

August 2024

Paul, a Minister in the Methodist Church and by some quirk of divine providence, Superintendent of the West Norfolk Circuit;

To the hallowed Representatives and Guests of the East Anglia District Synod;

On behalf of the West Norfolk Circuit, we look forward to welcoming you to the Autumn Representative Gathering to be held at Downham Market Methodist Church.

The West Norfolk Circuit stretches from the North Norfolk coastline at Hunstanton and Heacham and through to the market towns of Kings Lynn and Downham Market. It includes some outstanding rural areas from Stanhoe and Dersingham in the East, to Clenchwarton and Terrington St Clement in the East to Wimbotsham, Hilgay with Southery and Feltwell in the South – a veritable banquet of churches of different sizes and traditions, but all seeking to serve their communities with the love and grace of God.

For the history buffs amongst us, Downham Market is one of the oldest market towns in Norfolk and the history of the town can be traced back to Saxon times. As you walk through town, you will be following in the footsteps of some notable names; Lord Nelson was said to have attended his first school here in the town with accounts of him creating paper boats during lessons and sailing them down the waste water gullies in the centre of town, on May Day 1646 King Charles I hid in an inn on High Street disguised as a clergyman in order to evade capture by Parliamentary Forces following the Battle of Naseby, and – of course – John Wesley passed through the area in October 1785 en route from Kings Lynn to London... there are, however, no records to say if he disguised himself as King Charles I as he travelled...

The railway arrived in Downham Market during October 1846 and is situated on the Fen Line that connects Kings Lynn to Cambridge and then onto London. It is only a short walk from the station up to the church so please do consider using the trains if you are able to do so. If you are not able to use public transport there is some parking available at church or within the carparks in town.

Refreshments will be served at the start and at the end of the day with drinks also available at lunchtime. Please feel free to bring your own food with you for lunch, although there are plenty of cafes and restaurants within close walking distance to the church if you wish to venture out of the building!

And so peace to you all until we meet again in September – see what large scruffy letters I use as I sign with my own hand..!



Paul Critchley
Superintendent Minister
West Norfolk Circuit