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# THE LINK

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**ISSUE 70**

**JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2026**



**IN THIS  
ISSUE**

EASTER REPORTS,  
UPCOMING EVENTS,  
FAREWELL TO  
JONNY & SEB



**Salthouse by Seb Bell**

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Thank you all for your contributions towards the last edition of The Link, it was great to see all that is happening across the circuit. In this edition we hear what Churches have been up to over Easter and look towards the summer. So make a cup of tea and settle down for a good and informative read.

In Tony's words 'The Link is intended as information for ourselves, a means of praying through all that is happening, and something to give to visitors to our Churches.'

Please send any contributions for the next issue to the details listed here.


## Deadline

**FOR THE SEPT - NOV EDITION  
SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JULY**

**Please send information for  
publication to Hannah Martin**

Please include details of activities  
up to the end of November

 **Email: [cnc.thelink@gmail.com](mailto:cnc.thelink@gmail.com)**

 **Phone: 07538281707**

# Table of Contents

CONTACT DETAILS	2
MINISTER'S LETTER	4
CIRCUIT LEADERSHIP TEAM SPOTLIGHT	5 - 6
THE HIVE	7 - 8
FAREWELL FROM JONNY & SEB	9
SOCIAL SCRIPTS & EDI	10 - 11
HELHOUGHTON NEWS	11
EAST ANGLIA METHODIST CENTRE	12
THE END OF AN ERA AT STIBBARD!	13
NATURE IN NORFOLK	14
PREACHING PLAN	15 - 22
NEWS FROM CHURCHES	23 - 30
DATES AROUND THE CIRCUIT	31- 34
REGULAR DATES	35

# Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

I would like to start my letter this quarter by thanking Hannah and the team for all they do in ensuring that the Link is published every quarter. Having been a part of the Methodist Church for over sixty years, I have seen a range of Church, Circuit and District magazines and I can say with confidence that The Link is possibly one of the best publications I have ever seen.

To maintain the standard, we need to help by:

- Ensuring that Hannah receives reports on what we have done in our churches (with photographs if possible) and advertisements of what is to come.
- We have been having problems with getting The Link out on time and this has been caused mainly because we have been flexible with deadlines. Please check the date of the next deadline and get your contributions in on time. We need to cut off accepting items at the deadline, so that the editing team can get on with their work.

It is only by pulling together that we can maintain the quality and content of this publication.

Secondly, this is the last edition of *The Link* while Jonny Bell is part of our ministerial team before he and Seb move on to Cambridge. I have valued both Jonny and Seb's ministry during the time I have been in this Circuit and during that time I have considered them not only as colleagues but as friends.

Jonny and Seb will be missed by the people of the Churches they have served during the last four years, and by the circuit at large. I invite you to join with us in praying for Jonny and Seb as they prepare for their next chapter of ministry in Cambridge.

For the rest of us, we face challenging times, not only in this Circuit, but across the Christian community in this country. During this summer the Circuit Leadership Team will be planning for the future of Methodism in this part of Norfolk: how we will minister to and care for the Churches in the Circuit and explore what it means to be a Methodist presence in the towns and villages we serve. Please try to engage with these explorations and speak with Neil, the Circuit stewards or me, if you have any ideas.

Together, we are the disciples for Christ in the world today.

*Derek*

# Circuit Leadership Team Spotlight:

## *Geraldine Allen* *Circuit Steward*



### **Q. Where are you from?**

I was born in Derbyshire, studied clarinet for 4 years at the Royal Academy of Music in London and then stayed in London for a very long time. Sarah Rodgers and I met in London at the Royal Society of Musicians, became partners and moved together to Norfolk in November 2008.

### **Q. How did you get to do what you are doing now?**

I have always valued being a part of church regeneration. First of all at Muswell Hill MC and then at Swaffham MC and now as part of Central Norfolk Missional and Property Development Group.

### **Q. Please describe yourself in three words: Yes I can!**

### **Q. What are your hobbies/interest?**

I am first and foremost a clarinettist – it has been my voice ever since I was handed a clarinet at the age of 11. I also love all kinds of artistic expression – music, poetry, theatre, dance and the visual arts. I enjoy entertaining, cooking and growing the vegetables and herbs to go into the recipes.

### **Q. Is there a book you've read recently that you'd recommend?**

I have just finished reading "*There are Rivers in the Sky*" by Elif Shafak.

A wonderful multi-perspective novel by a brilliant British/Turkish woman writer. It is a great storytelling about the politics and preciousness of water ranging from ancient Mesopotamia to contemporary London.

### **Q. What is the best thing about being a Methodist? Inclusivity and Welcome**

### **Q. What makes you grumpy?**

Not having enough time for music, cooking and gardening and all the things that life offers.

**Q. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?**

We all have one – Prayer!

**Q. If you could meet any historical figure, who would it be?**

Julian of Norwich: An inspirational woman of profound faith and optimism. During the black death she was able to write "*All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.*" She was rooted in the belief that divine love ultimately overcomes suffering and implies that despite present pain or chaos, God will make all things right. Let's face it, we could do with some of that now.

**Q. Which is your favourite Bible verse and why?**

John 1 v.1: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*". I was fascinated at Sunday School because I loved the poetry of it but could not quite understand it. This is true of lots of important things that are bigger than our comprehension. God and Jesus together at the beginning of everything.

**Q. Which is your favourite Hymn?**

The wonderful hymn by Margaret Rizza – In the stillness of the Dark Night. Great music and words. Drawn from Margaret's experience of Celtic spirituality, the energy of God is in everything – even the darkness of the night.



**SUMMER SEASON 2026  
AT THE HIVE**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

- Sunday 14 June 3.00 - 5.00 | **MUSIC & POETRY**
- Saturday 20 June 1.00 - 4.00 | **QUIET DAY — 'CHANGE'**
- Thursday 25 June 3.00 - 4.00 | **THOUGHTS ON THURSDAY**
- Saturday 27 June 2.30 - 5.30 | **SUMMER SING**
- Sunday 5 July 2.30 - 5.30 | **OPEN PLAY READING**
- Saturday 11 July 10.30 - 5.30 | **PILGRIM WALK**

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All our events are free - donations welcomed

All ability access

Light refreshments provided

Charity Reg. No.: 1134271

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**THE HIVE**  
CREATIVITY - SPIRITUALITY - WELL-BEING



**THE HIVE**  
CREATIVITY ~ SPIRITUALITY ~ WELL-BEING



**EAST ANGLIA PILGRIMS**  
*Walking in Faith*

## It's been a great season at The Hive!



The Hive has something for everyone and as the Spring Season has progressed, we have continued on Celtic Journeys with the Tree of Life and heard a moving presentation on World War I Poets and Composers with live performances of music by Vaughan Williams and Arthur Benjamin. They survived but many other musicians did not.

Also among the many and varied good things were a specialised Yoga session focusing on lower back pain, and a presentation on Norfolk Railways – A Lost Heritage, giving a fascinating insight into the criss-crossing network of railway companies which ran routes across the county.

The Casual Choir (photographed above) sang a Purcell Birthday Ode and harmonised their way through an uplifting programme of Edwardian, Celtic and folk musical styles.

To complete the season, we welcomed guest speaker Josiah English, (pictured below) from the Julian Shrine in Norwich. He gave insights into the history, purpose and development of the tradition of pilgrimage and provided the perfect introduction to the Summer programme of Pilgrim Walks across East Anglia.



Added to all this activity at The Hive, we are now well into the process of establishing The Hive under the connexional New Places for New People (NPNP) scheme and, in the coming months, hope to appoint a part-time creative arts pioneer worker to join and support the local team.

The Summer season at The Hive is already launched. To highlight just a couple of sessions, the open play-reading will be Cider with Rosie – Laurie Lee’s delightful account of traditional village life. This is relaxed, informal, reading in the round – come and be a character, or enjoy listening to others. An intriguing new strand is called, “In the beginning . . .” which takes a historical, social and practical peek at the foundations of human existence – lots of stories to be shared. The season concludes with the final Walk in the East Anglia Pilgrims programme, taking in a 12 mile circular walk from The Hive – boots on!

You can find The Hive’s Summer Season in this edition of The Link and there will be regular updates in the Circuit Newsletter and on our facebook page.

There is more information on our facebook page - GreatCressinghamHive.  
Scan the QR code to go directly there.

***Sarah Rodgers***



# Farewell from Jonny & Seb



We have begun that gradual process of preparing to move and to hand things over. We are deeply grateful for those who have offered additional support, such as Derek Ball with a lot of help with the manse and Holt's building project, Elizabeth Bellamy taking on Wells, and we could list so many more people who have helped, which could go on and on. This is a testament to how loving the Methodist community in Central Norfolk is.

There have been some more challenging aspects to this appointment, which has been a difficult introduction to presbyteral ministry. Alongside this has been my recent poor health, which has been exacerbated by burnout. However, I know I have been sustained by the people in the churches I have served; the brilliant, faithful, and generous people I have had the joy of getting to know – to whom I am exceedingly grateful!

There is a richness in the people in the churches and communities that has been truly wonderful to be alongside. Both Seb and I have been so welcomed and embraced by people within my section and the rest of the Circuit, which has really helped us to grow spiritually (and physically, thanks to Joselyn's baking!) The stuff of life has happened within the love of God holding it all. Whether this be in celebrating who people are, laughing with each other and having fun, learning together, worshipping together, and more, we have been privileged to love and to be loved by so many.

So thank you for the past four years, with the challenges and the joys, the stuff of life in its many forms, and for allowing us to know you. We will continue to remember you in our prayers, and know that God is with you.

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## Photo Competition

Are you a budding photographer or a keen artist?

We're looking for artwork or photographs for the front cover of The Link Magazine.

Anything autumn themed would be appreciated! Please do send over any submissions and we'll pick one for the next issue, crediting the artist or photographer.

**Email submissions to [cnc.thelink@gmail.com](mailto:cnc.thelink@gmail.com) or call 07538281707 for postal address.**

# Social Scripts and EDI



Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) is something that has come to the fore in some of the conversations in the Methodist Church in recent years. It may feel like yet another ‘thing’ for churches and chapels to sort, however, it is something that touches on every aspect of our life in the Methodist Church.

EDI is a way of promoting love and justice, of seeking to embrace and celebrate our differences, as well as removing obstacles from people being able to participate. This is more than ‘putting in a ramp’, it is finding ways in which we can be a gathering of people who love God that can enable as many as possible to be involved. A part of developing our churches and chapels to be more inclusive is to widen our ‘social scripts’.

Social scripts are the idea that we know how to act and speak in certain situations. For example, in a church service, many people know when to sit and when to stand, such as during singing. However, we don’t always have the social scripts for knowing how to speak about disability, race, gender, sexuality, class and more. Other people’s experiences may be unfamiliar to us and we may not know how to engage with others in a way that fully includes and embraces who they are. So, what do we do?

Well, we educate ourselves by raising our own awareness and seeking out those willing to speak about their experiences, which can be done through reading books, watching online videos, or attending awareness training put on by the Methodist Church. By doing this, we can develop those scripts, learn how to behave and speak well to people whose experiences differ from ours, and include them in ways that are life-giving for both them and us. As a personal example, I have needed to do this for myself with regards to issues around race and I am still learning.

This means that EDI is not just ‘another thing’ for us to sort out, but rather an opportunity to be a church that seeks to love others and to seek justice by including as many as we can. This requires us to develop social scripts to understand others’ different experiences. This, in turn, helps us bring in more people and become a place where community building can be further developed. Therefore, EDI touches all four parts of Our Calling: how we learn and care, how we serve, how we worship, and how we evangelise. EDI undergirds every aspect of our church and chapel life as the Methodist Church.

Something for you to reflect on individually, in house groups, in church meetings, or somewhere else is this: whose experiences do you feel you need to learn more about so that you can develop those social scripts? Might they be people in your local area, or might they be people who are elsewhere? And, finally, who can you ask to get help with this?

**Rev Jonny Bell**

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# Helhoughton News

## **Helhoughton Monthly Tuesday Charity Coffee Mornings**

In January, February and March the following amounts were raised:

- £50 for Home Start Swaffham
- £200 for Prostate Cancer UK
- £100 for Ukraine Relief

We were particularly delighted with the generosity shown for Prostate Cancer UK.

Here are the details of our Summer Coffee Mornings:

- 30<sup>th</sup> June - Carers Matter Norfolk
- 28th July - The Camphill Trust – helping young people live independently
- 25th August - UN World Food Programme

All are welcome any time from 10:00 a.m. in Helhoughton Village Church Hall on The Street and we close at midday. Come and enjoy a hot drink and a homemade bake or two, including options made with vegetarian/vegan/gluten free/low sugar ingredients, in a warm and friendly atmosphere! Just donate what you can afford.

We also act as a collection point for items for the Mid Norfolk Foodbank; toiletries and cleaning products as well as tinned/packet food items.

## **Helhoughton Save the Children Quiz Night**

This year, our March Quiz Night surpassed all previous years in numbers of quizzers, teams and the total raised, and we have been holding Quiz Nights for over 30 years! 61 adults and children took part, in 11 teams, and we were amazed and touched by the amount raised... £575! It has been allocated with great appreciation to the charity's Emergency Fund. A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the event in any way.

***Elizabeth Lodge,  
Tittleshall Methodist Chapel***

# East Anglia Methodist Heritage Centre at Wighton

Thanks to the support of the Central Norfolk Circuit, the Heritage Centre, housed in the former chapel at Wighton, is now open for its fourth year.

This year the young people's display has been enhanced with new donations, including a shield from Kings Lynn and District Sunday School Union presented for Scripture examinations. The oldest winner of the shield is Tilney All Saints in 1938 and the most recent Snettisham in 1967. Another new display focuses on 'Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary people', showcasing East Anglian Methodists such as George Edwards, who started life as a crow scarer and became an MP, having championed the cause of agricultural workers.



Last year the building at the Heritage Centre was extended to create a larger space for books and archives. This section houses an A-Z of fascinating memorabilia about Methodist churches and people over the centuries, including photos, plans and orders of service.

Do come and visit (NR23 1PG). The Heritage Centre is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 11 am to 3 pm and will remain open until October. We will also be open on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> as part of the Wighton Scarecrow Festival. Admission is free, donations welcome. There is parking, an accessible toilet and refreshments. Group visits are also welcome (please phone 07546 732092 or email [eamethodistheritage@gmail.com](mailto:eamethodistheritage@gmail.com) to arrange).

## Preserving a piece of Methodist History



Passed on from a charity shop to a member of Holt Methodist Church, this small wooden box was likely once used to collect offerings. It carries with it an unknown story of generosity and faith. Now, it will be entrusted to the Heritage Centre for safekeeping, where its story can continue to be preserved and appreciated.

# The End of an Era!

On April 8th 2026, at 12:30 pm, we came together to celebrate the final Stibbard Lunch, a moment filled with nostalgia and joy after 13 wonderful years. What began on September 12th, 2013, transformed into a cherished tradition, bringing together 138 individuals over the years and fostering a true sense of community. This last gathering, featuring 22 friends around the tables, was more than just a meal: it was a celebration of community, fellowship.

We gave Pippa gifts and thanked her for all the effort she had put into the lunches. We also gave an orchid to Joselyn for her help with many puddings, and an anthurium to Sally for her help since Malcolm died. We also want to thank Dee for helping with the drinks and serving, and Alan for being a brilliant valet.

While the Stibbard Lunches have come to an end, the spirit of connection and unity they created persists. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey! Here's to the memories we've made and the friendships that will last a lifetime!



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## Lectionary Readings & Weekly Hymns

**If you need the Lectionary Readings or Weekly Hymns, use the link below, scroll down and choose the date on the calendar that you want to look at - it will then show you hymns under one tab, and prayers under another:**

**[www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources](http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/resources)**

# Nature in Norfolk



This *Nature in Norfolk* is based on a cycle ride made at the end of March. I first cycled to Hunworth; often I take a track from the top of the steep hill, cross the River Glaven and rejoin the road near the village hall. From this track you can explore Hunworth Common and find snowdrops and wild garlic in season. Keeping to the road today, I went through Hunworth and then Stody. I briefly joined the Dereham road but then turned onto the quieter lane to Melton Constable. I made a brief stop at Three Corners Plantation to look at the pond under the trees before continuing to Burgh Parva 'tin church' with the ruins of the original St Mary's Church in the churchyard. A recently repaired bench invites you to sit and rest. I made my way on to Guestwick church, where I stopped to enjoy *The Creation Window*, made by a village resident and artist who "wished to celebrate the natural world around us". The church is home to a colony of bats, but the sunny porch is a clean place to sit

Many lanes in this area are good for wildflowers: primroses, violets, orchids, bluebells and many more. Brays Lane, which goes north from the church to Briston, is particularly good for flowers and much of it is designated as a Roadside Nature Reserve (RNR). Despite this, early last summer the verges were cut very short, I reported this to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) who complained to Norfolk County Council and I hope not to find the verges cut until the flowers have seeded. Before I reached Briston, I turned onto Mill Lane for another RNR. Very boggy woodland borders this potholed lane, orchids and fungi are found in season.



I returned to Holt by Edgefield, Hempstead and High Kelling. I stopped briefly at Selbrigg Pond to enjoy the wildlife - water and woodland birds, and, if you're lucky, a kingfisher, and if you're very lucky, otters. There's plenty of room to park and a comfortable log to sit on, if it's not already occupied by other nature lovers.

**Angela Mason**

















# News from Churches

## Holt

At Holt during lent we shared in bible study using the book The Nail. This brought about lots of discussion and was extremely thought provoking. Holy week and Easter Day was a busy but blessed time. We shared in Reflections on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

On Maundy Thursday we shared Communion and blessed each other by the washing of hands (realising most of us would find it difficult to get down to wash each others feet).

Good Friday started with Hot Cross buns followed by a short Service and then, those able, joined with members of St Andrew's Parish church on a procession of witness through Holt High Street beginning and ending with a short time of worship.

On Easter Sunday we had an early start with a Sunrise Service on Spout Hills followed by communion and full English breakfast. A wonderful and blessed time was had by all. A big thanks goes to Revd Jonny for making this such a special time.



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## Mattishall

In March we hosted the annual World Day of Prayer service prepared by Christian women from Nigeria. We were assisted by Frances Middleton, a local preacher in the Norwich Methodist Circuit. During the service we were joined by Rev Matthew Olanrewaju and his wife Elizabeth from Chapelfield Road Methodist Church who, over refreshments, shared experiences of life in Nigeria where they originated from.

On Good Friday we joined with other village Christians on the Walk of Witness where hymns, readings and prayers were shared. It started at the Evangelical Church and finished at the Parish Church where fellowship, hot cross buns and hot drinks were enjoyed.

The joint Bible Study with Garvestone chapel continued studying Elijah after a break for a Lent Course.

# Litcham

It's always interesting to think of a subject to write about for our article in The Link. Will people find it interesting? Will anyone read it? This month, I have decided to write about cake!!!

It had never occurred to me until recently how important cake is to us all. When you take a look at a lot of social activities, they involve cake!! Christmas cake, Easter cake, birthday cake. We go out for coffee and cake and I don't know about you, but there's nothing nicer than a sit down and a chat after your Sunday service with a cup of coffee (or tea) and a slice of home made cake.

We have recently held a very successful coffee morning to raise funds for the Air Ambulance and I am delighted to say we raised just over £500, the event was so successful that we have decided to make this our fundraising project for this year. What was the main item available to share on the day, of course, CAKE!!

Our next event will be our Cream Tea that will take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00 pm. You will be able to share in some amazing homemade scones, plain, cheese or fruit along with jam and cream, butter and maybe a cheeky relish, along with a lovely cup of tea or coffee. We will also provide some fun entertainment. Tickets for this event are £5.00 each and are available from Maria on 07552 354225. Book and reserve your space as soon as possible. You never know there may also be a sneaky cake or two !!

As I am writing this, we have just celebrated Easter. This is such a special time and I would suggest the most important weekend in the Christian calendar. We had a lovely ecumenical Palm Sunday walk around Litcham and our annual walk of Witness on Good Friday from Tittleshall to Litcham. Of course we finished the walk with a lovely hot cup of coffee or tea and hot cross buns (cake!).

We read in 1 Chronicles 16:3:  
'Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each Israelite both man and woman.'

This was a very important offering given by David following a blessing in the name of God.

When you next eat a slice of cake, remember its importance, remember the positive effect it could have on someone. It is not simply an act of eating but potentially an act of sharing and caring. Who could you share a slice of cake with today?

Come and visit us at Litcham  
Arrive at our door and you will be met with  
Kindness and a welcoming smile that will be available to  
Each and every person.



# Saham Hills

I am writing this on Easter Monday April 6<sup>th</sup> and it seems only a short time ago I was writing about Remembrance Sunday, where does the time go.

Andrew Fielding started our holy week with a very welcome communion service on Palm Sunday, it was lovely to see Andrew and Jenny again in our chapel and to have a chat over tea and biscuits after the service.

The following week Sue Lloyd kindly came to lead us for our Easter Day Service, she was here for Mother's Day too. We do appreciate the help we receive from all the preachers who visit us, thank you.

As usual we decorated the chapel with flowers, suitable for the occasion, a donkey on a laurel strewn floor for Palm Sunday but for Easter Sunday Elizabeth treated us to probably the last of her artistic, theatrical draped settings for the altar and porch.



Marian and I enjoy our flower sessions in the quiet chapel chatting and putting the world to rights, but as we are losing Elizabeth to her new venture in Yorkshire we may have to get more adventurous. We will all miss Elizabeth a lot, some of our congregation have known her for a long, long time; the chapel too will feel the loss of her presence after so many years attendance and enthusiasm along with her late husband Peter. We wish her well, she loves the hills and the Lake District, the peace and quiet of countryside and I am sure she will be walking some quiet country routes. Though perhaps not Wainwright's Seven Peaks!!

Our Hot Cross Bun coffee morning on Maundy Thursday went very well, Rev. Neil and young Alex paid us a visit and got recruited to fold raffle tickets, every little helps with so few of us and it was a very enjoyable morning with a lot of happy chatter and a nice start to the Easter weekend.

We are looking forward to our Anniversary Weekend on June 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>, 150 years of our chapel in Saham Hills. We have a lot of archive photos and literature which makes interesting reading that will be on display both days and Neil is taking our Anniversary Service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am.

We would love to see any members of other chapels over the weekend if you could make the journey, although we are tucked away and quite far from most of you, we are quite near to Watton . All will be most welcome.

**Dot McIlroy**

# Swaffham

## **Mothering Sunday**

It was such a wonderful and encouraging sight to see our church 'bursting at the seams' for All-Age Worship on Mothering Sunday when we welcomed our town's Brownies and Guides, their leaders and also their families. As one of our members was heard to say, it did a lot to lower the average age of our congregation – at least for one day! Sadly, the Scouts were unable to attend on this occasion but we would have squeezed them in – somehow! We were pleased that two of the Guides took part in the service by reading the Gospel reading from Luke and all of the Guides and Brownies helped to give out our Mothering Sunday posies of daffodils – once again, kindly and generously donated by Sheila, Elizabeth and Rachael Laws.

Revd Neil led us in an inclusive and 'young-people-friendly' act of Holy Communion during the service which several of our visitors took part in. As another of our members remarked after the service, this may have been the only time these young people and their families will have had the act of communion and its significance explained to them. We continue to pray that seeds may have been sown that morning which, at the right time one day, will grow and flourish.



## **Shrove Tuesday 'Soup and Sweet Lunch'**

We were absolutely delighted that so many people came to our Soup and Sweet Lunch on Shrove Tuesday – we just hadn't anticipated that everyone would turn up all at once! We were really pleased to welcome familiar friends and faces from our own church and community, as well as from other churches across the circuit and also a number of 'new faces' who joined us. There was a real 'buzz' in the church, a lovely atmosphere and people seemed to enjoy the occasion, but we apologise again to those people who had to wait longer than we would have wished for their lunch – it was a really busy time and we did our best to keep up!

Many thanks to everyone who came along or helped and supported us in any way at all – it was much appreciated.

What a joy to be able to transform the Cross of tragedy into the Cross of Triumph on Easter Sunday. Hallelujah! Christ is risen!



# Sculthorpe & Fakenham

We started our Mothering Sunday celebrations by putting our prayers on the prayer tree. Praying for those things closest to our hearts; family, friends, the world with it's many problems.

We then had four readings about mothers and families in different parts of the world. The congregation were each given a plant and a bookmark, as were those who could not attend and members of the community.

Seb Bell was our speaker with a very thoughtful message. £100 was sent to All We Can.



Our coffee morning was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> March. It was great to greet friends from the village and the circuit.

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported us.

We raised £477.88 because of many peoples generosity of time, baking, making, tea-making and by being there.

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# Tittleshall

## Good Friday Walk of Witness

This year we walked from Tittleshall to Litcham, a distance of nearly 3 miles, which took us nearly an hour. We were spared heavy rain once again! The photo is taken at the halfway point, where we always stop for a brief rest and a prayer. Those unable to join us gathered in Litcham Chapel for a short service and did some crafting of small crosses before welcoming our arrival, with a hot drink and a hot cross bun (or two)

## Tittleshall Dog Show/Fête

Tittleshall Chapel is always represented at this event, which is being held on Sunday 9th August from 12:00 - 4:00pm on the Millennium Green. Find us selling modestly priced items and always ready for a chat on our 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' Stall!



## Wells

One of the joys of Wells is our strong Churches Together with our regular Wednesday morning Prayer & Praise being ecumenical. During Lent we hosted the Churches Together Lent lunch: a full house and over £300 raised for charity. We also joined in with shared Lent Study groups on John's gospel. And on Easter Sunday we were responsible for leading the dawn service at the lifeboat house at 6.30am and providing hot chocolate and hot cross buns afterwards for over 40 people.

Our Easter morning service was full of life and joy, a full house and the final dressing of our Lenten cross with flowers.



Looking ahead:

- May 24th worship for Pentecost will have a touch of a birthday party for the Christian Church and the world-wide Methodist Church.
- June 17th at 7pm will be the induction of a new rector in the parish church.
- August 1st to 9th is Carnival Week and we will host a Songs of Praise on the 9th.
- And further ahead: we are exploring putting solar panels on our roof partly to reduce our electricity bills but also to do our bit to save the planet.

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## Wendling

Wendling Chapel held its first Wedding for 35 years on September 6<sup>th</sup> 2025. This was for John Morter (Pam and Tony's) Grandson and Abby Dodds and was almost to the day that Jennifer Yaxley and Philip Morter celebrated their wedding in the Chapel 35 years ago.

It was lovely to see the Chapel full with the sun streaming in the windows onto the lovely floral decorations. Revd Derek officiated in his usual cheerful and friendly self. The rings were blessed on the family Bible and everyone happily joined in the hymn and responses. It was a very happy and joyous day for family and friends.



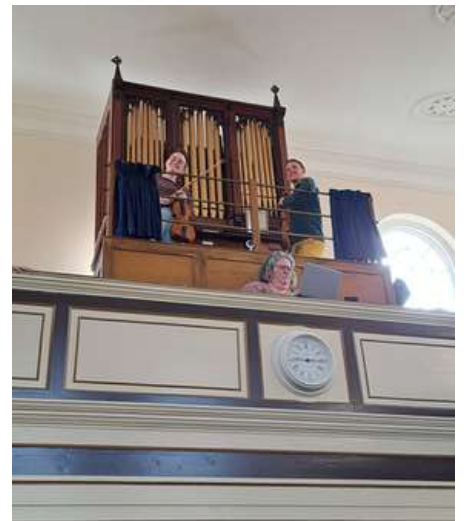
# Walsingham

Earlier this year I met with the new organisers of the Pilgrims Cross who walk on pilgrimage to Walsingham every Holy Week. This usually takes around 5 days and the groups come from various parts of the country staying at Churches and Chapels enroute. Groups stayed in Wells and Dereham Trinity and called in many other places for refreshments.

In anticipation of this Pilgrimage weekend I opened the Chapel on Good Friday at Little Walsingham and received 18 visitors who had come to Walsingham as it was Good Friday. Several said they had no faith as such but felt drawn to Walsingham. This led to some very interesting discussions on different aspects of faith and especially on the part women played in the life of Jesus and especially at his death. Another group were Catholics who were gently reminded -in response to their comment that Methodists were a different faith- that we were a different Christian denomination and we worshipped the same God. It was a good time listening to people from all walks of life and the chapel certainly offered space and quiet for everyone.

Just before 9.30am on Holy Saturday a number of members of the Northern group were waiting to be let in to the chapel to practice their worship. At 10.30am the service began with the haunting sound of two violinists playing (in front of the organ from the gallery) the 'Ashokan Farewell,' it set the scene for the moving narration that followed. At the end Ashokan Farewell was played again and then as requested everyone left in silence reflecting on the death of Jesus. They gathered outside and then walked off slowly together.

Easter Sunday came and Walsingham was full of cars. At 12noon the Pilgrim Cross groups left the Anglican Shrine after Mass and began the Holy Trot around the village. Two couples came separately into the chapel as I waited, interested in what was going on. The younger couple were very interested and the young man explained he was Orthodox, again sharing experiences together was great, I invited them to stay. Suddenly the sound of beautiful singing alerted us to the coming procession and then we were treated to a large procession and many lovely decorated crosses.



I was told afterwards that 207 people were involved with the weekend. The chapel was full upstairs and downstairs. As they left I received handshakes, hugs, and thanks they so appreciate using the chapel. Many are now friends. They processed singing, to Friday Market Place and the Church of the Annunciation where more singing and photos were taken and crosses viewed. Such joy that Jesus is alive, he rose from the dead, Alleluia.

From all that this weekend has shown me and with the school visits, lectures and ecumenical gatherings there is a place for Little Walsingham Methodist Church in the village, working alongside those of other denominations. I walk through the village in my red Methodist fleece, meeting people who usually return my greeting. Methodism is needed here it shows we can work together.

We also need to seek the future for Walsingham and pray that others will come forward to taken on the mantle, when we who try to lead this Heritage chapel in Mission feel or are unable to continue through age rather than willingness.

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## Watton

### Gifts and Celebrations in Watton

We started the year in Watton with a Valentine themed afternoon at Tuesdays @ 2. We made gifts for ourselves and others by creating a gift box from card and filling them with beautiful goat's milk soaps, some of which had a picture of a church embossed on them. As several people were ill and unable to attend, we worked hard to produce enough so that they could be delivered to the sick and housebound who were delighted to receive a gift to cheer them up.



In March we had a wonderful afternoon thinking about Climate Change and making some new cards from old cards. The results were amazing and everyone was pleased with their creation. There was a lot of chatter and laughter accompanied by tea and cake.

On Easter Saturday several members decorated the Church ready for Easter Sunday morning. We had a beautiful service conducted by Revd. Neil, and amazingly, some small chocolate eggs appeared with the coffee at the end of the service. We were privileged to have some children with us for the service which was a delight.



# Dates Around the Circuit

## Beetley

**Services:** 10.30am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
6pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

**Church Anniversary:** 12<sup>th</sup> July, 10.30am. Rev Derek Grimshaw with Holy Communion

**Big Sunday:** 10.30am on 30<sup>th</sup> August

**Drop-In:** 2 - 3pm. Wednesdays. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> August

**Knit 'n' Natter:** 2 - 3pm. Wednesdays. 24<sup>th</sup> June, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 26<sup>th</sup> August

**Coffee Mornings:** 9.30 - 11.30am. 25<sup>th</sup> July (25% to FoodBank)

## Dereham Trinity

**Services:** Every Sunday at 10.45 am

**Church Anniversary:** 21<sup>st</sup> June, 10.45am, led by Rev Derek Grimshaw

**Mid Week Communion:** 10.30 am. 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 6<sup>th</sup> August  
(Contact Jacky Woor 01362 697860)

**Lunch Club:** 12 noon. 11<sup>th</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 13<sup>th</sup> August  
(Contact Katharine Smith 01362 691225)

**Coffee Mornings:** 10 -11.30 am. 18<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 20<sup>th</sup> August  
(Contact Jacky 01362 697860)

**Cards & Chatter:** 10-12 noon. 25<sup>th</sup> June, 23<sup>rd</sup> July. (No meeting in August)  
(Contact Sylvia Meredith 01362 693425)

**Women's Own:** 2.15 pm. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> June. (No meetings in July & August)  
(Contact Olwyn Brough 01362 692799)

**Coffee Morning:** 10-12 noon. 30<sup>th</sup> July  
at the home of Sylvia and Richard Meredith (Contact 01362 693425)

## Fulmodeston

**Services :** 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 2.30pm.

**Harvest Festival:** 6<sup>th</sup> September. Preacher - Mrs Avril Temple

## Garvestone

**Services: Every Sunday at 6pm, except 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday which is a United Service either at the Chapel or Parish Church (see plan for more information)**

**Prayer Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, 2pm at Garvestone.**

**Bible Study: Every Thursday afternoon - please speak with Andrew Durrant if you'd like to attend: 01362 858033.**

## Gressenhall

**Services: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 2.30pm.** Followed by light refreshments

## Hingham

**Services: Every Sunday at 10.30am**

**Coffee Shop with stalls: 10am - 12noon. 6<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup> August**

## Holt

**Services: Every Sunday at 11am**

**Friday Prayer Time: 9.30am on Fridays**

**Afternoon Teas: 2 - 4pm. 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the month until building work starts**

**Bible Study: Thursdays. 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> July**

## Litcham

**Services: Every Sunday at 9.30am**

**Coffee Mornings: Every Thursday 10.30am - 12noon**

**Bible Study: 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays at 10am**

**Cream Tea: 27<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm**

## Mattishall

**Services: Every Sunday at 2.30pm**

**Weekly Bible Study: Thursdays at 2pm. Alternating with Garvestone Methodist Church (Contact Fred on 01362 850750 for venue)**

## New Holkham

**Services: 28<sup>th</sup> June, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> August**

Ring Beryl on 01328878383 to arrange access to our church, as it is in Holkham Park.

## Saham Hills

**Services: Every 1st & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 10.30am**

**Heritage Anniversary 150 Years: 13 -14<sup>th</sup> June**

**Coffee Morning: 13<sup>th</sup> September. 10am - 12noon. Open for Bike Ride Contestants.**

## Tittleshall

**Services: Most Sundays at 9.30am. Occasional Joint Services at Litcham.**

**Coffee Mornings: 10.30am - 12noon. Every Wednesday**

## Sculthorpe & Fakenham

**Services: Every Sunday at 11am**

**Service of Talents: 28<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm. Speaker Rev Jonny Bell**

**Chapel Open: 27<sup>th</sup> June. 2 - 5pm. Come and view the handicrafts**

**Coffee Morning: 5<sup>th</sup> September. 10am - 12noon in the village hall.**

## Swaffham

**Services: Every Sunday at 10.45am followed by refreshments**

**Big Sunday: 10.45am, 30<sup>th</sup> August**

**Church Anniversary: 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**The Meeting Place Drop-In: 10am - 12noon. Every Tuesday**  
Free refreshments. Warm welcome for everyone.

**Power of Prayer Group: 9.30am. Fridays. (Contact 07468518084 for venue)**

**Church Coffee Mornings: 9.30am - 12noon. 6<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup> August**

**N.B No Swaffham Friendship Group until 10<sup>th</sup> September**

## Toftwood

**Services: Every Sunday at 11am (Bring & Share Lunch on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in month)**

**Weekly Lace Group: 9.30 - 12noon. Every Monday**

**Carpet Bowls: 1.45 - 4pm. Every Thursday**

**Coffee Shop & Stalls: 10am - 12noon. 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month.**

**Strawberry Afternoon Tea: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm**

**Toftwood Summer Show: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August (Time TBC)**

## Walsingham

**Services: 2nd Sunday of the month 4.30pm followed by a meal. All Welcome.**  
14<sup>th</sup> June, 12<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> August

## Watton

**Services: Every Sunday at 10.30am (mostly live-streamed)**

**Evening Services: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 6.30pm**

**Church Anniversary Service: 5<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am**

**Coffee Mornings: 9.30am - 11.30am. Every Wednesday in the Methodist Centre.**  
Delicious refreshments and a friendly welcome to all.

**Tuesdays at Two: 2pm. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of the month at Methodist Centre.**  
Suitable for all abilities with afternoon tea included.

9<sup>th</sup> June - Rosettes

14<sup>th</sup> July - Felt Teapots

## Wells

**Services: Every Sunday at 11am**

**Songs of Praise: 9<sup>th</sup> August**

## Wendling

**Services: 10.30am. 21<sup>st</sup> June, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 16<sup>th</sup> August**

## Circuit Dates

**Circuit Meeting: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 7.15pm at Swaffham**

# Regular Dates

Day 	 Activity	 Location	 Time
<b>Monday</b>	Weekly Lace Group	Toftwood MC	9.30am - 12noon
	Community Lunch	Wells	12 noon
<b>Tuesday</b>	The Meeting Place Drop-In	Swaffham MC	10 - 12noon
	Women's Own	Dereham Trinity MC	2.15pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Coffee Shop	Watton Centre	9.30am
	Coffee Morning	Tittleshall MC	10.30am - 12 noon
	Prayer & Praise	Wells	10.30am
<b>Thursday</b>	Coffee Morning	Litcham MC	10.30am - 12 noon
	Carpet Bowls	Toftwood MC	1.45 - 4pm
	Ecumenical Bible Study & Discussion Group	Garvestone /Mattishall MC	2pm
<b>Friday</b>	Prayer Time	Holt MC	9.30am
	Power of Prayer Group	Swaffham	9.30am

**If you have a prayer request, please contact Glyn Constantine  
glynandang@gmail.com**

# The Link Magazine

PRODUCED FOR THE CENTRAL NORFOLK CIRCUIT

Phone: 07736 467831



[www.centralnorfolkmethodistcircuit.org.uk](http://www.centralnorfolkmethodistcircuit.org.uk)



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