

Circuit Newsletter 1st Quarter 2025

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South Holland Methodist Circuit

SOUTH HOLLAND METHODIST CIRCUIT



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NEWS FROM REVD LUKE

Dear friends,

By the time you read this I will be on my sabbatical. A sabbatical is a gift granted to ministers in the active work every 7 years.

The Methodist Church website says this, " Sabbaticals are a required part of a presbyter's or deacon's performance of his or her duties They can be extremely beneficial both for the individual minister and for the health of the wider Church and can significantly enhance the ministry of the whole people of God.

For Methodist presbyters and deacons, a sabbatical is a period of release from ordinary ministerial duties, in addition to normal holidays, for the purpose of pursuing an approved programme of study, research, work or experience. It is intended as a time for re-equipping, refreshment and renewal.

All presbyters and deacons in Full Connexion and stationed in an appointment within the control of the Church are expected to take a regular sabbatical".

The aims of my sabbatical (from 6th January to 12th April) are to Pause, Pray and Prepare.

I am currently in my 24th year of ministry with approximately 13 years before I seek permission to sit down so I am about 2/3rds of my way through active ministry. To be honest, I feel tired and need to take stock. I hope to reflect on my experiences and prayerfully consider how I approach my next appointment. I really want to discern Gods will in my role as a presbyter. In the past I have enjoyed study, but felt there wasn't time in this appointment.

More specifically I need to:

Pause – this will be achieved by spending 2 weeks on the island of Liung in Scotland. I have never been before. I am happiest when I'm with Vivienne and Toffee, so they will be with me. Its **pause** not stop, so I would like to reflect on my past and the past of others so I will complete the cliff college Church History course

I will also pray – I intend worshipping in churches where I am unknown and I'm free to worship, some of this will be when I'm in Scotland (I will travel to Iona) but may be in Lincolnshire or at the parish church near where we have our own property.

Having spent time pausing and praying I anticipate I will be able to **prepare** for whatever lies ahead. Approach the new appointment refreshed and energised.

I hope to return re-energised and enthused about what God has in store for me in the next stage of service.

Blessings, Luke

OTHER NEWS

Please come and join us as it is our LOCAL Circuit hosting the District Day and our own local Speaker, Rev. Vivienne Smith leading the day. I look forward to seeing you there. Rita Rowe - District MWiB Secretary.



**Methodist Women
in Britain**

Lincolnshire District



**Thursday 27th March 2025
at Holbeach Methodist Church
Albert St, Holbeach, Spalding PE12 7DP**

**Surviving the storms through
laughter and Love**

Rev Vivienne Smith

**will share some amusing stories before
thinking about how we can go deeper with God**

Come & join us for a day of fellowship and fun

10.45am to 3pm

Tea & Coffee served from 10.15am

Bring your packed lunch, drinks provided

ALL WELCOME

GOSBERTON NEWS

News from Gosberton

We have had some wonderful times of worship & fellowship as we have celebrated the run up to Christmas with lots of drinks and mince pies.

Terry & Kevin put out the nativity stable which was illuminated at night and looked lovely.

We go forward into 2025 as we plan our Flower Festival - "Sing Out Loud"



Regular events

Pop In - Every Thursday Morning 9.30am - 11.am (but not last Thursday in the month)

Emporium Sales 10am - 12.30pm

22nd February

29th March

26th April

31st May

Light Lunches (Tuesdays) 11.30am - 1pm

11th February

11th March

8th April

13th May

You will find a warm welcome.

Craft afternoon (Mondays) - 2pm -4pm

17th February

17th March

21st April

19th May

Also jigsaws available to hire.

Flower Festival 2025 - Theme "Sing Out Loud"

Thursday 1st - Monday 5th May from 10am - 4pm.

Thursday 1st May 9.30am Short Opening Service

Sunday 5th May - No Morning Service. Evening Songs of Praise at 4.30pm

Tuesday 6th May - 7pm Service of Thanksgiving.

Come along and have a look

HOLBEACH NEWS

BIBLE STUDIES – THE ROMANS

I not only attended most (all but the first) of the Bible Studies on the book of Romans, but I was the culprit to ask for regular Bible Study sessions, as I find it more helpful to hear other people's ideas and thoughts on the scriptures. I am very glad and thankful to Rev. Luke Smith and Odile Stringer for organising and leading the studies which were every fortnight from July to December. I found them very helpful in my quest to improve my walk with the lord.

My only complaint would have to be that though there were one or two people from other churches like Moulton Chapel and Gosberton, there were not as many clamouring for the words of our Lord as I do; all I can say in that regard is "wished you were there", or "should have been there", as the leaders of the studies were really good and the film parts of each study were really enlightening. So if you didn't go, you missed an interesting study; I would fully recommend it and I hope there will be more Bible Studies to follow in the future.

Rosemary P Winner known as Rosie.



Our social afternoon is being particularly well attended today, and I thought this would be a good way of advertising it in the newsletter.



Here at Holbeach we had the pleasure of inviting our local schools to decorate our trees and then join us for a little service on Thursday 12th December to bless the trees. Mary kindly took the service, and we all learnt lots about the reason we have Christmas Trees. The children were delightful and fully engaged in the Service. A big thank you to them all and to Mary. This was a new venture for us but one that has opened new relationships with some of our local children. We also extended our usual coffee morning into a mini-Christmas Fayre and served bacon rolls, which were very popular. Many thanks to Darren and Kelsay who were in the kitchen.





On the 29th November we held a Christmas concert with the Holbeach Town Band which was a great success and our busiest yet!!



We have also had the pleasure of celebrating not one, but two, Diamond Wedding Anniversaries. Many congratulations to Peter & Maureen and Freda & Francis. ❤️ ❤️

Let's All stay positive for 2025 🙏.

MOULTON CHAPEL NEWS

Our Christmas events were all well attended, starting with the Christmas Fayre, we were very pleased with the amount of people who came and supported us, we hope they enjoyed the refreshments on offer, plus the cakes, preserves, crafts, tombola and raffle, a great way to begin our festivities.

The Christmas Lunch Club had 31 people tucking into a 3-course traditional Christmas Lunch, followed by Christmas Cake and coffee, crackers and sweets included!!

The Carol Service was led by Barrie Richardson, organist was David Hicken, the Carols were selected by members of the Church, we had over 40 people attend (in good voice) who then chatted and ate warm mince pies and coffee afterwards.

Our Christmas Eve service was led by Trish Hicken, organist was David Hicken, we had singing, reading and even a sketch with the 3 wise men!!

Gifts were given to those children present

Finishing off with warm Mulled Wine, coffee and mince pies.

Our regular events continue this year with

Warm Space Group Coffee and Chat Tuesdays 10-12

Craft Club alternate Wednesdays 10-12

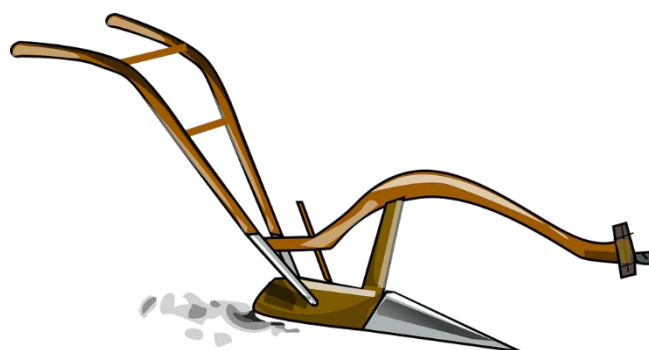
Monday Lunch Club 12-12.30

3rd. February

3rd. March

7th. April

A photo from our warm space coffee morning.



On Sunday 12th January 2025 we had our Plough Service with over 30 people attending; the service was led by Rev. Margaret Barnes and included a talk by Stuart Gibbard on the changes in Agriculture. Following the service we all gathered to enjoy a jacket potato and stew lunch.

SPALDING BROAD STREET NEWS



Our Christingle service was well-attended by all ages.

We remembered the Light of the world, Jesus, with worship songs, prayers and the fun of making the Christingles in the Church at tables.

This emphasises the adaptable nature of the space at Broad Street and a time of friendship was enjoyed at this special time.

A Nativity service with a difference, where our elf narrator led our family to Bethlehem with the help of a friendly star and her guide, Stargeant.

As usual Church members were invited to come dressed as a Christmas character for the grand finale.



New time for Midweekers:

2 – 4pm on 1st and 3rd
Wednesdays in the Church
Lounge.

A party for the children and young people was held on Thursday 2nd January at the new time for Family Play 12.30 – 2.30pm.

Fun games included doughnut catching with no hands, finding a bell in a tub of baubles and crafts too.

Snack time (extra !) as usual and a selection box given to all the children.

Thanks to Mary and her team. We look forward to the New Year in faith for all events for children and young people.

A Beetle Drive on 25th January, to test our brains.

The Spring event this year will be on 29th March 10am – 1pm

Monday

I witnessed love in action this morning.

In our church foyer a comforting chat with someone upset; in the hall people enjoying drinks, snacks and conversation and later a hot meal with company and friendship. I saw folk browsing the rail of donated warm clothes and I'm sure more donations would be welcome as winter bites.

Lonely people, cold and homeless people, sad and needy people.

I witnessed those called to work out their discipleship, cooking for and serving hungry people or just listening to their stories

This is Welcome Space at Broad Street Methodist Church each Monday 10am to 2pm.

Anon



Welcome Space



Monday 10am - 2pm
www.broadstreetmethodistchurch.co.uk

WHAT'S ON AT BROAD STREET

Sunday: 9.00 a.m. Informal Worship, with Breakfast Fellowship the 2nd Sunday of each month.

10.30 a.m. Morning Service

Monday: Welcome Space - Hall 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

About 30-40+ people are regularly welcomed and fed, including some who are homeless. Chat is important for some who are lonely. A warm rail is used in the winter months. Helpers are caring for the guests in a friendly way in a safe space.

Tuesday: Coffee Morning - Hall 10.00 a.m. – noon

Shoppers' Service - Church 10.45 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. The popular get-together of members and friends with a time for worship too.

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month: Midweekers 7.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.

A meeting which enjoys a varied program of devotional and participation activities, as well as guest speakers. There is an occasional afternoon outing.

2nd Wednesday of each month Luncheon Club, noon - 2.00 p.m.

A 3-course meal for a donation of £6. Booking essential. Good company for those who attend.

4th Wednesday of each month: Four Seasons, 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

About 20 people come along to play dominoes, scrabble and more recently cribbage. Many of the people who come live on their own and they enjoy the company, friendship, chatter and laughter. We do have fun. If you'd like to come along, you'd be very welcome. We have tea or coffee, biscuits and /or cake and we go out for lunch two or three times a year. You don't have to be an expert at the games, just come along for a chat and a drink.

Thursday: Family Play 12.30 p.m. – 2.30 p.m. For babies and pre-school children in the lovely Church and lounge area. Older siblings came during the school holiday in May.

1st Thursday of each month: Prayer Meeting, 6.00 p.m. -7.00 p.m. All welcome, your presence is all that is needed, prayers can be silent, read out, or spontaneous.

Friday: Knit and Natter 10.00 a.m. - noon. A group busy providing articles of clothing and blankets for those in dire need in Armenia. An invitation to just come along for a chat if you can't knit or crochet.

3rd Saturday of each month: Messy Church. For all ages, run by our Youth and Community worker to include various activities with a Bible basis.

SUTTERTON NEWS

We continue to hold joint services with Kirton on the third Sunday of the month. One month they come to us and the next we go to them. We have forged a good friendship with them over the last few years.

We hold a Coffee Morning on the first and third Wednesday of the month. These are well supported by the local people.

The Salvation Army came on the 13th December and we had a very enjoyable evening. We sang carols with them and the Church was full. All the money collected on the night was given to the Salvation Army. This money would go towards food vouchers that they will be distributing over the Christmas period for the needy in this area.

Darren took our Carol Service and Revd Luke took our Christmas Eve Service.

SUTTERTON WHAT'S ON

Coffee Morning 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the month –
10 a.m. to 12 noon

All are welcome

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 27th March – Holbeach, 10.15am MWiB “Surviving the storms through laughter and love”

Saturday 29th March – Broad Street, 10am – 1pm – Spring event.

Thursday 1st–Monday 5th May – Gosberton Flower Festival, 10am – 4pm

Thursday 1st May – Gosberton, 9.30am - Short Opening Service

Sunday 5th May – Gosberton 4.30pm - Songs of Praise (no morning service)

Tuesday 6th May – Gosberton, 7pm – Service of Thanksgiving

I really do enjoy creating the newsletter for you all to read, so please can you carry on sending you items into me. I know it can be a struggle to think what to add, but anything which has happened please let us know, you can send photos we really do not mind.

If there are any articles or photos you wish to submit for the 1st quarter newsletter 2025 please send them to office via email or hand to Luke or Darren. To reach me no later than **13/4/2025.**