

The Link



December 2018



New Beginnings

Letter from the Editor

Well, here it is....the 2018 Christmas edition of the Link and my first attempt at editing!

A brief note of introduction.....my name is Julie Barrow, living in Upton, Gainsborough, with my long-suffering husband, Stuart. We have attended Upton Chapel since we moved to the village 14 years ago although I grew up in a Methodist family and subsequently became a member of the Methodist Church and here I am - a life time on.

At Chapel, we had the series of services based on Jonah during which time the request for a new Link Editor was circulated. I did the usual....kept my head down for as long as I could but, true to form, when the need comes, He reels me in!

The theme for this edition is ' New Beginnings', relevant for a new Editor and also for Christmas and the New Year. It is to be hoped that you, as church members, feel free to contribute your

own thoughts and articles to future copies of the Link in whatever form you are comfortable with. 'My Christian Journey' will be a regular feature where anyone can send in their Christian experiences for inclusion. It is felt that this may be an inspiration to others starting out in their Christian life and an encouragement to those further along the path. I look forward to your support and reading your church's stories.

I would like to thank Louise and Sian for their encouragement and support in this new leap of faith and also everyone who has contributed.

I wish everyone in the Circuit a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Julie Barrow

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The dead line for the March issue is Friday 15th
February.

Theme: New Life - Easter

Pastoral Letter

Merry Christmas to one and all.

We wish that so often but we know that for some Christmas is not a happy or merry time, there may be memories of those Christmases as children that did not match up to the ideal in the adverts or others homes.

There may be memories of those who are not with us for the first or for many times

There may be changes that make us fear Christmas, in financial terms or in lives or abilities.

There is a great deal of pressure to produce the perfect Christmas.

This year at Upton we have sent Mary & Joseph on a journey around the village. They are dependent on people offering their homes, and they are travelling in hope. The perfect Christmas is not about presents, tinsel or a great dinner nor even family together. It is about the hope & generous love God offers us. It is about a baby born in the midst of political turmoil,

travelling at the whim of an oppressor, seeking shelter and finding hospitality in the barest of places. This God did not wait until we had sorted everything to God's satisfaction: God came, in the midst of human mistakes & problems.

God came & dwells with us in the midst of our humanity today as then.

So have a blessed Christmas, conscious of the God who comes & brings hope, love & peace into every home & place
journey of hope and hospitality our Mary & Joseph are taking is a reminder of the fragile way in which God chose to enter the world.
Here is the centre of the perfect Christmas: God came, dependent & fragile, entering the reality of human life.

Rev Louise Carr





My Christian Journey



I hope you will find my story interesting.

Possibly like many of our readers, I was brought up by practising Methodists, themselves from Christian backgrounds – a maternal uncle was a Methodist minister working as a missionary with his family in China until the expulsion of the Christians in the early 20th century. I attended chapel 3 times on Sundays, as did most of my childhood friends. Faith was sorely tested after the death of my father in a car accident when I was 10 years old. However, Choir practise and Junior Guild was followed later by Sunday School Teacher, Youth Club and Christian Youth activities.

When I left the town to train as a Primary School teacher in Leeds, I decided to go my own way and have a break from “religion”. My best friend at college, it transpired, took herself off to the local Chapel on a Sunday morning – her father also being a local preacher in the Scunthorpe Circuit. No escape for me then! Still reluctant to be drawn back in, I carried on making life decisions, some good, some bad. I can so relate to Jonah!

Following a major spiritual experience in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, which in retrospect was a turning point for me, my life was turned around – I married my husband who has been at my side ever since, and had 2 children. Living in Cambridgeshire at this point, a chapel needed a Sunday School Teacher while the current one was on maternity leave – or it would have to close. Yes, you’ve guessed it. After several weeks of excuses I was reeled in and also joined a church choir.

The next move was to Northamptonshire where we joined the local ecumenical church run jointly by Methodists and Anglicans. I joined the church singing group and Bible study group led by the evangelical curate and his wife, played the piano for, and subsequently led, the Mums and Toddler midweek service. I was to experience a deeper understanding of the power of the Spirit at this time, attending both small and larger church meetings where people sang from the heart, spoke in tongues and laid on hands.... the atmosphere was electric.

On returning to Gainsborough, I was reeled in yet again! Another Sunday School teacher was needed at St. Andrew's. Youth club leader and choir member followed. It seemed God had plans for me and wasn't going to let me go so easily. On moving to Upton, we were welcomed to the village and chapel with a card through the letterbox sent by our late friend, Janet Hutchinson.... And so here I am, 14 years on, surrounded by lovely people at our little chapel in Upton.

I still have doubts and questions about the depth of my faith and get cross when my prayers aren't answered in the way I would like. But God has clearly been walking with me and taking care of me, working through those dear to me and others I have met along the way. No doubt I will continue to be reeled in by Him when I'm needed and will do my best to make His light shine in this small corner of the world.

"Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night..."

Julie Barrow

Prayer and Praise at Caistor

We wanted to bring the church into a focus of prayer and praise – so after praying together decided to form a regular act of worship, with the blessing of Sarah. We are avid fans of the Christian TV channel TBN UK on freeview 65 and had been inspired by the regular TBN Play programme which keeps up with all the contemporary worship music and so decided to mix old and new worship together.

Prayer has always been a personal focus for Mac and I and a few years ago, while attending a New Wine conference at Shepton Mallet, I was anointed by the Holy Spirit to pray for healing and on talking and praying with my church friend, Jane, discovered that she, too, had had a similar anointing and so we also work as a team to give people the opportunity to have a quiet time of prayer for healing at the end of each service.

We ask people to give requests for worship songs and are happy to sing a wide range of hymns and songs – for example How Great thou art, Lord of all hopefulness, Shall we gather at the river, and then Hillsong worship, Kristene Dimarco(Bethel music) Jesus Culture, Planet Shakers, Tim Hughes, Matt Redman, to name just a few! We have been meeting for a year now and the congregation is steadily growing. We have also had some wonderful feedback, from church members and the outside community, of answered prayers.

So, if you like to sing and enjoy praying, please come and join us. We meet in the church on the 4th Thursday in the month at 6p.m.

Any requests for songs or prayer can be sent to us by email at mac.james@btinternet.com or telephone 01472 851965.

Geraldine and Mac James, Jane Gibson, Caistor Methodist Church.

Lea

My Christian Journey

My name is Barbara Ingleton. I am a Methodist "Born and Bred".

I have attended the Methodist Church for 80 years, and when each church I went to closed I found myself some time ago at Lea Methodist Church until such time as it too would close.

Now we know it won't close as the church will now host a Retreat Centre for the community, district and beyond.

I enjoy my Sunday morning hour of peace and quiet which sets me up for the trial and tribulations of the following week.

It is a friendly church where we all "look out" for each other and I love it.

I have missed the Link since it hasn't been printed, so I am pleased that our friend Julie has agreed to take it on as the new editor.

I pass my Link on to a friend from John Robinson U. R. Church who is very interested in what goes on in the Circuit.

Every Blessing_

Barbara

Diary Dates

Dec 10th Prayer Shawl Fellowship 10-11am

Dec 13th Carols round the Christmas tree

Dec 16th Carol service at 2.30pm.

January 21st Prayer Shawl Fellowship 10-11am

Feb 18th. Prayer Shawl Fellowship 10-11am

Village Guild : Dec 20th Members' Christmas event. 2.15pm

Jan17 members lunch at Ferry house

Feb 21 Celia Lord, Lincoln Cathedral. 2.15pm

Misterton

Ecumenical Christmas Angels

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group at Misterton have worked with some of the ladies from the Parish Church to knit angels. The commissioning service for these angels will take place on 13th December at 10am in the school room where we meet for coffee every week. We have well over 150 now to distribute, here are just a few of them gathering, at our October meeting.



From the new year Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm and Women's Fellowship will meet at 2pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

The Reluctant Mince Pie!

The other evening I happened to see the Christmas advert for J Sainsbury, which features a children's nativity play. It immediately brought back memories of our first Shell Club nativity. The gist of the story was that there was to be a celebration and the tree had to be dressed. Children dressed as baubles and carried tinsel and stood around a large painted tree. Then the food was invited: a turkey, carrots, Christmas pudding etcetera were all called; each one paraded on stage and took their place next to the tree. Then it was time for the mince pie to take his place, (he was just two and a half) and when he was lifted onto the stage instead of going to stand with the others, he pulled his headdress off, ran down the steps and disappeared down the aisle to his dad.



There was something missing from the celebration- and it wasn't just the mince pie! We had forgotten to invite Jesus. As you celebrate Christmas this year, don't forget to invite the most important guest - our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Jo Kershaw

Local Preachers

Various matters of business come to our quarterly Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting, and I shall just write briefly about those in training as Local Preachers.

At our most recent Meeting in October, we agreed that Peter Broughton should be moved from On Note status to On Trial. This means that as of the December – February plan he ‘flies solo’, rather than being planned jointly with Mike Childs.

You will be aware of the ministry of our two other Local Preachers in training, Sue Brown and Christine Baker. Christine continues On Trial and Sue is coming to the end of her training. She has completed her course portfolio, which has been passed. Her final trial service will be on 13th January 2019, at Middle Rasen, and her final interview will be at our next meeting, on 17th January. There is a Circuit Service on 24th February next year, 6.00pm at Gainsborough. During this service we shall celebrate Sue’s recognition as a Local Preacher.

We rejoice that God is still calling people to be one of Mr Wesley’s preachers. If anybody out there believes God may be calling them to this ministry, please contact Louise – she will be pleased to hear from you.

Mike Childs

Market Rasen

Diary Dates

10th December Rotary Club Carol Service at 7.00 p.m.

16th December Christmas Lunch

23rd December Carol and Coffee Service at 2 p.m. in the afternoon

25th December Service with Middle at Market Rasen

30th December Service at Middle Rasen

On Monday morning we run a Coffee Club open to all between 9.15 and 11.15

On Tuesday afternoons we have a Carpet Bowls session from 2 – 4 p.m. all welcome

On Wednesday Morning we hold a Toddler Group from 9.15 – 11.15 a.m.

The Toddler sessions are held during term time but not on the 3rd

Wednesday in the month

when a prior engagement by the Dementia Support Group is held.

Jenny Margetson



Upton



Posada 2018

What is Posada?

Posada is an old Mexican tradition during which 'Mary and Joseph' travelled from house to house in the locality, asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of God's son, Jesus. This happened during the weeks of Advent, leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place the figures of Mary and Joseph in the stable and a representation of the baby Jesus in the manger.

Upton Methodist Church's contemporary Posada will use representations of the Nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who will travel from house to house around the villages of Upton and Kexby, staying with pre-agreed hosts for one night. This will give the 'host' the chance to create their own unique history with photographs and an A4 size diary page account of their stay.

What is involved?

Mary and Joseph will set off on their journey from Upton Methodist Church from the service at 10.30am on 02 December.

There will also be an ecumenical Carol Service at Upton Methodist Church on 16 December at 6pm

Mary and Joseph will return to the Methodist Church on 23 December 10.30am for All Age Worship when all are welcome to share in their journey's end. All ages are invited to dress in Nativity costumes for this service... or simply come as you are.

Karen Elvidge

[Facebook page: Upton Posada – please like and share!](#)

North Kelsey

I have just returned from our annual pre-Christmas event "With Christmas In Mind". Our visitors were mainly from Middle and Market Rasens + folk from surrounding villages but not a lot from our village! We have raised £400 in 2 hours which just whizzed by.

Our regular Open House event takes place every 2nd Monday when we welcome folk from the village and around who come for a chat over tea/coffee and homemade cakes. We are usually joined by friends from All Hallows as well as regulars from our own church. We are in the process of planning our annual Community Carol Service, "Jesus Light* of the World", which will be at All Hallows on 23rd December at 6 00pm.

Another event which makes us think well ahead is our annual involvement with the 'World Day of Prayer' movement. The 1st March 2019 event has been prepared by the Christian women of Slovenia. This again is a great opportunity to share the preparation and presentation with our Anglican friends.

*Let us hope that we all see Christ's light shining wherever we are in the weeks ahead.
Blessings from us all at North Kelsey

Midge Thomas

Glentham

Praise the Lord for the past events we have so enjoyed here at Glentham, our prayers are always centred on 'is what we do in His name bringing glory to God'

We pray it does and will.

Significant for us was enabling Jen to travel to Ukraine in August with Sidedoor Church to experience life with other Christians and help her realise 'we are all one in Christ Jesus'.

The Crown, in which we have held Men's' Breakfast over the past ten years closed requiring a change in venue and much prayer as to whether we continue or not. Having been welcomed at the Bottle & Glass in Normanby-by-Spital we are continuing to meet every second Saturday. Men!! (Sorry ladies) please come and join us for a great breakfast and interesting talks.

The ladies have spent a great deal of time knitting poppies to be given to the children at Hemswell Cliff primary school. It was our privilege to offer to each child a hand knitted poppy together with a copy of St John's Gospel (1st World reprint) and the specially commissioned booklet 'Silence'. This was repeated at Normanby school less the poppies.

Looking ahead, we are knitting angels for Christmas, distributing 300 copies of the Good News newspaper and 200 copies of Hope magazine around Hemswell Cliff, Glentham and Normanby and of course celebrating the most wonderful event the world has ever known, the arrival of God on earth as a human baby.

Happy and Blessed Christmas to all from Glentham Chapel

Future dates to note

Men's breakfast - Sugar & Spice

Dec 8th ---

Jan 12th 19th

Feb. 9th 16th



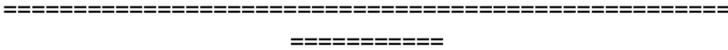
Thank you so much to everyone who supported my Trip
to Ukraine.

Jen's Ukraine Trip Presentation

Glentham Chapel

Saturday 8th December at 6pm

Followed by Tea/Coffee & Cake



Middle Rasen Methodist Church

Welcomes you

to a service of

Praise and Worship for the Epiphany

Sunday 6th January 2019 at 3pm

led by

Ian Hardcastle and Jane Lloyd, together with Ray
Wylie



The Christmas Gift

Put behind you all your worries, your sadness and your pain,
The Christmas season full of joy, Is with us once again.
Dust off the tree, the decorations and the twinkling lights
Take a trip down Lincoln high street, to see the festive sights.
Buy your presents secretly, Wrap them well,
So no-one knows, the gifts you have in mind for them,
Tied up with pretty bows,
For 'tis the time of year for giving, for love and peace on earth.
'Tis the time the world remembers, a little baby's birth.
So long ago in Bethlehem, the angels came to say
To shepherds and to wise men,
Christ is born today
The Son of God, the Saviour, of men and women everywhere
If they just accept Him at His word
And talk to Him through Prayer.
For that child grew up to be a man and die upon a tree,
Where He took upon Himself, Our guilt,
The sins of you and me.
Now He walks beside us down life's way,
He listens for our call.
Will you not make this Christmas the most beautiful of all?
As you pass around those presents, Chosen with great care
Give one to Him whose birthday we celebrate and share.
But if you're not sure which he'd like, and you wonder what to
bring
Then just give your heart to Jesus,
Your Saviour and Your King.

Peter Atkinson

