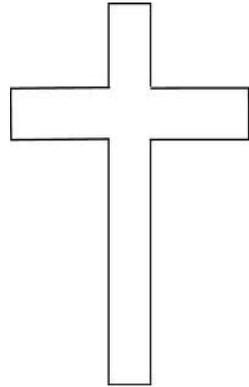


KEMPSTON METHODISTS NEWSLETTER



Minister: Rev Matt Fugill
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www.kempstoneastmethodist.org.uk

9 June 2013

Dear Friends,

Last Wednesday morning I went on a wildlife walk in a nature reserve in Northamptonshire. It could have been warmer, but there was a multitude of things to see and hear. Our guide was very knowledgeable about birdsong. From the myriad calls that we could hear, and which to me were mostly a pleasant blur of sound, he was able, no doubt through years of careful listening, to identify individual species. Many of our group had binoculars, which enabled them actually to see some of the birds which were singing so beautifully. And at the end of our walk, a red kite appeared and treated us to a fantastic aerial display. As well as the birds, there were flowers, grasses and trees in abundance. It was good to take time to stop, look and listen and to revel in the diversity, the intricacy and the extravagant beauty of creation. I recommend it!

Perhaps even more important than listening to, looking at and delighting in the natural world is doing the same for each other. Delighting in each other may seem a strange idea, but each of us is a gift to others. An old saying on display in my parents' house reads:

*'There is so much good in the worst of us
And so much bad in the best of us,
That it ill behoves any of us
To find fault with the rest of us.'*

In order to delight in each other we need to listen carefully to the other's story, distinguishing it from the clamouring voices around and within us. We need to use the binoculars of our hearts to focus on their concerns, on their joys and sorrows, their needs and aspirations. Then we will be more able to love each other, as Jesus told us to.

Finally, we need to apply the same listening and looking skills to what we find in the Bible. I have recently been reading some of the parables of Jesus. His disciples asked Him why He taught in parables. His answer seems to suggest just this – that we need to explore what we read or hear in order to see the truth, to hear the voice of God in the noise and bustle of our lives.

Every blessing
Cheryl Benfield

Galations 6:2

'Share each other's burdens and in this way obey the law of Christ.'
God of compassion, thank you for the kindness, patience and skill of people who voluntarily care at home for those who are disabled, ill, frail or elderly. Please drawn near to them and to others who support vulnerable children and adults. Amen.

The following names were in the prayer book last week at East:

The friends and family of Margaret Stout who died recently.

Please continue to pray for these people and situations.

Congratulations to Ron Turner for celebrating his 92nd birthday this week. Many thanks for your cards and good wishes.

We give a warm welcome at East this morning to the family and friends of Dante Jay as they bring him for infant baptism.

Today is Methodist Homes Sunday. 2013 is MHA's 70th anniversary year, and this year's Methodist Homes Sunday Appeal asks how we ensure that God's gift of age is valued and shared in our communities, so that beyond 2013 they will continue reaching out to more older people, nurturing their spirit, providing support from the community around them and enabling them to live fulfilled lives. There are envelopes available for your gifts. Thank you.

Matt's Testimony Service will be a Circuit Service at East on Sunday 23 June at 6 pm. The preacher will be the Rev Mark Wakelin, President of the Methodist Conference.

For this occasion Matt has requested that we have a circuit choir to lead the singing as well as singing an introit and an "anthem". Rehearsals will be at Kempston East on Friday 7 and Friday 21 June at 7.30. All singers are welcome. It would be helpful if we had a rough idea of numbers. Please contact either Barbara Tipping (tel: 852101) or Julie Fisher: stjfisher@redborne.beds.sch.co.uk

Thank you to everyone who helped with the **Christian Aid Week** collection or gave a donation to the charity. The total raised from the Kempston collection was £3,430.43 made up as follows: All Saint's Church £956.00, Church of The Transfiguration £511.23, Kempston West Methodist £314.62, Kempston East Methodist £1,648.58. Although this is about £276 less than last year it is still a very good result. Thank you all very much. Michael Stevenson

Kempston East Garden Looking after the garden at East is becoming a problem. We only have a small team of willing volunteers and the problems of age - hips, knees and heart - are beginning to tell. Is there anyone in the Church family who would be willing to help during the summer months please? We usually meet on alternate Tuesday mornings, although this is flexible. Any help will be appreciated, please speak to Andrew, Phil, Les, Michael or Roger.

The Annual Circuit Walk takes place on Saturday 6 July starting at Sharnbrook Methodist Church and finishing at Oakley Methodist Church. Further details can be found on the noticeboard.

There will be a Coffee Morning on Saturday for Junior Mission funds on Saturday 22 June from 10 - 12 noon at 28 Springfield Ave. Barbara and Rex Giddins. Bring and Buy. All welcome.

The rescheduled Friends of Brigades Quiz Night takes place on Saturday 22 June at 7 pm at East.

Joanne Sherwood and Jacqueline Owen are leaving the circuit in July, we wanted to give you all the chance to contribute to a farewell present for them. We realise that individual churches are probably doing their own presentations, but wanted to give you all the opportunity to contribute to a circuit gift. Could all contributions please be paid to the individual churches treasurer by 7th July, this can then be passed on.

Diane Graham Circuit Finance officer



We welcome you to our churches today.
Please join us for a cup of tea or coffee after
the service.

The Prayer Team will be in the west porch
after the morning service at East - please
drop in if you would like someone to pray
with you.

Sunday 9 June Methodist Homes Sunday

10.30 am Morning Worship at East: Rev Matt Fugill (HC)

10.30 am Morning Worship at West: Mrs Roz Addington

6.00 pm AWAKE Service at East: Mr Paul Cooper

Monday 10 June

7.30 pm Church Council at East

8.00 pm Bible Study

Tuesday 11 June

1.30 pm Knit and Natter at West

2.30 pm Prayer Fellowship at Ladislaude Court.

Wednesday 12 June

10 for 10.30 am Midweek Service of Holy Communion at East

6.00, 6.30, 7.15, 7.45 pm Girls Brigade at West

8.00 pm Bible Study Group

Thursday 13 June

12.30 pm Lunch Club at East

6.30 pm Anchor Boys and Junior BB at East

Friday 14 June

8.30 - 10 am Kempston East is open for prayer

9.30 - 11.30 am Parents and Toddlers at East

7 - 7.30 pm Prayer meeting in the Creche at East. All welcome

7.30 pm Choir practice at East

Sunday 16 June

10.30 am Morning Worship at East: Mr Geoff Talbot

10.30 am Morning Worship at West: Mrs Pat Lilley

Kempston East is open every Friday morning from
8.30 - 10.00 am for prayer

The organ music following this morning's service at East is:
Grand Choeur in D Major Alexandre Guilmant

Items for next week's Newsletter to Cilla Talbot
Tel: 854434 or cillatalbot@btinternet.com By Wednesday evening.