

METHODIST CHURCH, IPSWICH MUSEUM STREET

A town centre Christian church committed to enriching individual lives and the wellbeing of community



Prayer for our Church

We give you thanks, O God, for this Church to which we belong, the faith to which we bear witness and the fellowship that we offer. As we face the changes the future demands of us, may your Spirit challenge us to enlarge our vision of your Kingdom, binding us together as we step forward in faith in the service of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016

Minister: Revd Derek Grimshaw

Tel: 01473 805486

Website: <http://www.museumstreet.org.uk>

From The Vestry

As we move from Christmas to Burns Night and Chinese New Year the shops start preparing for Valentines Day, and that extra twist this year as we have a 29 day February.

So the theme of love comes to mind.

I subscribe to the daily meditations published by the Centre for Action and Contemplation and this year Fr. Richard Rohr's thoughts explore the theme of Love.

Fr Rohr started the year with a few fundamental statements about Christian love:

1. Love is the foundation of everything: "God is Love." 1 John 4:8
2. We love God by loving others: "Love one another as I have loved you." John 13:34
3. We love God by loving ourselves: "We love because God first loved us." 1 John 4:19
4. Love everything: "In the end, God will be all in all." 1 Corinthians 15:28

He proceeds to introduce the Love that goes far beyond infatuation and invites our full participation and surrender. In his words, "God is an event of communion. God is relationality itself. Love is a dynamic, a process. Love is an infinite, inclusive flow of giving and receiving." So God's life of love is being lived within us, we simply need to learn how to say yes to that life. The central practice in Franciscan mysticism is to remain in love (John 15:9). For only when we are eager to love can we see love and goodness in the world around us. As John says: "Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God . . . for God is love" (1 John 4:7-8). Such an amazing line and one that needs to be quoted every day not just on Valentines Day.

CHURCH DIARY

Wednesday 3 rd	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee
	12.30pm	Hot Potato Lunch and Talk, Speaker : Gary Newbury
Saturday 6 th	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee
	10.00am	Pastoral Committee
Sunday 7 th	10.45am	Rev Derek Grimshaw including Sacrament of Holy Communion
	5.00pm	Town Churches at Bramford Road
Monday 8 th	7.30pm	Finance Committee
Tuesday 9 th	7.30pm	Get Together – Abigail’s Film with Richard Vickerstaff and Janine Goulding
Wednesday 10 th	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee and a chat
Thursday 11 th	1.00pm	Lunch Time Concert “ Performers from Suffolk Festival ”
Saturday 13 th	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee and a chat
Sunday 14 th	10.45am	Paul Walker
Tuesday 16 th	2.00pm	Tea and Talk
Wednesday 17 th	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee
	10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 20 th	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee
Sunday 21 st	10.45am	Gloria Theobald
Monday 22 nd	7.30pm	Church Council
Tuesday 23 rd	12.30pm	Community Lunch
Wednesday 24 th	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee
Saturday 27 th	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee
Sunday 28 th	10.45am	Ray Sawyer

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Our Church Anniversary weekend is 12/13th March with a Supper with entertainment on Saturday 12th and our usual Sunday service at 10.45 a.m. Our preacher will be Rev David Jenkins and he will also supply the entertainment on the Saturday evening. I know many of you really enjoyed the entertainment and service he took a couple of years ago, so please put the date in your diaries. I'm sure more details regarding details of the Supper will be in the next Newsletter and/or the Notices.

Diana Sawyer

Resource Lobby

Some of you will recall that when the two front lobbies were redeveloped it was decided to designate the left hand one as the "resource" lobby and it was intended to house various items of information and a small church library. As so often happens, the various items of information never materialised but a considerable number of books were donated. Unfortunately, despite the books, the library never really took off either and I doubt if any one of them has been removed for at least five years.

The matter was discussed at our recent Church Life meeting when it was agreed that we would dispose of the books to some of Ipswich's charity shops. Before we do this, the books which include biographies, autobiographies, religious books, novels, sporting, childrens etc. will be on display in the church during February and anyone is very welcome to help themselves. Please have a look at the selection and take any that are of interest to you.

MAH

LENT CHALLENGE

Our President, Rev Steve Wild, has challenged us all to go teetotal for Lent. He is teetotal, like Ray, so I hope they are doing something else!! Anyway he is challenging those of us who do like a glass of wine or a beer/lager to give it up completely for Lent and give the equivalent money we would have spent to Action for Children. I'm sure Brian Pipe would be delighted to accept our money.

Please join me in this Challenge which will run from Ash Wednesday (10th February) to Good Friday (25th March).

Diana Sawyer

ONE DAY

With MHA to explore why later life matters.

**A one day conference at Central Hall Westminster £50.00
EARLY BIRD**

MONDAY 29TH FEBRUARY 2016

12.30 – 20.30

Including Evening Service of Celebration

Ticket only (no charge)

More details on the Notice Board

Thelma Clark

From the vestry February 2016

By now you will be thinking that the Christmas and New Year holidays are well past, and for the schools we are fast approaching half-term in this very short Easter Term. However, it is a good time to look back at our Christmas celebrations in Museum Street, and reflect on all that happened with some traditional times and some new events.

During the Advent period we used anew Advent Liturgy on each Sunday which was based on one found on the All We Can website. It helped us to focus on the prophecies of the Old Testament writers – Jeremiah, Malachi, Zephaniah, Micah and Isaiah – and their themes of hope, love, joy and peace. Also in Advent there were three Bible Studies looking at Mary, the mother of Jesus, John the Baptist, and Jesus himself, God Incarnate.

As usual, the Church was tastefully decorated, with the Christmas tree as the central focus. Each week during Advent additional items were added to complete the decorations. A number of people have commented how much they appreciated the efforts of those responsible – thank you.

In Christmas week itself we held a number of Celebrations, including the Carol Service, where we were thrilled to be joined by some members of the Deeper Life Bible Church who meet on our premises on Sunday afternoons. Some of their members sang two items which reflected their own celebration of Christmas, and members of Museum Street read the Bible lessons, with Derek giving a message for the festive period. We were able to talk after the service to some from DLBC, and they had then to return to their homes in London. We are grateful for their attendance and participation.

On Christmas Eve afternoon there was a Christingle Service, aimed mainly towards young people, and it is good to report that there was a good number of people in attendance, and about twelve younger children with parents and grandparents. It was especially pleasing to see one of the children, who had been baptised earlier in the year, with his mother. Derek brought his rocking chair where he sat to tell the story of the first Christmas. It was a lovely occasion and is likely to be repeated in future years. Thank you to Derek, Karen and others who made the Christingles which were distributed to members of the congregation.

Later on Christmas Eve there was the midnight communion service, and the following day morning service was held to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world as an infant. After the service, Chris and Maggie prepared Christmas lunch for those who would otherwise have been on their own. Although numbers were less than expected Chris and Maggie felt it was worthwhile doing. Thanks to you both.

So now the decorations have been put in their boxes for another year, we have moved through the end of 2015 and entered the new year of 2016. Life has returned to normal, whatever that might mean, and we wonder what this year will bring to each one of us. If it is not too late, we wish you a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Late addition. At the Church Life meeting on 18th January, the committee heard that some members of the Property Committee had met with Local Councillors to talk about the mayhem at the Remembrance Day Parade, and outline proposals regarding the verandah at the entrance to the building. At the Annual Meeting it is proposed that we look again at the timing of the Covenant Service – September or January. An invitation to preach at Museum Street is to be sent to Val Ogden, a Mission Partner working in Fiji, when she is home on furlough in September/October.

And so to the next time.....

Singing the Faith Day;
On Saturday 18th June 2016;
Trinity Methodist Church Felixstowe.

2pm -7pm

You are warmly invited to a day exploring the fantastic new music in 'Singing the Faith'. The session will be led by professional organist and choral director Robin Walker. Robin has recently taken on the role of Musical Director for Ipswich Choral Society and is both a "son of the manse" and a "husband of the manse"!! It will be a day full of music and offers something for people at every musical level.

So, whether you want to enjoy a good sing, encouragement to try the new music in 'Singing the Faith' or practical tips on how to keep your worship music fresh and interesting, there will be something for you.

Why not come for the day take in Fish and Chips along the seafront and join us at 2pm?

Comfort breaks and light refreshments provided.

The day concludes with a time of Worship and we close and depart at 7pm.

There is no set fee but a suggested donation of £5 to cover costs.

We hope you can come and join what promises to be a wonderful day of music and fellowship.

Please contact Anne Clarke for further details anne@ian-clarke.co.uk pho. 01394. 285305 .

SIX LITTLE STORIES

{1}

Once all villagers decided to pray for rain,
on the day of prayer all the people gathered,
but only one boy came with an umbrella.

That's FAITH

{2}

When you throw a baby in the air,
she laughs because she knows you will catch her

That's TRUST

{3}

Every night we go to bed,
without any assurance of being alive the next morning
but still we set the alarms to wake up.

That's HOPE

{4}

We plan big things for tomorrow
in spite of zero knowledge of the future.

That's CONFIDENCE

{5}

We see the world suffering,
but still we get married and have children.

That's LOVE

{6}

On an old man's shirt was written a sentence
'I am not 80 years old . . .
I am sweet 16 with 64 years experience.'

That's ATTITUDE

Have a happy day and live your life like the six stories!

The Life of the Church

Sunday Services

10.45 am Morning Service (creche available)

Holy Communion usually on the first Sunday Morning of each month and on the third Wednesday of each month at 10.00am

Baptisms and weddings by arrangement with the Minister

Weekly Events

Wednesday 10.00-11.30 am Come and join us for coffee and a chat

Saturday 10.00-11.30 am Come and join us for coffee and a chat

Other Meetings

Hot Potato Lunch and

Talk

First Wednesday of each month at 12.30pm

Get Together

Monthly Second Tuesday October to April at 7.30pm

Tea and Talk

Third Tuesday of the month 2.00pm except August

Youth activities

Please contact Chris and Maggie Finbow (680306)

Community Lunch

Fourth Tuesday of the month 12.30-1.30 pm except August

House Group

Monthly. Please contact Colin Westren (743724)

Items for the next Newsletter should be with Barbara Wearne by

Wednesday 17th February 2016

Email - msmcnewsletter@live.co.uk or barbwearne@hotmail.com