



in Christ
with Christ
for Christ



Signs of new life-



Praying for renewal in our Church

Newsletter
February 2024

Reaching Out and Bringing Hope

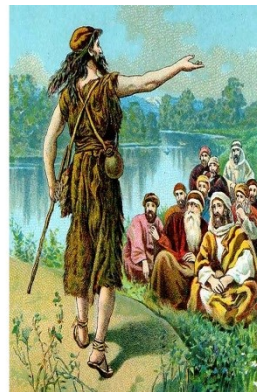
Dear Friends,

As I am writing this letter to you, a new year has just begun. The year 2024 is here with all its opportunities, challenges, hopes and dreams. As I look out of the study window on an early January morning the sun is shining, helping us through the winter season and pointing us towards the spring.

Each season, of course, has its own beauty and speaks to us in many ways, each being as important as the other. As spring comes into view we begin to see small splashes of colour here and there, the snowdrop perhaps the first to push up through the cold wet earth followed by daffodils, tulips and tree blossom. Small splashes of colour transforming the black and grey landscape of winter, drawing us onward with hope, encouragement and a renewed spark of life in the centre of our being.



I would like you to hold onto that image of splashes of colour on a grey landscape as I turn to scripture and to John's gospel. The account of the ministry of John the Baptist is recorded by all four gospel writers, but it is to John's gospel, the fourth gospel that I turn. Here we find the writer of the gospel showing how John was completely focused on his ministry of preparing the way for the Messiah. He was focused on being a witness to the light and not tempted to step into the limelight and take it for himself, focused on showing people the way to Jesus and not tempted to gain followers for himself. His ministry was to not only prepare people's hearts to receive the Messiah when he arrived but also to help them discover his presence in their midst, Immanuel God with us, there for all to see and know.



So once Jesus began his public ministry, we find John pointing him out to people. In the first chapter of John's gospel the writer records twice how John points Jesus out; verse 29 'The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!..." ' Then verse 35 'The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by he said "Look, the Lamb of God!" '. But it is in

chapter 3 where we find John really clarifying the situation. A discussion had begun between some of John's disciples about Jesus now attracting the attention of many people and John's reply in Chapter 3 verse 28-30 "You yourselves can testify that I said, "I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him". The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine and it is now complete. He must become greater and I must become less."

These are John the Baptist's final words recorded in John's gospel. They are words of humility and service, words that are at the forefront of his call from God. These characteristics of humility, service and a focus on his call and ministry are also seen in the person of Jesus; his teaching, his signs and miracles and ultimately his passion, death and resurrection. To walk with Christ, to be his follower and disciple, to be willing to journey with him wherever that journey may take you means embracing the attitude that John had. To place others before ourselves, to hold before us the need to seek forgiveness, reconciliation and peace, to offer compassion and justice, to tread gently and carefully in the lives and souls of others in our midst and with whom we meet day by day. In doing so we will be bringing the signs of 'Spring' into people's lives, we will be offering splashes of colour here and there bringing transformation, hope, encouragement and a renewed spark of life in others but also within ourselves.

I will follow Jesus Christ



May God's love and peace be with you as you continue your journey in 2024.

Rev Margaret

Action For Children



A big Thank You to Jean Pridgeon for producing a Quiz. £70.00 has already been raised, but there are still some quiz sheets left if you have not already purchased yours at a cost of £2.00.

Closing date is 10th March. Quiz Sheets available from Gwenda Burgin

Prayers for February

February sees the beginning of Lent, a time when we walk with Jesus through the wilderness perhaps simplifying our busy lives a little in order to focus more on him. Through our prayers this month, written by Dr Deidre Homer, we reflect on the need to give of ourselves in order to act for God to meet the needs of those around us.

Call to action

The Israelite prophet Micah said: "What does the Lord require of you? Only to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."



God of mercy and source of justice,
pour on your people such love and compassion that
we cannot remain silent,
we cannot tolerate injustice and poverty.

As your grace fills our hearts so may we be stirred
into action

to demonstrate your love for all the world and for all creatures that live and
move on this earth.

Prayer of Confession

Forgive us Lord for our apathy, for our lack of courage to speak out.

Forgive us when we walk past and don't offer help.

Forgive us when we get it wrong.

We confess that we are afraid -

we don't want to overcome our hidden doubts and prejudices in order to be
alongside those who are different from ourselves.

We ask that you would lead us into action: give us strength to be a voice
crying for justice and peace.

Help us to step into another person's shoes, or, if they have no shoes,
then not to be afraid to take off our own,

peel off our preconceptions and assumptions,

uncurl and spread out our toes, and tread in their footprints.

May we be a liberating presence and offer love, compassion
and whatever is needed

to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

Amen

**The Prayer Time of "Churches Without Walls" at St James' Church
House from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.**

The following dates are on Thursdays, 25th Jan, then 8th and 22nd February

All are welcome to attend.

Deacon James Hunter

Church Family News

Sadly and recently we have lost two members of our Church Family.

Shirley Vickers died earlier in January at Stewton House; her funeral was at Alford Crematorium on Monday 22nd January.

Colin Wooding died in hospital on Sat, 13th January. Colin was a steward and also worked hard for our church, applying for grants for our renovation work. His funeral will be on Monday, 12th February at Louth Methodist Church.

Our thoughts and prayers go to both families at this time.



Property and Finance update

Things never stand still with P & F – with a building the size and age of ours there is always something else to be done, and a new (or old!) thing to spend money on. For many years God has been gracious, and through generous giving and careful stewardship we have always been able to make ends meet. Currently we are looking to purchase a replacement water heater for the one in the kitchen that has just expired, and—a bigger project—fix various parts of the roof that leak.

Would you believe it can take 5 or 6 hours to prepare a Sunday service? Not just prayer and meditation, but also designing slides, typing up the words to songs, and transposing and copying music. P & F would like to support these activities by buying licences and software to speed up these processes, including access to all the words from Singing the Faith.

If you think you can help with any of the above either with a one-off donation or by increasing your regular giving, then please speak to Nancy Cartwright. She would be delighted to show you how you can help to enrich the life of our church!

Chris Rolph on behalf of the Property Committee

We carry on with our series on **“Our Christian Journey”** by different members of our church. This month it is the turn of Ros Malyon



I was born into one of Lincolnshire’s many Methodist farming families with deep church connections. My mother’s great-uncle was a local preacher of such long standing and renown that his family jokingly referred to him as the Bishop of Grimsby, and my paternal great grandfather was one of the founder members of the Riverhead Mission in Louth. I sometimes feel I have a lot to live up to, especially as my paternal grandfather and my mother both also became very long serving local preachers.

As a child I lived on the edge of South Cockerington, but our life was centred in Saltfleetby, which had no fewer than three Anglican and three Methodist churches. We attended the former Wesleyan chapel next to what is now the village football field, where as children we had annual sports day on the afternoon of Easter Saturday. Easter weekend for me will always be associated with our Sunday School Anniversary celebrations, when we presented a themed event on Easter Sunday afternoons known as The Demonstration, with recitations, solos and so on. Afterwards we were all presented with our annual attendance prizes, and I always enjoyed spending the rest of the afternoon relishing both my new book and my Easter eggs, wearing the new dress I always had for the occasion!

Chapel and Sunday School were a big part of our childhood lives, with more excitement over the annual Nativity Play, summer coach trips to Skegness, “proper” village Harvest Festivals without a tin in sight, and of course taking part in the annual Circuit Youth Festival, held at Nichol Hill. The stage which then existed in Hall One seemed enormous to a child from a small village chapel!

We attended the village school in Saltfleetby, which was a Church of England establishment, so we were regularly visited by the Rector, drilled in the Catechism, and taken en masse to church services on Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day. In those days the C of E services seemed very strange to a child used to the Methodist “hymn and prayer sandwich”, particularly the intoned psalms and having to use a prayer book which invited us to pray for the King, who had actually died a few years previously! These days, of course, the congregation at Saltfleetby is an ecumenical one, and uses only one of the original six church buildings, St Peter’s. It still holds many memories for me, as my grandson was baptised there, using a little font which my father bought for the Methodist chapel for my baptism, and which

was placed inside the ancient font at St Peter's for Henry's special day many years later.

As a teenager, I joined the Crusaders Youth Club in Louth, a very large group which met every Friday evening at Nichol Hill and was led by Basil Coxon. We were encouraged to attend the Sunday evening service too, and met afterwards in one of the upstairs rooms for coffee and chat. Basil also took us to the famous MAYC London Weekends, where we took over the Albert Hall for various events, including a huge show on the Saturday afternoon, which consisted of a variety of acts performed by clubs from all over the country. We joined forces with the Grimsby Weelsby Road Club one year to put on a dance and mime based on the music of Fingal's Cave, echoing Grimsby's fame as a fishing town. Some of us were fishermen, others fish- I was a herring, complete with silver face paint! Many years later I discovered that my future husband had been in the act which preceded ours, so MAYC really did live up to its unofficial title of Marriage Agency for Young Christians.

After school, I went to Manchester University, where I became an active member of MethSoc, which met at the wonderfully titled Oddfellows Hall! This was another eye opener for someone used to village and small town life. Amongst many other things, I learned how to make banana and honey sandwiches, a favourite at our Sunday afternoon teas before the evening service, and met a lot of future ministers, as the Hartley Victoria Methodist Training College was in the same part of Manchester. We had weekends away, partly study events and partly social, and even took a group of children from a very deprived area of Manchester away for a seaside holiday. This was in the era where discussions were taking place about union between the Church of England and the Methodist Church, and we had weekly joint meetings and midweek communion services with the University Anglican Fellowship, which helped to broaden all our horizons. As part of my university course I spent a year in Madrid, where I attended the services at the Anglican Church, a comparatively staid "bells and smells" congregation full of diplomatic families. No morning coffee after the services there- all over the road to a convenient bar for a pre-lunch aperitif! Another eye opener....

After becoming a teacher I moved around for work. My first job was in Ipswich, which then seemed quite a conservative area even to someone from Lincolnshire! I lived practically next door to an Anglican church, whose bell ringers woke me every Sunday morning, so for a while I joined their congregation. I then moved to St Albans, where I was having difficulty organising accommodation. My mother suggested I contacted the local Methodist Minister. He and his wife didn't actually find me a flat, despite their best efforts, but did invite me along to their church, where there was thriving

group for young adults who had outgrown MAYC. Known as the Saints and Sinners, it was led by one of the most inspirational Christians I have ever known, and it was there that I met my husband. It says much that many of that original group are still in touch after all these years- a wonderful example of Christian friendship and lasting fellowship. A few years down the line we moved to Bath, and flirted briefly with modern evangelical Anglicanism at the church nearest our house. This was a lovely, lively, young congregation, but it was in the era where the C of E were very divided over the ordination of women, which I found very hard to deal with, so we eventually reverted to Methodism, and that's where I have stayed!

Back in Louth, we received a warm welcome at Nichol Hill, where our girls enjoyed various youth groups, and we all went to one of the last MAYC weekends in London, where they followed in their parents' footsteps and took part in the Albert Hall show. I eventually gave in to requests to become a steward, and did this for a number of years before stepping down in order to be able to play the piano for services more regularly. A big step in retirement has been my involvement with Louth Churches for Refugees and with the Lighthouse Project. In both cases it has been a steep learning curve and quite humbling to step outside the cosy church box and see how others live. Our Syrian families have taught me a lot about the Muslim faith, and their devotion and perseverance in difficult times is an inspiration to all of us who work with them. As you may know, I am an inveterate traveler, and have also found it fascinating to learn more about other world religions on my visits to Israel, Jordan, China, and, most recently, India, where Sikhism made a big impression on me.

As a keen amateur musician, church music of all eras has been a big feature of my life, starting with the hymns we sang at Sunday School and the psalms we learned for secondary school assemblies. Later on I moved on to listening to and singing anthems and oratorios with my various choirs. and am still learning, as we use more modern worship songs in our services. I have taken part in Songs of Praise three times, in St Albans, Louth and with MAYC in London- so different but with such an important common thread running through the services.

I think one of the most important things I have gleaned from my many years of experiencing a variety of worship styles, denominations and world faiths has been that our differences are far less important than what we have in common. One of my favourite Bible texts is Micah 6:8 where we are told that the Lord requires us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God. Easier said than done at times! This week I heard a quotation from the late Rev. Dr. Colin Morris, who said that the most important words for a Christian

are “I don’t know”, “I’m sorry” and “Thank you”. I don’t know what my life would have been without my faith. I am often sorry that I haven’t been a better witness to it. But thank you to all who have helped me along the way, and continue to do so.

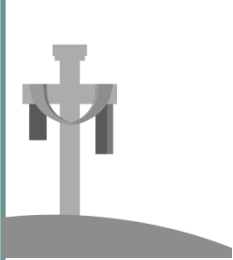
Ros Malyon



It will soon be **Lent**. It begins on Ash Wednesday, 14th Feb. If you would like to receive Lent emails from the Methodist Church please contact Paul Fox on pfox049@gmail.com

Lent Course via Zoom

7.30pm Mondays from 19th February



unanswered prayer

the prayer course II

We are once again following a course led by Pete Greig—founder of the 24-7 Prayer Movement. This time he looks at unanswered prayer in 5 sessions.

*For a Zoom link emaiilouthmethodists@gmail.com OR
eastlincs17.6@gmail.com.*

Lent Course In the Lounge

2pm Wednesdays from 14th February

Family Worker Elaine leads a bible study based on The Prayer Course in the lounge from 2pm on Wednesday afternoons for 5 weeks. All are welcome.

Shoe boxes

It's hard for us to imagine that something as simple as a pencil or notebook could bring joy and hope, but that is one of the amazing things about shoe boxes filled with gifts: it is a direct means of connecting with those living in hardship or in war-torn lands where comfort is hard to come by and where little things mean so much.



Louth Methodist church has been a long-term supporter of the Rotary shoe box appeal and more recently we have also supported the Grimsby Shoebox charity. At our recent Church Council we reaffirmed our commitment to both causes.

What is the Grimsby Shoebox charity? It is a small local charity which collects and co-ordinates donations into filled shoe boxes which are then distributed by established charities including Teams4U and the Jacob's Well Appeal which is based in Beverley. T4U work in partnership with the Red Cross to distribute shoe boxes across Eastern Europe as well as parts of Africa. Jacobs Well distribute the shoe boxes alongside their main work of exporting and sustaining medical care and equipment. In addition some of the boxes are used to support local families in need.

One of the wonderful things about Grimsby Shoeboxes is their Womble-like way of using things that others might discard: for example fabric remnants are made into craft bags; old video boxes into pencil cases and takeaway cartons into hygiene kits. The charity has an army of supporters across Lincolnshire who knit, sew, collect both items for the boxes and money to support transport costs as well as those who volunteer at the charity's base at the Ice House, sorting donations, covering and pack the boxes.

How can you help? By donating any of the items in the list opposite (toiletries are particularly needed) and placing them in the donations box in the foyer; by filling a shoe box yourself; or could you help to transport the donations to Grimsby on a Wednesday occasionally? Doing so would give you an opportunity to have a tour of the charity's base and be inspired!

For further info see:

www.teams4u.com

<https://jacobswellappeal.org/>

Grimsby Shoeboxes



We are a small local charity (registered no 1200386) who coordinate donations into shoeboxes to needy children and families around the world. We support established charities including Teams4U and The Jacob's Well Appeal. We also support people in the N E Lincolnshire community.

Accepted Donations for Children and Home/Family Shoeboxes

TOILETRIES/HYGIENE – Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Soap, Flannel, Sponge, Lip Balm, Cotton Buds, Nail Varnish, Nail Brush, Manicure set, Emery Board, Perfume, Aftershave, Make Up, Mirror, Tissues, Hankies, Sticking Plasters, Bandages.

HAIR ITEMS – Brush, Comb, Slides, Bobbles, Scrunchies, Hair/Alice Bands

TOYS – Dolls, Cars, Skipping Ropes, Cuddly Toys, Puzzles, Dominoes, Balls, Marbles, Playing Cards, Card Games, Pick Up Sticks, Whistle, Harmonica, Building Bricks, Yo-yo,

CRAFT ITEMS – Glue, Glue sticks, Stickers, Beads, Glitter, Craft Scissors, Sellotape etc

STATIONERY – Pens, Pencils, Erasers, Sharpeners, Rulers, Crayons, Notebooks, Paper, Colouring Books, Pencil Case, Stickers, Bulldog and Paper Clips, Stencils, Paper Punch

CLOTHING – Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Mittens, Tights, Belts, T-Shirts, New Undies

COSTUME JEWELLERY – Necklace, Bracelet, Bangles, Rings, Badges, Earrings

ALSO – Small Ornaments, Picture Frames, Wallet, Bag, Purses, Candles, Clothes pegs, Tea Towel, Reusable Plastic Cutlery/Bowl, Washing Cloths, Small Christmas Decorations

ITEMS DO NOT NEED TO BE NEW BUT MUST BE IN GOOD CONDITION

We can also make use of Bows, ribbon and broken costume jewellery

Video boxes to make pencil cases, small boxes & bags

Cotton type material, wool, buttons, ribbon: to make bags and Needles, Thread, Pins, Buttons, Zips, Knitting Needles, Wool – to make sewing, crochet and knitting kits.

Sorry but we **CANNOT ACCEPT** any **Electrical Items, Bikes, Scooters or Baby Items (Also NO Medicines, Food, Drink, Cup & Saucer sets, Drinking glasses, Duvets, Pillows, Quilts or Suitcases, thank you.**

We meet every Wednesday 10am - 3pm on the first floor of the Ice House, Victor Street, Grimsby. For further information please contact Karen 07904966536 (email: karenshoeboxes@gmail.com) or Ellie 07800862708 (email: ellieshoebox@gmail.com)

“YOUNG AT HEART” - Mondays from 1.30pm

This has replaced Darby & Joan Club. All welcome

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Tuesdays at 2.00pm

6th Feb Candlemass celebration

13th Feb The Mercy Ships - Kath & Nick Adams with Bring & Buy

20th Feb Games we used to play

27th Feb Help is at hand in Louth *Shelagh Whatley*

COME
PRAY
WITH US

**Morning prayers. Wednesdays, 8.30am
to about 8.50am in the lounge.**

A time to be still before God, to listen, to worship and to pray—for yourself, for the church, and for the world around us.



OPEN LITE HOUSE

You are all invited to Open Lite House on
Wednesday, between 10.00 and 1.00pm

Coffee, tea, biscuits, scones and cakes will be available for a small donation.

NICHOL HILL LADIES GROUP

Meets on a Wednesday

Wed, 7th Feb at 7.30pm - Alford Ukulele Band

Wed, 21st Feb at 2.00pm - Chalk Streams Project with Will Bartle

321
3 things to do
2nd Friday
1 a month

The next 321 is the **9th Feb at 9.30am**. Please bring your children and grandchildren to sing, chat, enjoy the puppets and to do craft together.

321 EXTRA

Toddler Group meets every **Friday morning** in term-time 9.30-11am (but not 2nd Friday).

All welcome.



Fridays at 7pm

*Led by Elaine
Watkinson*

The Purple Cow

Prayer, song,
support, chat—and
maybe cake.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SEIZE THE MOO-MENT!

Louth Methodist Church

Rebecca & Alex's adventures on "A Mercy Ship"

Sending Happy Christmas Wishes from sunny South Africa

December has been a busy month as we continue to prepare the ship for field service and also to find time to enjoy the run up to Christmas on and off the ship. I have stepped up to be team leader in Hospitality until the new team leader arrives in Madagascar in February. from Rebecca.

We thank God for:

His love and grace at Christmas as we reflect on a year that we will never forget,

The safe completion of all the project work across the ship, preparing the way for the coming field service,

Your generous support, encouragement & prayers, without which we could not be here.

Please pray for:

A safe sail from Sth Africa to Madagascar scheduled for departure on 25th Jan 2024

We have both found the step up to a team leading role taxing, especially as Rebecca finds herself leading a department she has only been in for a month. Please pray that we find rest and enjoyment in our new roles.

Karen Morris Nanny and Babysitter

- NNEB Qualified Nursery Nurse with past experience and current volunteering.
- CV and references available on request.
- All childcare work.
- Paediatric First Aid Level 3 and Basic First Aid Certificated.
- Currently volunteering with 321 (preschool group) at Methodist Church.
- Babysitting experience: 6 - 8 yrs old.
- Previously : Toddler Gr at Trinity Centre and Messy Church at Eastgate Union Church and Trinity Centre (all age group). Pre Covid volunteering Rainbows (5 – 7yrs) at Louth Methodist Church.
- Exalt team member at Louth Methodist Church and member of Louth Methodist Church from September 2021.
- Registered on website www.nannyjob.co.uk and www.care.com.
- Louth and surrounding areas.
- Full driving licence and car.
- Home Tel: (Louth) 01507 607606 and Mobile: 07305 350 470
- For church members contact me and we can chat about any special arrangements.



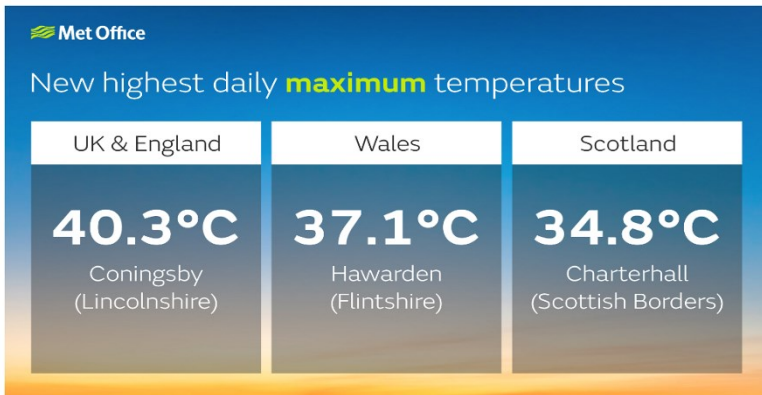
Lincolnshire MWiB District Day



WED 6th March 2024
10.30 am - 3.00 pm



Speaker:- Rev. Sandy Osgerby



Subject for the day

Climate Change and the Environment




Washingborough Methodist Church,
2 Main Road, Washingborough, Lincoln LN4 1AT
A car park is situated at the rear of the building.



Please bring a packed lunch



Sunday Services at Louth Methodist Church in February 2024

| | 4th Feb | 11th Feb | 18th Feb | 25th Feb |
|-------------|---|--|---|---|
| | | | Lent 1 | Lent 2 |
| 9.50 am | Exalt <i>Also by Zoom</i>  | Family Service with Holy Communion 10.30am <i>Preacher:</i> Rev Graham Miles | Exalt <i>Also by Zoom</i>  | Exalt <i>Also by Zoom</i>  |
| 11.00 am | Morning Worship Local Team led by Heather Jeffrey | | Morning Worship <i>Preacher:</i> Rev Margaret Asiedu | Morning Worship for <i>Preacher:</i> Mrs Cathryn Croft |

DEADLINE for the March 2024 Newsletter is Sunday, 18th February

All information to Gwenda Burgin on 01507 607552 or e-mail
gwenda@burginnet.com or deliver to 11, Taylors Garden, Louth

**For Circuit and District events please look at the Circuit website on
eastlincolnshiremethodistcircuit.org.uk/news**

Minister, Rev Margaret Asiedu 07831 119605
Email : magsasiedu@gmail.com Off Duty Day - Monday