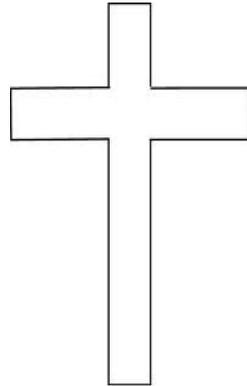


KEMPSTON METHODISTS NEWSLETTER



Minister: Rev Matt Fugill
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1 September 2013

Dear Friends

A few weeks ago, some friends of ours pointed out that the hedge that surrounded the front of the manse was slightly overgrown. For one thing, when people pulled into our drive, it was noted that the gap was getting smaller and smaller, till lately people were left with the impression that the best course was to drive into the hedge, in the vain hope that they had judged it right. However, our friends recognised that perhaps dealing with this was something outside of our experience, and made the more difficult due to a lack of appropriate tools. And so they decided to offer their own help. And so one morning during August, the front of our house erupted into a riot of activity. Two hedge trimmers, working in concert, soon cut the hedge down to size. A pair of razor sharp shears ensured that the bigger branches were easily removed, and a ladder enabled that the more vertically challenged had opportunity to cut above their height. The drive became a mess of green leaves, snapped branches and random garden clutter that had lain dormant under the overgrown hedgerows. By the end, the hedge was a far better sight, but the drive was a mess. And as I looked at it, I was struck by the simple thought that sometimes, it takes a few people to make a really good mess.

Allow me to explain. I know it's easy to make a mess. I know you don't need more than one person to make a mess; just ask Rebecca about the state of my study. Those types of messes are what happens when things become disorganised or cluttered, often the product of accident or carelessness. But what about the kind of messes we make when we create? You can't make something without some sort of mess. Have you ever watched an artist at work? It doesn't matter their age or skill, there is still

going to be a spots and streaks of paint splattered around. Or have you ever baked bread? The flour gets everywhere, the dough sticks to your fingers, and the pots need to be washed. You see, sometimes the messes we make are products of creativity and change. Yes, they need to be cleaned up after, but they aren't something we can avoid. They're the product of change.

We serve a God who is creative. A God who creates order out of chaos, who brought the entirety of the world into being, who by his very breath the heavens are made beautiful, according to the book of Job. A God who is the source of change. The former Archbishop Rowan Williams once wrote that "God is difference, and the source of difference, and the source, the wellspring of change. It is difficult because when we draw near to God things change unpredictably." So why do I raise all this up? Well, I'm aware that the beginning of the new church year always heralds in changes of some nature. Some changes are minor, others are major. Whatever the case, these changes may create mess. It's the way of things, as we've seen. But as Christians, we are called to engage with this change with the same creative energy that we see in the work of God. As the author of 1 John writes that "Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."

So if you find yourself in the midst of mess, remember – it may be a holy mess.

Grace and Peace

Rev. Matt

Back to School with God Sunday
Ephesians 3: 16,17

'I pray from His glorious unlimited resources, He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit.'

Almighty God, source of all wisdom and knowledge, please strengthen and equip students, teachers, support staff and volunteers in our local churches, as they begin a new academic year. Bless every aspect of their school lives. Amen.

Joan Hindley is now out of hospital and is staying with Richard and Thelma for next 6 weeks.

She sends her thanks for the lovely flowers, cards, to those who have visited and the concern shown.

Tickets for the Harvest Supper at East on Saturday 14 September at 6.30pm are now on sale priced at £4.00 for adults and £1.50 for children. Please see Ann Stevenson for your tickets.

Our Harvest Festival services at East will be held on 15 September. As part of our thanksgiving we invite you to bring gifts which can be placed on a table at the front of the church before the service begins. These gifts will then be shared between St John's Hospice at Mogerhanger and the Prebend Street Day Centre. There will also be a retiring offering on that day and this money will be given to the Bedford Foodbank.

Barbara Giddins wishes to thank all those very much who have supported the JMA collectors this year. A total of £1,298.01 has been collected.

Kempston East Walkers

Our next walk will be on Saturday 7th Sept. Meet at Kempston East car park at 9.45am, or at the Guinea P.H. Mogerhanger (MK44 3RG) at 10.15 am to order our food. It will then be a short car ride to the start of the walk from Blunham Parish Church at 10.30 am. Where you can park just beyond the Rectory on the left. Let John Ayers know by Tuesday 3 September if are coming. Tel: 01234 843827.

We have trod this way before but felt it was pleasant enough to follow the trail again in spite of the nettles!! (only the brave wear shorts) the walk is on the level but uneven in places. There is one road to cross, four stiles, a field of cows (ONLY 5 when we walked it), we keep to the right on the outward journey the path through the farmyard can be muddy. The last part of the walk approx 15 min is along the pavement through the village of Blunham.



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 1 September

10.30 am Morning Worship at East: Rev Wendy Evans-Wood(HC)

10.30 am Morning Worship at West: Mr John Sackett

Tuesday 3 September

2.30 pm Prayer Fellowship at West

Wednesday 4 September

8.00 pm Bible Study Group

Thursday 5 September

8.30 - 10 am Kempston East is open for prayer

6.30 pm Anchor Boys and Junior BB at East

Friday 6 September

9.30 - 11.30 am Parents and Toddlers at East

7.00 pm BB Company Section at East

Saturday 7 September

9.45 am KE Walkers meet at KE car park (see note inside)

Sunday 8 September

10.30 am Morning Worship at East: Mr Chris Fox

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

6.00 pm AWAKE at East: Rev Matt Fugill

Kempston East is open every THURSDAY (not Fridays as before)
morning from 8.30 - 10.00 am for prayer

The organ music following this morning's service at East is:
Brandenburg Concerto No 3 (1st Movement) J S Bach

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