



in Christ  
with Christ  
for Christ



# Newsletter April 2024

and

## Annual Reports

“My Father will honour the one who serves me .... And glorify your name!”

John 12 v26-28



*Reaching Out and Bringing Hope*

Dear Friends,

The preamble to the poem "God's Knows" by Minnie Louise Haskins was quoted by George VI in his Christmas 1939 broadcast 'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way"

Although we are not at the beginning of a New Year, as I write I am very much aware that our Circuit and the District are considering various changes. Many questions are being asked and options are being looked at, as the way forward is being mapped out. It feels like we are embarking on a journey into the unknown, considering a path that is new and different. We long to know the way and for the direction to be clearly pointed out with large signs. In these words from Minnie Louise Haskins we are reminded of the need to trust the one who said "I Am the light of the World."

As we set off on our journey together after Easter, we may want to reflect on what it will look like to be a follower of Jesus in the coming months and years ahead and what aspects of our discipleship will shape our journey together into the unknown? As we have remembered the events surrounding the death of Jesus and then celebrated his resurrection, I wonder if the experiences of the disciples in the days immediately following Jesus' resurrection can help us.



After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the 11 disciples were "gathered together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders" (John 20:19) That sense of fear and being afraid was very real to the disciples to the point where they lived behind locked doors. I wonder if there is a sense of fear for us too, fear of the changes that will take place? Jesus knew how his disciples were feeling, and the impact fear had on them and he also knows how we are feeling too.

After Jesus' resurrection he came to them and said "Peace be with you" (John 20:19-22) Here John records how Jesus stands among them, joins them and shared his peace and his spirit with them during their time behind locked doors.

Before his death, Jesus had spoken to the disciples of the Spirit, whom he called the Advocate and helper. Now he breathes his Spirit on them, so that

they can do, in, and for the world, what Jesus had been doing during his earthly ministry. In times of uncertainty and fear, as we embark on an unknown journey, where do we find God's peace? What helps us to still our minds and souls? Someone once told me that their mind was constantly busy. We sometimes speak about the need to 'switch off' but its not as simple as an 'on/off' switch'. Jesus says "Peace be with you". As we look towards the unknown journey ahead, both as a church, a circuit and a district, our minds might be busy thinking and reflecting and pondering. So how might we hear the voice of Jesus helping us to know his peace? This may be as we read scripture, as we share together in worship and as we pray together. When we are aware of that peace, our minds may become less busy and that may lead us to discover a sense of clarity in our thinking about the journey ahead.



After this encounter, we hear about Simon Peter going fishing, going back to what he was familiar with and inviting the disciples to join him. Sometimes, the fear of the unknown can lead us along the paths of familiarity rather than following Jesus on the new paths he invites us to journey on. I wonder if this was true for Peter. May be his denial of Jesus had led him to dwell on feeling he had failed as a disciple. Perhaps the fear of being inadequate prevents us from taking that step of faith. As we know from this encounter that Simon Peter had with Jesus, to be a follower is about firstly loving Jesus "Simon Son of John do you love me?" (John 21:15) There is that sense of Jesus reminding Simon Peter, of why he followed him in the beginning, of why he had stayed with him during his earthly ministry and even though he denied Jesus, Jesus encouraged him to pick himself up, and to look to him and be assured of forgiveness. And Jesus encourages us to do the same, to keep focused and when we don't get things right not to be afraid but to look to Jesus and to hear the assurance he gives to us of a new start. The journey ahead of us is unknown, we may step out in faith and things may not work out as we had hoped, for whatever reason. But Jesus encourages us not to be afraid to leave behind the things we have always done, in order to take a step of faith, to love him and to follow him.

After his resurrection Jesus continued to appear to his disciples for a further forty days until his ascension when he was taken into heaven. The disciples then prepared to appoint another disciple to replace Judas. The path ahead

still remained uncertain but they were beginning to put things in place. It was ten days later on the day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit was poured out in power. The disciples were at last ready, they were prepared and now they were open to receive this gift from God that would equip them and enable them to journey on the unknown path ahead.

At this time, as we look at the unknown path ahead, I wonder what preparations we need to make. Spending time worshipping together, reading our bibles and praying together are foundational. We may want to share ideas, possibilities and a vision we have. All this may take some time. But above all we need to be open to God giving us the gift of his Holy Spirit, so that we, like those early disciples, will be not only be equipped and encouraged but also filled with the power of God that enables us to put our hand into the hand of God and step out on the unknown path and accompany the risen Christ, a Easter people, in the world of the Kingdom.

Every Blessing, Rev Margaret

## Could you help with Holy Communion

Are you able to give some of your time to prepare the Elements , lay them out on the Communion Table before the Communion Service and clear up afterwards?

At the moment we have 2 teams - Jean Pridgeon (who strives valiantly on her own) and Maureen and myself. This makes it a little difficult if any of us are ill, away visiting family or on holiday and another team or two teams would ease the situation. We would agree a rota between us. Three teams would mean being on duty 4 times a year, four teams 3 times a year.

We would be grateful if you could give this some prayerful consideration.

If anyone feels they can assist please have a word with Bryan or Maureen Utteridge or give us a ring on 01507 655217.



## Prayers for April:

This year the last day of March is Easter Sunday. A day of celebration within the life of the Christian Church across the world. A day when we declare Jesus is risen. A day when there is great joy. However, as followers of the risen Jesus, we are also very mindful that celebrating Easter doesn't mean that life is straightforward, that we won't be faced with life experiences that are not only challenging but that can also challenge our faith.

In the news as I write, elections have taken place in Russia, and are taking place in India later in this month and next and will take place in the USA and UK later in the year. All of these will have an impact on the people in those countries and beyond. There continues to be conflicts with Ukraine and Russia and Israel and Palestine as well as the increased fighting in Haiti. Then closer to home there are the many issues that affect the lives of people here in Louth. Those we know who are struggling financial, those who are ill, those who are waiting for hospital appointments, those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. At this time we particularly remember Rev David and Heather, Anna and Keren Newlove following the death of Alec.



**“There are times Lord, when things are happening all around us and we don't understand. We search desperately for answers but don't always find them. Teach us that, though we cannot always see it, you are there in the pain, in the tears, in the longing for things to be different. Teach us too, to look to your promises for signs of hope, the promise of your love, the promise you are always with us, the promise of new life and life everlasting. So today we offer you not just our faith but also our doubts, praying that you will use both to lead us closer to you. Amen”**



## Our Church Family Worker



Hello all, just a few lines to keep you all up to date with what's happening through Lighthouse.

We currently support around 45 individuals or families with monthly food parcels. Being once a month parcels allows us to be generous with the contents, and they often contain things that we would consider little luxuries, when money is tight. It is not always the same people that we see, but on the whole we have our regulars and now the food bank is downstairs, it allows us to spend time talking with people while the food is being collated. Good relationships are being built. Lately we have had been joined by 4 gentlemen for worship, who access our warm space on a Wednesday and lunch on a Friday. Its encouraging.

Wednesdays and Fridays are still busy days, and again around 40 people come for lunch. Its amazing to see the small team of volunteers working hard and meeting the need of the community in this way.

Going forward, there are a few things we need to consider. Firstly, can anyone volunteer on a Wednesday or a Friday, to serve refreshments, or to wash up? Is there anyone that likes to chat? Because talking to the people that attend our drop ins, again is vital for relationships to grow. This role requires you to be able to consume lots of coffee/tea.... its that simple.

And finally, we are a church that runs a food bank. Ownership of that by the church is very important. Ownership of that looks like, bringing food to support it. At the moment there are grants that are supporting the purchase of food, but the grants won't last for ever, and neither should they. Its easy to feel successful when outside agencies support something we want to do, but the responsibility falls to each one of us to own a piece of this work, run by the church. So even if you don't feel able to be a part of any of the previous requests, it would be fantastic, if you'd buy an extra tin, or an extra packet of food when you do your shopping and donate it to the food bank. (But please not chick peas, kidney beans or porridge)

So, thank you for your support so far, and I pray that together we continue to move forward as a church family.

Purple Cow, there's between 2 and 14 people that have attended, we share and challenge each other, and eat cake, all with God as our focus. A place where views can be shared, and relationships developed.

I was disappointed with the uptake for the weekly Bible Study through Lent,

but those that did attend, I hope enjoyed the time we spent together. We will continue to run a Bible Study on a Wednesday afternoon after the Easter break, hopefully everyone will pray about attending, its so important to meet, study and pray together, especially if we want to see Church growth.

*Elaine Watkinson*

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



My early childhood memories are going to worship at Saltfleet Methodist Chapel on Sunday mornings with my Nana. I could not have been very old but I remember being fascinated by the chapel's simple architecture and the lovely mellow wooden pews. I listened intently to the preacher trying to understand his sermons and hoping that a familiar hymn would be sung soon. I went to Sunday School on Sunday afternoons and as I grew older went to the Ladies Guilds and missionary meetings. I loved being part of the chapel , with my younger sister Val, and looked forward to our Anniversaries, Outings and the Christmas party. My Nan lived with us as her husband had died some years previously. She was never in the best of health and died when I was ten years old. I missed my Nan who was what we could call a Methodist through and through, ie no washing or work on a Sunday!

When I was in my early teens, my parents had a bungalow built near our poultry farm at Skidbrooke and I found I was not going to Chapel or Sunday School so often as I spent more time working on my parent's farm. I attended the local Church of England School and won a prize in R.E. one year. When I left school I enrolled as a cadet nurse at Grimsby Hospital and lived in the nurses home there, then moved to Louth County Hospital and started my nurses training. However, I struggled at times as the Sisters could be rather frightening and I lacked confidence, so I handed in my notice and became a motorpart van delivery driver. I loved doing that job but the pay was bad. Shortly afterwards, I got accepted to do my Registered Mental Nurses Training at St John's Hospital and while training I attended the hospital interdenominational services. It was while working here I met my husband, George, who was a nurse. We married in 1977, and I only completed two years of my training as a family came along. We moved to Manby, so I could be near to my family and George went to work at Grimsby Hospital.

Whilst living at Manby I started attending Grimoldby Methodist Church along with my daughter Angela and baby son Richard, and I got involved in helping in their Sunday School until the chapel closed. I also helped with a Christian youth group called "Impact" and remember on one occasion walking the Viking Way with some young people and staying overnight in chapel school rooms and saying Easter prayers in a field en route. These were happy years watching these young people grow up in the Christian Faith.

As the children were growing up I started working for social services and was thinking of resuming my career as a nurse when my husband became ill and sadly died in May 1994 at the age of 44. Our minister at the time was Gill Riley who was a great support to me, and to whom I will always be grateful. "Life goes on!" as they say, but my life and that of my children had changed forever. I had time at home with my children and continued to attend Grimoldby chapel, praying for guidance and support. I had to rethink my path in life becoming a single parent and main bread winner. I held down a variety of jobs working for the NHS and Social Services. I continued to attend Chapel and Breakfast/Tea Church at Grimoldby Village Hall.

When my children left home I moved for awhile to York, then returned to this area, buying a bungalow in Louth and worked as a mobile warden for sheltered housing, which meant travelling around all of East Lindsey. My daughter, living in York, recently got married and was expecting her 1<sup>st</sup> baby when she was a victim of a drink-driving accident and her life was in the balance for a few days. During those difficult days, weeks and months I did a lot of praying. With the amazing skills of orthopaedic surgeons and doctors, my daughter lived and has now got two girls aged 13 and 9. Up to 2023 I was caring for both of my parents, who died within 18 months of each other. I found this role very challenging as both my parents were very set in their ways, but I found attending chapel and chatting to other members of the chapel a great help and support.

I have a passion for travel and exploring different religions and cultures and I have lit candles in many different churches. One of my favourite places I have visited is Jerusalem where I recall seeing Jewish people worshipping on the wailing wall, Muslims being called to prayer and Christian pilgrims walking the Via Dolorosa carrying the cross. That was a very joyous moment and I cried!

On my final note I thoroughly enjoy worshipping at Louth Methodist Church where I have found good fellowship, friends and contentment. Thank you all.  
Maggie



**Louth Methodist Church**  
**Annual Reports 2023 - 2024**

## **Pastoral Report**

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, when I submit our membership numbers each year, I was able to report 100 members. It is with sadness that we have lost two members since, Shirley Vickers and Colin Wooding. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends. We give thanks for all the contributions in so many ways that Colin gave to our Church so willingly and unassumingly.

It is very heartening and encouraging to see new regular attendees at our morning services and some have expressed an interest in becoming members. I am anxious that, in our wonderful Methodist tradition, these new people should have a Pastoral Visitor attached to them. As I have stated before, this task is not onerous and involves being a contact rather than a visitor. A phone call and a connection with the family member is welcomed to show the care we have for everyone in our Church family. Newsletters can often be 'delivered' by email so a monthly visit is not always necessary. Please let me know if you feel you could fulfil this role as a Pastoral Contact or if an existing PV would be prepared to add someone to their list I would be very grateful.

I would like to thank Nick Adams, our Lay Pastor, and all the Pastoral Visitors for all the good work that is done in the support of our Church family and I'm grateful to those who bring peoples' needs to our attention, whether for prayer or practical help.

Heather Jeffrey

Pastoral Secretary

## **321 & 321 Extra**

Since 321 restarted in September last year and we launched 321 Extra, we have had the privilege of hosting 82 children belonging to 57 different families. Thankfully these have not all been at the same time, but the presence of 24 children plus accompanying adults plus toys has been quite a challenge in Hall 1. We tried holding 321 Extra in the church, but the chairs and tables are not the easiest to move! We have distributed Hope magazines to our visitors and regularly invite them to church activities.

I am continually thankful for all the volunteer helpers, and to the Lighthouse team who provide us all with refreshments.

Please pray that we may build relationships and show the love of Jesus through our words and actions.

Catherine Rolph

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Louth Brownies 2023-2024**

3<sup>rd</sup> Louth Brownies have had a busy year !

We spend time working towards badges on 6 different themes, and girls do activities and games aiming to achieve the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Two girls became our first ever Gold Award winners of the new Brownie programme in the summer of 2023.

We have also celebrated other key dates – Easter, the Coronation of King Charles, Lincolnshire Day, Remembrance Day, the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of 3<sup>rd</sup> Louth Brownies, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Thinking Day and Red Nose Day. Last summer the Brownies enjoyed outdoor games, picnics and a scavenger Hunt. We have also carried out a Litter Pick, visited Louth Cinema, and had 2 Yoga sessions.

We now have a lovely new Unit flag with the new Brownie logo created in 2023. Our numbers have increased but we do have a few spaces for any girls aged 7-10.

Jill Trowsdale, Brown Owl

## **Nichol Hill Ladies Group**

Nichol Hill Ladies Group has had an interesting year with a varied programme of activities.

We have meetings twice a month – one in the afternoon and one in the evening. This enables all ladies to attend as they are available – either evenings, afternoons or both. We have a core group of regular attendees with occasional visitors too, and all are welcome.

We have had some lively and informative speakers on the subjects of refugees, being a prison chaplain, the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance, keeping bees, making chocolate, scams and chalk streams. We have done chair exercise, visited the library and the Riverhead Theatre, and been entertained by a ukulele band. The summer garden social, Christian Aid Afternoon tea, and a Christmas meal at the Peppercorn cafe have proved popular social events. Other traditional annual events have been the Dedication Service, Harvest Auction and Christmas celebration and the Ladies Group Anniversary Service.

Sadly we have lost 2 of our longstanding members this year – Marjorie Borman in August 2023 and Shirley Vickers in December 2023. A few members have been prevented from attending due to health issues and we wish them well.

Jill Trowsdale, President 2023-2024

## **TT4All**

TT4all continues to meet each Thursday evening and has an average of 12 regular members. We also have 2 teenagers who have been coached and are becoming good players. We had a Fish'n'Chip Supper on 15th Feb which was enjoyed by all. We will be donating £50.00 to Lighthouse at Easter from our funds and we thank you for the use of the Hall every week.

Fred Donner

## **Women's Fellowship**

We continue to meet each Tuesday afternoon at 2.00pm in Hall 2. Although we have members who cannot join us every week we continue to enjoy the fellowship and friendship and share the time together.

We have been able to continue our charity collections both for Toilet Twinning and this year, Mercy Ships. Speakers have been interesting and entertaining but not as regular as we would like. Our thanks to all those who have given their time to speak to us.

Celebration teas have been held throughout the year and we hope to be able to continue this. We would like to thank Nick Adams for his continued support and also Mark at Endeavour who is continuing to support our Toilet Twinning charity collection.

We would appreciate anyone who feels they could come and talk to us. Also we welcome anyone to join us on a Tuesday afternoon.

Shelagh Whatley

## **Young at Heart**

Formerly known as 'Darby and Joan', Young at Heart has been meeting since February 2023, every Monday afternoon from 1.15 - 3.15 pm. We are a friendly group of both men and women who enjoy playing cards, board games, bingo and quizzes. We have a Bring and Buy and refreshments with a lot of chatting and laughter.

At Christmas we shared a meal together at "Peppercorns".

At the moment our average weekly attendance is sixteen. New members are always welcome to join us.

Barbara Hand

## **Open Lighthouse Report February 2024**

I am pleased to be able to report the continuing success of Open Lighthouse on Wednesday mornings thanks to the support of a team of volunteer bakers. I would always welcome another scone and cake maker as we have spaces in our monthly rota. I would also welcome helpers to go on a reserve list as our staffing numbers are very tight. We manage thanks to the help and support of our Ukrainian friends.

Our very busy kitchen is undergoing some refurbishment, already begun and will continue over the next few months. Most importantly, too, we are due an inspection by Claire Wakeman, Environmental Health Officer, in May. These take place every two years. We need to retain our 5 stars and to do that we must continue with the meticulous filling in of the Yellow Health and Safety folder which is located in the first cupboard on the left in the kitchen. This provides evidence, which has to be kept for 7 years, should there be any problems with food served/allergies etc. Food needs to be labelled, covered, refrigerated or served hot, right through as appropriate.

We continue to contribute to Church funds as much as we are able.

Heather Jeffrey

## **EasyCook**

As an outreach project, I am pleased to be able to report our continuing success on Thursday mornings at EasyCook. We celebrate 2 years at the end of May and have been privileged to meet many budding 'cooks' from a wide variety of backgrounds. We enjoy much fun with food hopefully equipping them to produce healthy, nutritious, inexpensive meals and make friends and gain confidence along the way.

I am grateful to the team and the support that has been given to me by the Church and Louth Lions.

Heather Jeffrey

**Report from our Family Worker** - Firstly, Lighthouse, run on behalf and through LMC. We are helping an average of 45 families per month, on a once a month availability. We are collecting from Aldi x3 weekly and from Morrisons weekly. We are well supported by the people who are generously donating through the Morrisons scheme. Thank you to all who take home 'out of date' items to compost. The Lighthouse financial fund is extremely healthy, and we are supporting the church to improve and update the church kitchen from funds, since Lighthouse activities, and all church activities rely heavily on the kitchen.

Friday lunches have steadied out, so we provide a really lovely meal for around 40 people each week. Conversation and trust is growing between Church and the people who access our provision, and there is a healthy atmosphere both on a Wednesday and Friday.

Wednesday morning prayer - there is a small faithful group which meet every Wednesday morning at 8.30a.m. - yes its early, but its a lovely time of togetherness and sharing. The prayer weekend which was held in January was encouraging, and I look to repeat this. A church who pray together, stay together, and it must be the foundation of all we do. Available for all.

Purple Cow - this again has between 2 and 14 people attend. Its nothing amazing, its a group of people who share with each other, have an opportunity to ask or just listen, to sing or reflect. We eat cake, drink coffee etc, and are challenged. I hope to continue our journey with God and each other. There's no set agenda, but it has elements of Bible Reading, prayer, and song, and its open to all.

Along with preparing for these things and inclusion in the Exalt Services, keeps me out of trouble, and journeying myself with God. In April, we will hold an Easter Children's Party, with funding which was secured before my arrival for a Children's Party. There are many opportunities to extend work and get involved. Through prayer and conversation we can be intentional and purposeful in what is developed, acknowledging time, and ages of volunteers or helpers. I'm enjoying my time in Louth, and hope you feel I'm worth my weight!!

Every Blessings from Elaine Watkinson

**Report from Property Committee** - This has been another busy year for the Property Committee, thankfully without the drama of a heating system failure during winter which we endured last year!

There is much routine maintenance to attend to, such as ensuring the lift and fire safety equipment are regularly serviced and that the fire alarm and emergency lighting are regularly tested. Our 5 year electrical safety test is due this year and will be carried out during the summer holidays when the building is quieter and at the same time as the Portable Appliance testing.

Our two big projects during the past year have been the re-roofing of Hall 1 which had been leaking badly and the painting of the whole exterior of the building. Whilst we aim to put some money aside each year towards maintenance, these projects have seen our reserves used up and we find ourselves in the position of having to defer other pressing work due to lack of funds.

During the past year, as part of our Fire Risk Safety assessment, we have sought to reduce the amount of surplus items stored throughout the church premises and are carrying out a series of training sessions regarding lift and fire safety.

In the coming weeks there is to be some refurbishment of the main church kitchen, including a new oven, led lighting and additional cupboard space: this work is being paid for by grant-funding obtained by the Lighthouse Project from the Co-op for which we are grateful.

As Trustees of the building our aim is to provide clean, safe and accessible premises to be used by members of the church and community alike. We are glad that our building is so well used and are grateful to Alison who manages bookings as well as those who help with cleaning and DIY tasks.

If you have a knowledge of finance and/or property we would welcome you onto the committee. In the weeks ahead we will be holding some cleaning/DIY sessions: please join us if you can!

Kath Adams (Property Sec)

**Steward's Report** - We are currently a small but happy group of 6 stewards and I say a big thank you to them for their loyal support. We would love to add more to our number. What does a steward do?

A myriad of little jobs which makes the worship run smoothly. Do you ever wonder who organised the musician and the reader? Who looked after the preacher? Who set up the microphones? Who stayed behind to tidy up and lock up?

All important little jobs which any reasonably fit person could undertake.

The reward is working with a group of lovely people and knowing you have made a real contribution to the life of the Church.

Please consider whether this is where you might demonstrate your commitment to Louth Methodist Church. Nancy Cartwright

**Finance Report** - For the year ended August 31<sup>st</sup> 2023, the General Account showed income had exceeded expenses by £2,640.99. The report can be seen on the notice board in the corridor.

For several years we have been ring fencing some money into a Maintenance Reserve Account, ready for major repairs, which we know we cannot meet out of one year's income. At 31/08/23 this account had a balance of £23,654. During the last 6 months, £20,796.97 of this money has been used - on outside painting, damp proofing work in Hall 2 and it's annexe and work identified in the quinquennial inspection.

Forthcoming alterations to the kitchen will be funded from a grant from the Co-op. This grant was obtained by Lighthouse specifically to make the kitchen more economical and user friendly when preparing food for Wednesday and Friday Lighthouse sessions.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued generous giving and thank Alison Fox for the demanding work she does to bring in valuable income from room lettings. Nancy Cartwright, Treasurer.



**Circuit Report** - There are three key items to bring to Church Council regarding the future and how we do things.

Further to the Consultation Services in 2023 and the Future of the Circuit discussion on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Louth, Circuit Leadership Team has produced Job Descriptions and Person Specifications for both Circuit Finance and Property Officer(s). We are again indebted to Michael May who has done much of the work based on what we all learned from the Hull Brigg Circuit presentation and documents.

It is proposed to advertise and then hold interviews in mid-June with a view of an appointment(s) being made to enable the successful person(s) to be in post by 1<sup>st</sup> August. This will enable the successful applicant(s) to have a month 'getting to know the ropes' before the start of the new Methodist Year in September 2024.

Changing Times - Members may recall at a previous meeting it was reported there are more Ministers 'sitting down' than coming into the Ministry. In this year's Stationing Round our neighbours, Mid-Lincolnshire Circuit, were unsuccessful in their bid for a replacement Superintendent. Mid-Lincs will therefore be left without a Minister or Deacon in their Circuit from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept '24.

East Lincolnshire Circuit will therefore be called upon to support 3 or 4 Chapels/Churches which will place further demands on Rev Graham and Rev Margaret's time.

Looking 3 years further down the line four Superintendents from the Lincolnshire District will be leaving at the same time. Rev Graham, our Superintendent, and the Superintendents for Grimsby/Cleethorpes Circuit, Boston Circuit and South Holland Circuit will all be leaving the Ministry at the same time. It is envisaged this will lead to changes in Circuit boundaries and the way we are organised. Our current Circuit is indebted to the 3 Lay Pastors at Louth, Alford and along the Marsh for answering the call to officiate in this way. It may well be away forward in the future.

Your prayerful consideration is requested for the challenges the Lincolnshire District is facing.

Bryan Utteridge, Circuit Steward



**The Bible Course**, produced by the Bible Society, is an eight session course which helps to explore the BIG story of the Bible.

Using a mixture of video, discussion, directed Bible readings and an optional work book, it brings together key events, books and characters so that God's plan can be understood more clearly, and help participants to grow in knowledge of, and confidence with God's word.

We shall be running the course for eight consecutive weeks, beginning on **Wednesday May 1<sup>st</sup>, at 2pm at Louth Methodist Church, and will run through May up to 19th June**. We hope to run the course again in the autumn, but at a time when those unable to make an afternoon can come along.

Participants will get more from the course if they purchase a manual - £4.99 per copy – which contains notes, questions, daily readings and much more.

This course is for everyone who wants to deepen their understanding of the Bible and its message. It may be particularly helpful for those who are considering becoming church members.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev Margaret, or Nick Adams, and if you hope to come along, then we'd love to hear from you. The course is easily accessible, very inspirational and informative. Let us know, as well, if you think you'd find a course manual helpful, and we can make sure we have one for you.

**The Prayer Time of “Churches Without Walls” at St James’ Church House from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.**

are on Thursdays, 11th and 25th April  
All are welcome to attend. *Deacon James Hunter*

# Church Family News

Sadly, and recently, we have lost Chris Tunnicliffe.

Many will remember Chris, who attended worship from time to time, and was known to several people within the church. He was married to Jane, who sadly passed away some years ago, and they had two daughters, Laura and Nicola. He was faithfully visited by Colin Wooding, part of our pastoral team.



Chris served in the Royal Navy for many years, reaching the rank of Chief Petty Officer, before leaving the service and eventually moving to Louth. He subsequently worked at the helicopter base and Strubby and then with CHC Helicopters at Humberside airport.

Chris kept a very neat garden, and perhaps as a result, found the cemetery a ready place to volunteer, alongside Hamish and his team. He also did some other voluntary work on behalf of the Council.

He was a man of strong opinions, but always ready for a conversation or discussion on many things. He was born and brought up in Derby, and I regarded him as 'the other' Derby County fan!

The funeral service, on 11th March at Alford, was very well attended. He was clearly a popular and well-loved member of his family and circle of friends, and will undoubtedly be missed.

Nick Adams.



On behalf of the Action For Children Committee I would like to give a big "Thank You" to Jean Pridgeon for compiling another Quiz for us, this year, called 'Pen and Ink'. We have raised a magnificent total of £259.00.

Congratulations to the winner Sally, from Modbury, Devon. She scored 64/65. A small prize will be on its way to Sally shortly. Thank you to people around the country who have sold quizzes for us. It has been so encouraging to receive support and receive entries from such a wide range of areas.

We will have another quiz for Christmas 2024; but before then we hope to hold a Coffee Morning at Church on Sat, 13th July, which is AfC weekend. Please keep this date free and as our committee is very small at the minute we will be looking for a few willing helpers, please.

*Gwenda Burgin*

**“YOUNG AT HEART” - Mondays from 1.30pm**

This has replaced Darby & Joan Club. All welcome

**WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP - Tuesdays at 2.00pm**

2nd April Easter Celebration - 9th April Bring and Buy  
16th, 23rd and 30th April meet as usual at 2.00pm in Hall 2

*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 - on a Wednesday**

Wed, 3rd April at 7.30pm - Louth Buildings - Old and New  
with Tim Broughton

Wed, 17th April at 2.00pm - Holy Land Travel Slides - Magdala  
with Julie Close-Mitchell

**Sunday, 28th April - Anniversary Service with Rev Angela Long,  
at 11.00 am. Chair of District.**

**321 EXTRA**

The next 321 is **Friday, 10th May at 9.30am**. Please bring your children and grandchildren to sing, chat, enjoy the puppets and to do craft together.

**321**  
3 things to do  
2nd Friday  
1 a month

**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*

## **Karen Morris Nanny and Babysitter**



- NNEB Qualified Nursery Nurse with past experience and current volunteering.
- CV & references available on request, for childcare work.
- Paediatric First Aid Level 3 and Basic First Aid Certificated.
- Babysitting experience: 6 - 8 yrs old.
- Exalt team member at Louth Methodist Church and member of Louth Methodist Church from September 2021.
- Registered on website [www.nannyjob.co.uk](http://www.nannyjob.co.uk) and [www.care.com](http://www.care.com).
- Louth and surrounding areas with 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.

## EASTER REMINDERS

**Good Friday** - sharing Hot Cross Buns in the town with Churches Together.

We will be offering HCBs wrapped in a serviette with a simple gospel message and a leaflet advertising our Easter services across the Churches in Louth

Please come long and help!

Generations Church on Cannon Street is hosting this activity.

9.15am Preparing Hot Cross Buns for distribution

10.30am Short act of worship

11am Distributing around the town



**EASTER**  
**Coffee, Cake, Craft +**  
**Eddie's Got Talent -**  
**by the All 4 One Puppet Team**

Enjoy a drink & a cake while children enjoy some Easter craft.  
Then sit back and watch *Eddie's Got Talent* — a show with songs from the All 4 One puppet team.

**Coffee, Cake & Craft from 10am, Puppet show starts at 11.15am**  
**Easter Saturday—30th March**

If you can help with the above activities, please contact Nick Adams re Good Friday and Catherine, Paul or Elaine re the Saturday Activity.



There are two Special Services in April, which we hope you will all support.

On **Sunday, 14th April at 10.30am**, we hold a **Service and our**

**Annual General Meeting** to which you are all invited.

And on

**Sunday, 28th April at 11.00am**, we hold our **Ladies Group Anniversary Service with Rev Angela Long, the Chair of our District**, to which you are all welcome.

## KITCHEN NEWS




During the 2nd half of April there is to be refurbishment of the main church kitchen, which means the kitchen will be out-of-action for at least 2 weeks while the work is being carried out. We have been waiting a long time for this to happen and we are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but we look forward to having a great, new kitchen, and oven, in which to work.





# Sunday Services at Louth Methodist Church

## April 2024

	7th April 2nd Easter	14th April 3rd Easter	21st April 4th Easter	28th April Ladies Group Anniversary
9.50 am	Exalt <i>Also by Zoom</i> 	<b>Family Service and Annual General Meeting</b>  <b>at 10.30am</b>  <i>Preacher:</i> Rev Margaret Asiedu	Exalt <i>Also by Zoom</i> 	Exalt <i>Also by Zoom</i> 
11.00 am	Morning Worship  <i>Preacher:</i> Mrs Carol Carter		Morning Worship  <i>Preacher:</i> Mr Richard Johnson	Morning Worship for  <i>Preacher:</i> Rev Angela Long

### DEADLINE for the May 2024 Newsletter is Sunday, 21st April

All information to Gwenda Burgin on 01507 607552 or e-mail [gwenda@burginnet.com](mailto: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](http://eastlincolnshiremethodistcircuit.org.uk/news)**

Minister, Rev Margaret Asiedu 07831 119605

Email : [magsasiedu@gmail.com](mailto:magsasiedu@gmail.com)

Off Duty Day - Monday