Strawberry Tea. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m

COFFEE MORNING AT SUTTERTON

1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY IN THE MONTH

10AM – 12NOON



PLAN OF SERVICES

2024	3rd Mar	10th	17th	24th Palm Sunday	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	31st Easter Sunday	7th Apr	14th	21st	28th	5th May	12th	19th	26th	
Lectioary Readings	Exodus 20:1-17	Numbers 21:4-9	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16	Exodus 12:1-14	Isaiah 52:1-3	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9	Acts 4:32-35	Acts 3:12-19	Acts 4:5-12	Acts 8:26-40	Acts 10:44-48	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14	Isaiah 61:8	
	Psalms 19, 118-25	Psalms 107:1-12, 17-22	Psalms 51:1-12 or 119:9-16	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29	Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19	Psalms 22, 118:1-2, 14-24	Psalms 118:1-43 or Acts 10:34-43	Psalms 133, 118:1-2, 22	Psalms 4, 118:1-7	Psalms 23, 118:1-24	Psalms 22:25-31, 118:47-21	Psalms 98, 118:1-6	Psalms 1, 118:5-13	Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21	Romans 8:12-17	
	John 2:13-22	John 3:14-21	John 12:20-33	John 11:1-11	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	John 18:1-19, 42	John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8	John 20:19-31	Luke 24:36b-48	John 10:1-18	John 15:1-8	John 15:9-17	John 17:6-19	John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15	John 3:1-17	
BICKER	10.30am 3pm 6pm	O/A	Gooding	L Smith HC Curran Broad Street	x	Charlton	L Smith HC at Holbeach	O/A	Charlton	at Holbeach Drove	L Smith	O/A	Charlton	L Smith HC	Jessop	
GOSBERTON	10.30am	L Smith	Charlton	L Smith HC Craggs	L Smith V Smith HC	V Smith HC	V Smith HC	Curran	at Broad Street	Craggs	Charlton	x 4.30pm L Smith A Long FF Sof	Curran HC	Charlton	Charlton	O/A
GOSBERTON CL. OUGH	9am 2.30pm 6pm	L Smith	Charlton	L Smith HC Craggs	at Gosberton	V Smith HC	x	Teddy Bear L Smith	O/A	Craggs	Charlton	L Smith	Jessop	Charlton	L Smith HC	
HOLBEACH	10.30am	Stobart	Hicken	Richardson WL Broad Street	10.45am L Smith	Curran HC	O/A	L Smith B	at Broad Street	O/A	Stobart	Curran HC	L Smith Baby Loss	Walters HC	L Smith with Baptist Church	
HOLBEACH DROVE	10.30am 2.30pm	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Curran/L Smith HC	x	x	x	x	
MOULTON CHAPEL	2.30pm	Hewitt	O/A	Charlton	Stobart	Charlton	Charlton	O/A	at Broad Street	L Smith HC	Gooding	Craggs	Charlton	Hicken	Craggs	
	9am	B/Fast	Informal	L Smith HC Informal	x	Charlton	Charlton	O/A	at Broad Street	L Smith HC	Gooding	Craggs	Charlton	Hicken	Craggs	
BROAD ST.	10.30am 3pm 6pm	Charlton Sol L Smith	O/A	Craggs	L Smith	Curran HC	Curran HC	Halford	Craggs EO	O/A	Stringer	Charlton	Stobart	L Smith HC	Gooding	
	10.30am	Craggs	Carter	Curran HC with Kirton	Charlton	Charlton	L Smith HC	Charlton	at Broad Street	at Kirton	Hicken	L Smith FF	Richardson WL	Stringer with Kirton	Curran HC	

MESSAGE FROM SALLY

I would personally like to thank each and every one of you for welcoming me to this wonderful role I so deeply enjoy. Unfortunately, there have been a few mishaps along the way with the problems of my father, but hopefully he has settled into the new care home, which should (fingers crossed) relieve a bit of pressure of me now. And then the episodes of Covid, before I worked at the church I was so lucky to never have had it, and now twice in a matter of 3 months, but we all do what we do best and fight and battle through it. So I really do apologise for the tardiness of getting newsletters and plans out on time to you all, but hopefully things will be on track from now on.

I will give you just a brief background of myself so you can understand the dynamics that can certainly confuse people. Workwise has mainly been administration of some form or another; my first job was working for Port Sutton Bridge, and then getting poached from the haulage side and ending up working between Port Sutton Bridge, Port of Boston and Port of Kings Lynn. I can honestly say that was a job I really enjoyed, so different and as a shy schoolgirl with a lack of confidence in herself, I definitely needed it to boost me. I then decided at 18 to travel for a bit only around the UK it was an experience I needed but I must admit I missed home. I went on to marry and have 2 of the older children, Danielle and Payge; Danielle is now 27 and works in Peterborough as a secondary school teacher, specialising in sciences and runs her own course of Psychology, and gave me the gift of my first grandson last Christmas. Then there is Payge, 25, who never left my side whilst growing up, did not like sleepovers always wanted to be at home with me, whom at the age of 16 then shocked me because she decided she was going to go to university at Portsmouth! This really panicked me unlike Danielle who studied at Derby just a couple of hours down the road, this was 5/6 hours away, if she got homesick, I couldn't just get in the car and get her; but the only consolation is my brother and family live down there. I shouldn't have doubted though, it was the best thing she did, brought on so much confidence and gave her the independence she needed, she now has a master's in physics, astrophysics and cosmology and after having a couple of years off, she is going back to do her PhD in astrophysics this year so she can hopefully be a scientist of the stars. Just a nightmare having to visit each year with 2 small children, but we are quite lucky that Payge comes to visit us a couple of times a year.

So anyway I digressed, I went on after having those 2 to work for a bank for numerous years working myself up to deputy manager; I enjoyed that job a lot but I did not enjoy having to promote internet banking etc. not only was I talking myself out of a job (which now with all the banks closing that's just what we were doing) it was the pushiness of trying to get the elderly to do internet banking, it was maddening me so much that I took a massive risk and went into healthcare to try and advocate for the elderly and help and promote their independence, it was hard work working from 5.30am – 10pm working for an income and studying with 2 teenage daughters but I did it.

After a while other things started taking priority and I got a 9-5 job for a plant and bulb company and settled into a normal routine until shock, horror I was 40 years old and got told that I am having a baby, okay I will roll with it, and that's when we had our first miracle Thomas who is now 8. We brought a house to renovate (6 years on we have realised it is going to be a lifetime renovation) and after a while I went back to caring and worked for Age UK. But then my father was diagnosed with dementia, I stopped everything to care for him, however unbeknown to me another miracle was happening, Emma who is 5 now came along. I was caring for dad and the little ones, I got a couple of clients left from Age UK and life was busy, but as my clients sadly died I gave up working in care, and just concentrated on dad and the little ones and of course Ronnie my grandson.

So here we are now, I saw this job come up and I thought the hours are ideal and a different type of company to work for, I call it my retreat, my escape from reality. I enjoy talking to you all, and I may not remember everyone's names initially, I always remember a face and a smile; and again, from the bottom of my heart I really do thank you for being so welcoming.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 27th January - Gosberton Sales Emporium 10am – 12.30pm

Tuesday 13th February – Gosberton, Snack Lunch 11.30am - 1.30pm

Saturday 24th February – Gosberton Sales Emporium 10am – 12.30pm

Friday 1st March – Holbeach World Day of Prayer 2pm

Wednesday 13th March – Gosberton Lent Course 2pm

Wednesday 20th March – Gosberton Lent Course 2nd part 2 pm

Thursday 21st March – Gosberton Open meeting with Revd Angy Long 1.30pm (if anyone is unavailable, please speak to a circuit steward who is a member of your church council or Rev Luke; Revd Angy is always happy to discuss with those who have anything they wish to contribute)

Saturday 23rd March – Gosberton Clough “Cloughs got talent” 7pm

Thursday 28th March – Gosberton Supper 7pm

Friday 29th March – Gosberton Worship with hot cross buns and coffee 10.30am

Saturday 30th March – Gosberton Sales Emporium 10am – 12.30pm

Sunday 31st March – Gosberton Easter Sunday Service 10.30am

Sunday 7th April – Teddy Bear Service 2.30pm

Thursday 25th April – Gosberton Methodist Evangelicals Together – 7.30pm

Saturday 27th April – Gosberton Sales Emporium 10am – 12.30pm

Thursday 2nd - Monday 6th May – Gosberton Flower Festival: “Hands Together” Theme 10am – 4pm

Thursday 2nd May – Gosberton Flower Festival Opening Service 9.30am

Friday 3rd May & Saturday 4th May – Sutterton Flower Festival: “Lincolnshire” theme 10am – 4pm

Sunday 5th May – Gosberton Evening Songs of Praise led by Revd Angela Long & Revd Luke Smith 4.30pm

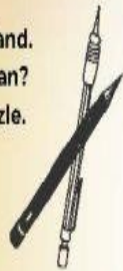
Tuesday 7th May – Gosberton Service of Thanksgiving 7pm

Saturday 6th July – Sutterton Strawberry tea 2pm – 4pm

The world, my parish

Crossword puzzle by Janice Khoo
Illustrations by Faulan Ea, from the book
John Wesley: The World, My Parish

Many Methodists would be familiar with John Wesley, the founder of Methodism who led a revival movement in the Church of England. Just how well do we know the man? Find out with this crossword puzzle.



John Wesley The World, My Parish

Retails at \$20 inclusive of GST. Bulk discounts available. To read about John Wesley and see his story unfold with historically faithful images, get your copy here <https://www.methodist.org.sg/graphicnovel>



ANSWERS	
[ACROSS]	
1	Epworth
2	Yearly Conference
3	Burford
4	Lincoln
5	Open Air
6	Wesley
7	St. Paul's
8	Wesley
9	Wesley
10	Wesley
11	Wesley
12	Wesley
13	Wesley
14	Wesley
15	Wesley
[DOWN]	
1	Wesley
2	Wesley
3	Wesley
4	Wesley
5	Wesley
6	Wesley
7	Wesley
8	Wesley
9	Wesley
10	Wesley
11	Wesley
12	Wesley
13	Wesley
14	Wesley
15	Wesley

[ACROSS]

- John Wesley's birthplace in Lincolnshire, England.
- He persuaded Wesley to preach in the open to the unchurched masses, when the pulpits of churches were closed to them.
- After narrowly escaping a fiery peril as a child, John Wesley described himself as 'a brand plucked from the ____'.
- At Aldersgate, John Wesley's heart felt _____.
- John Wesley often travelled on this mode of transport on his preaching circuit.
- First female missionary sent to Singapore by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in 1887.
- John Wesley's mother.
- John Wesley served as vicar in this colony in America.

[DOWN]

- What John Wesley and his friends were called because of the methodical way in which they practised religion.
- These yearly meetings among John Wesley and the travelling preachers allowed them to discuss and coordinate their ministry.
- John Wesley's college in England.
- John Wesley escaped injury from the mob who opposed his preaching because of his stature, which was not tall but ____.
- The first Methodist sermon preached in Singapore by Dr James Thoburn featured this verse from Zechariah 4:6: "Not by might, nor by power, but _____."
- German-speaking people who demonstrated faith and peace in God to John Wesley.
- John's younger brother, who travelled with him throughout Britain, converting followers through preaching and hymns.
- He brought Methodism to Singapore and started the first English-language boys' school here.



AND FINALLY

*If there any articles or photos you wish to submit for the 1st quarter newsletter 2024 please sent them to the office via email or post or hand to Luke or Darren. To reach me by no later than **14/4/2024***