

# Acorns

GOFFS OAK METHODIST CHURCH, NEWGATE STREET ROAD, GOFFS OAK, HERTS, EN7 5SS  
SPRING 2019

## ***A weekend to remember - a legacy to maintain and cherish***

Memories of the past and hopes for the future

**Past and future came together one weekend in October when we celebrated 150 years of Methodism in Goffs Oak. On Saturday the 20th "An Evening of Memories" was enjoyed by past and present members of the church, including several of our past ministers.**

Many stood up and recounted events from bygone years, prompting enthusiastic discussion and reminiscence. Around the walls and on the tables were photographs - old and new, artefacts, books, letters and a copy of every Acorns magazine since 1991. In between discussions we watched video footage of many events in the recent past, including fascinating clips of the construction of our current church building. All this was accompanied by a nourishing buffet - all the ingredients for a wonderful evening.



*Then came Sunday!* The Anniversary Service was led by our former minister, Rev Donald Sampson who, along with Don Clark, was in at the very beginning of the plans for the new church building. After Donald's inspirational service came the 'Anniversary Lunch' - another chance to renew (and make) acquaintances. The 'Anniversary and Circuit Service' took place in the evening and it was marvellous to see so many friends from the other churches in our circuit. We all had the privilege of being led in worship by Rev Dr Martyn Atkins, Superintendent Minister at Methodist Central Hall.



**All in all, it was a weekend during which by celebrating the past, we were able to look forward to the future with a recharged vigour.**

*Where will we be after the next 150 years?*

*Hamish (above) guesting on the organ and providing a wonderful accompaniment to the day's hymn singing*

### ***LOOK WHAT AWAITS YOU IN THIS SPRING EDITION OF Acorns!.....***

**P4**            **Making new memories**  
**P5**            **Noel and Tricia**  
**P6/7**          **Holy Habits**

**P10/11**       **At your service**  
**P14/15**       **Café Church**  
**P19**           **Anniversary Weekend Memories**

## What's happening in our Church?

**Sunday Services** are held at 10.15am every Sunday and at 6.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

**Sunday Club** - All youngsters are welcome to come to Sunday Club at 10.15 am, where there is a variety of activities. Sunday morning worship at 10.15 am is a mix of traditional and contemporary styles.

**Holy Communion** is held on the 1st Sunday morning and 3rd Sunday evening. Members of the Methodist Church, any other Church, and those earnestly seeking faith, are all welcome to take and share bread and wine with us.

**United Services** are held once a quarter and at special times and seasons of the year such as Remembrance and Christmas.

**Prayer meetings** are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 11.30am after Coffee Morning.

**Tuesday Coffee Morning** - Every Tuesday there is a Coffee Morning in the church lounge from 10.00 – 12.00 to which everyone is invited.

### Introduction to Christianity, Baptism, Confirmation (membership), Weddings and Funerals

These are a part of the life of the Church, the community and its people. Those interested in discussing any of these should contact the Minister.

### Uniformed Organisations

The Scout and Guide communities are very active in Goffs Oak. Please see the Hall for Hire page on the website for details of when and where.

**Weddings and Funerals at our Church** - For information regarding costs, please contact Alan Combes, Minister, on 01992 762317. For information regarding booking a hall please contact David Batts on 01707 874092.

Lent and Easter Services		
April		
Sunday 7th	10.15am	Passion Sunday
	11.45am	Annual General Meeting, after morning coffee, with a Bring and Share lunch.
Tuesday 9th	11.30am	Second Tuesday Prayers, after Coffee Morning
Sunday 14th	10.15am	Palm Sunday
	4.30pm	Circuit Service at Bush Hill Park
Tuesday 16th	11.30am	Easter Communion with Rev. Alan Combes, after Coffee Morning
Friday 19th	2.00pm	Good Friday Service
Easter Sunday 21st	8.30am	Service of Holy Communion, with Rev. Alan Combes
	10.00am	Breakfast
	10.15am	Easter Sunday Café Church
The church will be open between 2 and 4pm Monday to Thursday during Holy Week		

## EDITORIAL

It is hard to know how to begin summing up our 150th Anniversary celebrations last October. At many times during the three years of planning we felt unsure about how things would go 'on the night'. So many aspects needed to come together during the year - and particularly on the weekend of 20/21 October.

But, of course, we needn't have worried. God had it (and us) all under control and the consensus was that the year and the specific weekend couldn't have gone any better!

Perhaps it was the Evening of Memories which set us up? The church hall that night was packed with current and past GOMC members and Ministers. The stimuli of photographs, video footage, past copies of *Acorns* and the positive recollections of the many present who stood up and told us what GOMC meant to them set up a positive vibrancy which was carried on to the Sunday events - the Anniversary Service, Anniversary Tea and the Anniversary and Circuit Service - more of which you can learn about on these pages.

*It seems that positive memories of the past do lead to positive hope for the future.*

As always, I thank Maureen for her proof-reading and general editorial help. I am also grateful, again, to the circuit office, who have printed *Acorns* so well and for being so positive and helpful in the process.

Finally, I ask again for contributions for the next *Acorns*. Please send them to me at [eyetiss@aol.com](mailto:eyetiss@aol.com) (preferably) or hand them to me at church.

**Bryan King - Editor**



## Message from the Minister

Dear sisters and brothers

**Somehow our anniversary year has come and gone. All of the events, all of the preparation, all the prayer came to fruition in so many various and creative ways. It was indeed a year to remember and for which we give thanks to God.**



I was visiting an older church member recently and she gave me a lovely quote when she said; “as we get older we often focus on the past but what about making new memories!”. I like that phrase - ‘making new memories’. What she meant of course, is that whilst it's good to give thanks for the past, we should never stop seeking to do something new. It seems to me that this is exactly what we set out to do during 2018 and I would want to thank all those who helped organise and support everything that was achieved.

*There were many highlights for me but the one that stands out has to be entering our refurbished church to experience the tremendous singing at the anniversary service in itself. We were blessed by the wonderful organ playing of a young guest organist called Hamish as well as many visitors who had joined us from across the circuit and across the years! From the very first line of the first hymn - as Charles Wesley's words rang out across the centuries - I felt myself uplifted when we sang:-*

*Ye servants of God, your master proclaim,*

*And publish abroad His wonderful name...*

It felt like we were given a small glimpse of heaven:-

*“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 singing with full voice, “Worthy is the Lamb”....*

***Revelation 5:11–12 (NRSV)***

So the New Year begins and we return to daily reality with a bit of a bump! But my prayer is that that our anniversary year - from brass concerts to visiting preachers and special services - has created for you a host of new memories that you will treasure and that will sustain you in your faith journey as together we seek to extol the name of Jesus and live out his Kingdom values on earth.

With every best wish for 2019.

***Rev Alan Combes***



# Making new memories

## What our 150th year meant to you...



There are so many people who contributed towards our Anniversary Weekend, and I want to thank everyone for all their incredible hard work - hosting and welcoming guests, preparing prayers, coordinating food, creating wonderful displays, amazing audio visuals, history boards and booklets, producing Acorns, etc. There were such high quality moments, materials and memories that will remain in people's minds, hearts and hands for many years to come. From the first verse of the first hymn the afternoon worship was tremendous, and we must thank Joanne for 'finding' the wonderful Hamish who led us so well on the organ. Things could not have gone better and I know that our special guests were very impressed and have promised support as we move forward with our roof repair project. 67 for morning worship and nearly 100 for evening worship... what a blessing! One story I treasure was Yvonne (nee Medhurst) talking on Saturday about how intertwined her family's life was with the church, and then on Sunday saying how inspired she was and that she promised to make an effort to come back to church more often. **Alan Combes**

We started planning the 150th Church Anniversary year back in 2016/17

It seemed everything was more or less in place for the year and it was fair to think that all would go well.

However, as Robert Burns wrote in his poem To a Mouse, "best laid plans of mice and men often go awry". No matter how carefully a project is planned, accidents or misfortunes can still happen. And so it did with the concert we had planned for 21st April with singer/songwriters Noel and Tricia Richards. Due to family illness Noel and Tricia were unable to be with us that day. We were all disappointed and obviously concerned for them but trusted that another date could be arranged. It wasn't until late summer that we heard that they would be able to come to Goffs Oak in October, just one week before our official anniversary weekend.

The evening of their concert became for me and probably many others the highlight of the anniversary year. I think it was because it came so near to the anniversary date it had a greater impact on all of us than if it had taken place earlier in the year. It was an evening of celebration and we praised God in song for the 150 years of Methodism in Goffs Oak.

None of this would have happened without Dr Paul Dakin, who kindly put us in contact with Noel and Tricia.

**Maureen King**

*Continued on next page*



# On a magical night in October they came, they saw, they conquered

**We have sung their songs countless times, but from the moment Noel and Tricia Richards sat on stools at the front of our church and started singing, the audience was transfixed.**

The songs, the singing and guitar playing were exquisite and the combination of this heavenly music with the brilliant work of a sound engineer invited by David lent an ethereal quality to the evening. Noel and Tricia performed two packed sets, with a well-attended signing session in between.



**Of course, 'All Heaven Declares' and 'You laid aside your Majesty' went down wonderfully with the audience, but they were also treated to a variety of other songs, poems and reminiscences which told the story of Noel and Tricia's musical journey together.**

*Coming as it did on Saturday 13th October, the whole experience of the evening was a wonderful prelude to our Anniversary Weekend just one week later.*

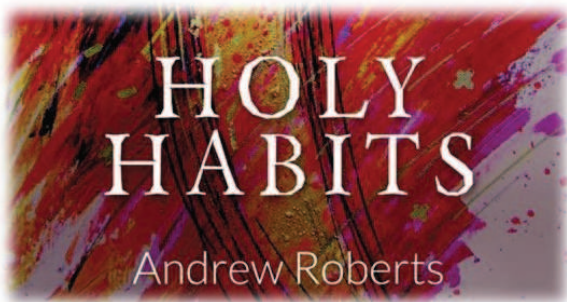
*Continued from previous page*

Looking at all the photographic displays around the church, I began thinking 'Where have all the years gone?' Now I still consider Jacqui and myself as relative 'newcomers', yet we seem to have witnessed so many events and so many changes within the Church and Church family!

**Phil Seaman**

The Church's Anniversary Year was such an uplifting year with all the guest speakers, concerts and activities which took place. Let's try to keep up the enthusiasm and the momentum in the future.

**Alison Rapley**



## **Enfield Circuit Discipleship..... 'Holy Habits'**

As a circuit we have started a journey designed to deepen and develop our discipleship through the intentional living out of ten habitual practices seen

in the life of the early church as portrayed by Luke in Acts 2:42-47 and captured by a Methodist minister - Andrew Roberts.

This journey will take us three years and will form the focus of our Sunday preaching on two Sundays a month, our Bible Studies and our wider church life and mission.

### **What are the Holy Habits? Acts 2:42-47**

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

Luke wished his readers to see what the life of the Christians was like in the apostolic period in order that they might imitate it... His story is not simply a series of biographies but the story of a community (Barrett, C K., 2004. *Acts 1-14*. T&T Clark. p160).

Luke's portrayal may be somewhat idealised but anyone who is familiar with movements of enthusiastic spiritual renewal will recognise authentic notes such as: the enthusiasm of the members of the renewal group, a sense of overflowing joy, a desire to come together frequently, eating together, worshipping and demonstrating unreserved commitment to one another in a shared common life (Dunn, J., 1996. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Epworth. p34).

The ten Holy Habits that Andrew Roberts has sought to distil from his study of the early church include:-

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ♦ <b>Eating together</b>     | ♦ <b>Making more disciples</b> |
| ♦ <b>Gladness/Generosity</b> | ♦ <b>Bible teaching</b>        |
| ♦ <b>Breaking bread</b>      | ♦ <b>Sharing resources</b>     |
| ♦ <b>Service</b>             | ♦ <b>Worship</b>               |
| ♦ <b>Prayer</b>              | ♦ <b>Fellowship</b>            |

### **The Nature of the Holy Habits**

It is important to be aware that the Holy Habits are not ends in themselves. They are not just ten fun things to study or do, although we hope you will have fun in exploring and living them. Rather they are composite parts of a habitual and holy way of living; a way of living 'day by day' (Acts 2:46-47), both personally wherever we are called to be and a way of living when we gather and serve together through the community of disciples we know as church; a way of life

that encourages growth in discipleship, the formation of new disciples and a fuller experience for ourselves and others of the kingdom of God.

Holy Habits have been shaped by an understanding of discipleship based on two principles:

Discipleship is a response to the call of Jesus.

Holy Habits encourages a living out of discipleship that is.....

- a) Centred on and inspired by the divine community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- b) Nurtured in the community of the church through smaller and larger groups, and one-to-one relationships
- c) Lived out in the whole of life; in work, rest and play
- d) Missional - participating in the mission of God and always seeking the blessing of others
- e) creative, imaginative and contextual
- f) for all.



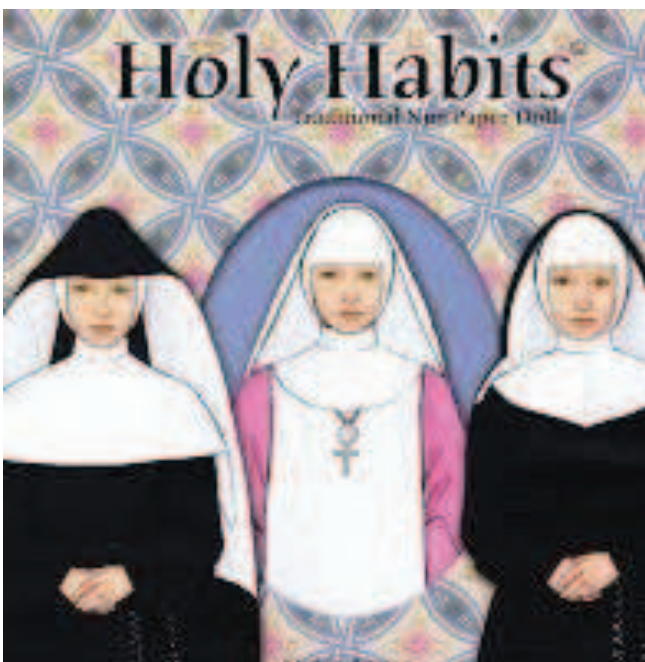
*MICAH 6:8 - What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

As we begin this journey into the depths of the mystery of God, our prayer as a ministry team is that we may all be open to the Holy Spirit speaking to us and moving within and before us. Our prayer is that these Holy Habits should become a rhythm of our Christian lives chosen wholeheartedly, freely both personally and corporately and rooted in a faithful trust in God.

*What holiness are we capable of while we dwell within our current corrupt bodies? We can at least comply with the command – child give me your heart such that we might love the Lord our God with all our heart, our soul and our mind. This is the sum of it – one word, Love. Love God and inseparably love our neighbour also, as Christ loved us.*

John Wesley, Sermon # 76 On Perfection (paraphrased)

**Alan Combes**



*'These are Saints. One day they kept marching in!'*





## Are the self-enrichment solutions of the super-rich really best for everyone?

Radically different and rebalanced financial system needed to ensure poor can thrive

**Now the 2019 World Economic Conference Davos has ended, Christian Aid is warning against the blinkered attention many governments and institutions such as the World Bank continue to place on mobilising global private finance to deliver the sustainable development goals.**

In a policy briefing launched recently, the charity cautions against the 'private first' approach to development, urging donors and civil society to reject the idea that harnessing global capital is the only solution to financing the SDGs.

Toby Quantrill, Global Lead on Economic justice at Christian Aid said: ***'As the world's super-rich descend from their mountain retreat in Davos, congratulating themselves on putting the world to rights, we must ask ourselves why the solutions they favour always seem to involve further opportunities for their own enrichment, and whether these really are the best solutions for everyone.'***

***'While private sector finance certainly has an important role to play in funding sustainable development, we question whether it can deliver anywhere near the quantity, or quality, of support that poor countries need. At the same time, there are significant risks attached, including tax dodging, environmental destruction and the threat of even more harmful debt for low-income countries.'***

***'What's more, we are increasingly seeing public money and public resources being used to facilitate opportunities for investors, when it could - and should - be used in ways that guarantee more direct benefit to those most in need.'***

Mr Quantrill continued: ***'At Christian Aid, we believe that the global focus on private finance to support development objectives is a clear indicator that the profit motives of the rich and powerful continue to be prioritised ahead of the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people.'***

***'Instead, if we are truly serious about leaving no-one behind and creating a fairer global economy, we need a radically different and rebalanced financial system; one that ensures that the very poorest are included and actively supported to thrive, and in which developing countries have an equal say in making the rules governing the global economy.'***

***'This will require a huge shift in the way that those who hold economic and political power are permitted to use that power. Only then will our economies work better for the good of all, rather than an elite minority.'***

## Our first day cover creates national headlines

**A few years ago a chance conversation between Don Page and Nigel Clark resulted in Don informing Nigel that the Methodist Philatelic Society had produced some first day covers for Methodist churches.**

Nigel followed this up and consequently we now have our very own first day cover stamped, franked and launched on Anniversary Day 19th October 2018. These covers are collectors' items and should carry extra monetary value into the future.

*As a result of Nigel's enterprise, the January edition of the Methodist Philatelic Society Newsletter contains a double page spread featuring an illustration of our souvenir cover, accompanied by a potted history of the specific event of our 150th Anniversary*

Nigel is grateful for assistance with this project from Phil who provided the drawings and yours truly for drafting the brief notes on the reverse side.

**If you have bought one of our first day covers, watch out for them increasing in value over time.**



 Goffs Oak Methodist Church

## DON'T FORGET OUR WEBSITE!

If you can access the internet, log on to...

[www.goffsoakmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.goffsoakmethodistchurch.org.uk)

David Batts is supervising our website, so please log on regularly and keep up to date with what is going on at Goffs Oak Methodist Church.

*Current and past Acorns also on website!*



**Children's Holiday Club  
for 4 to 11 year olds**

From 10.00 am to 12.30pm,  
on Monday 19th to Friday 23rd August 2019,  
at Goffs Oak Methodist Church, Newgate Street Road.  
For more information call Alison Rapley on 01992 307161,  
or email [holidayclub@gooffsoakmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:holidayclub@gooffsoakmethodistchurch.org.uk).





Moving scenes in the church and afterwards at the 11th November Remembrance Sunday gathering at the War Memorial. An estimated 500 plus turned up to a memorable outdoor service, with Michelle (below left) playing a heart-rending cornet version of 'The Last Post'. The day also marked the first appearance of our new sound system, thanks to David and his technological forward-thinking.



At the Nativity service on 18th December Paul (below) watches on as the Nativity members make their way to the front of the church



Father Christmas (above right) makes his annual stop-off at the Sunday/Holiday Club Christmas party just before the service on 16th December.

On 25th November, Nancy Hands led our Gift Service, the beneficiary being local charity, Children's Integrated Playschemes (CHIPS), who offer play and social opportunities for children with additional needs aged 3 to 19.



*At Your Service...*



*..the Acorns lens misses nothing!*

On 18th December there was another fantastic 'Carols by Torchlight' - but with a difference! Due to torrential rain the gathering took place in the church hall (below) and with the lights out, we still managed to use our torches!



On 2nd December, we welcomed Julie and Andrea (above) into membership of our church and on 3rd February, Audrey and Rose underwent confirmation and became members of the church. We were also very pleased to hold the Baptism of Daniel Green and his son Harrison on 4th November.

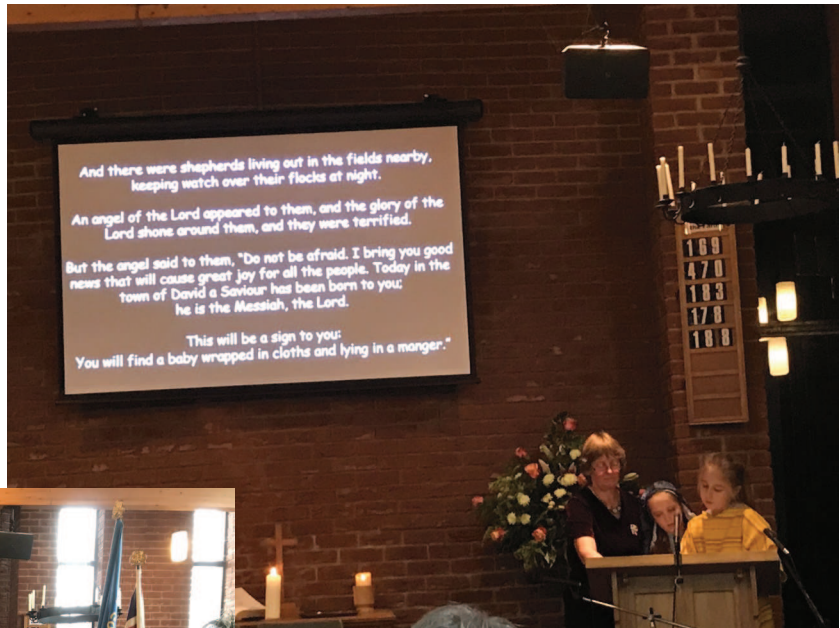




## At Your Service



*The Acorns camera brings you images of some recent services*



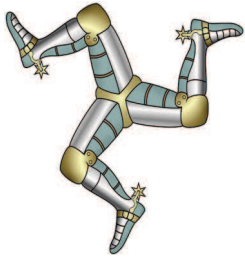
*"...and an Angel of the Lord appeared" - Jacqui helps Poppy and Willow to read part of the Nativity story at the Carols and Nativity service on 16th December while below the message at the Christmas Day service is loud and clear!*



*Nancy Hands was with us again on 10th February (above and below) to lead the Guides' Thinking Day service, with tremendous and informative assistance from the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. The congregation was told about the contributions made by women in bringing about a fairer society. Quotes from three of them spoke volumes: "Each person must live their life as an example for others." Rosa Parks; I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart." Anne Frank; "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." Mother Theresa*



*Service of a different sort at the Children's Christmas party on 16th December!*



## ***The woman from the Isle of Man***

**Christine Collister**, one of my favourite performers, is a folk, blues and jazz singer-songwriter. She was born 28<sup>th</sup> December 1961 and hails from the tiny Celtic nation of the Isle of Man. She first came to public attention as the singer of the theme song for the BBC's television adaptation of Fay Weldon's book *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil*.



**Christine's career has spanned an incredible 34 years and in that time she has released 20 albums and a DVD celebrating 20 years in the business. She has always enjoyed the collaborative process and has been an integral part of many and varied musical projects over the years.**

In 1985 Christine joined the Richard Thompson Band as a backing vocalist, also singing with Thompson on many songs which had been previously performed as duets with ex-wife and previous collaborator Linda Thompson. She remained with this band for four years. There followed seven years working with songwriter and guitarist Clive Gregson, releasing five albums including their most successful album, *Home and Away*.

***Son of  
'Folk at  
the Oak'  
by Phil  
Seaman***

Since 1994 Christine released several solo albums, including *Live*, *Blue Aconite* (on which my friend, John Kirkpatrick featured on accordion), *The Dark Gift of Time* and the compilation CD *Songbird*.

**More recently, she has toured and recorded with the all-female group *Daphne's Flight*. In 2009 Christine moved from the UK back to the Isle of Man. In 2011 she was touring with Dave Kelly and Peter Filleul (ex *Climax Blues Band*) on piano and third harmony. Since 2016, Christine has been working and collaborating with Australian guitarist Michael Fix. They recorded an album, *Shadows and Light*. In 2018 they have performed at festivals and concerts around Australia.**



Christine's natural warmth and intimate connection with audiences coupled with her stunning voice, make her concerts delightfully memorable events.

*Christine recently came to sing at Hitchin Folk Club, of which I am a member, so it was great to meet her afterwards for a chat.*





### On the day itself!

*Your Editor poses proudly by the church's foundation stone on 19th October, 2018 - exactly 150 years after the stone was first laid in the original building. The picture below was taken on the same anniversary day.*



## STOP PRESS

**We were very sad to hear the news that, shortly before this edition was printed, Don Page had died.**

**Our thoughts and prayers are very much with Doreen and family. Don's contribution to Goffs Oak Methodist Church over many years has been immense and a fuller account of this and his life in general is planned for the next edition of Acorns.**

## Ruth's Recipe of the season

**Rose Hutton** is our guest recipe provider for this issue. Rose tells us that the recipe was sent to her by one of her daughter's friends in Cumbria, though she confesses she hasn't made it yet. Maybe one of our readers will take on the task and report back to Acorns?

## Bible Cake

To follow this novel recipe first you will need a Bible! King James's version is best. If you read the passages in the Bible you will find the ingredients to bake a cake.

You can make it as a large single cake or in bun tins for small cakes.

### *First cream together...*

4oz(100g).....Psalm 55v21

40z(100g).....Jeremiah 6v20

Beat in two.....Jeremiah 17v11

Add 4drops.....Numbers 17v8

A pinch of.....Matthew 5v13

A pinch of..... 2 Chronicles 9v9

### *Mix in...*

6oz(175g).....Leviticus 2v1

Adding.....Judges 4v19 as required

For small cakes bake in 15-20 mins; for a single large cake cook in moderate oven 350F, 180C, gas mark 4 for approximately 1 hour.

Decorate with.....Matthew 7v20

*Recipe from **Rose Hutton***

**Ruth Storey (nee King)**



## *Acorns* Café Church

### Cafés and churches....

**We all know what they are, but what have they got to do with each other?**

Rather a lot it seems. A café is a place where people can go to drink, eat and talk together. A church is a place where people can go to worship God in a communal fashion. In a café, consuming food and drink is the prime purpose, but socialising and sharing is often the outcome. In a church, God is the focus, but worshipping Him in communion with others, followed by socialising and sharing food and drink often follows. So the idea of finding a way to combine the two is a logical progression.

At Goffs Oak we have dabbled in it in the past, but at a recent Church Council meeting Barbara proposed we try it again. The idea was given the go-ahead.

**Read Barbara's account of how Café Church replaced 'normal' Church one day in January....**



*The Café Churchgoers (above) get into the swing of things while supping and munching.*

*Meanwhile, the sun shines through the stained-glass window on Barbara (below) while she outlines our worship for the morning - probably the only time a lectern was used that day!*



Following discussions at a meeting of the Church Council about inviting friends or anyone we meet to Sunday worship at our Church, it was agreed that we would try an informal café styled Church. This we did on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019 preceded by breakfast, which consisted of bacon and sausage rolls, croissants, fruit and tea or coffee.

Following breakfast, we continued in our groups discussing the object and bible texts on each table together sharing our own experiences.

Each table had one of the following objects:

**A rock**  
**Sand**  
**A candle representing light**  
**Water**  
**Wood**

After our discussions, five bible promises were highlighted to take away with us:-

- 1) *The rock or stone was rolled away, and Jesus has risen. He is a living savior and whoever believes on Him will have eternal life (JOHN 3 V 16).*
- 2) *We focussed on footprints in the sand and how God will never leave us or forsake us, He is always with us.*
- 3) *Jesus being the light of the world*

## *Acorns* Café Church

*(John 1)*

4) *The rainbow – God promises never to flood the earth again*

5) *The cross and Jesus dying for us.*

Jacqui, once again did some amazing crafts with the children, on their table, on similar themes – sand art, painting yoyos etc.

**We had some lovely songs which were chosen, some thought provoking and some lively and concluding the worship with “Shine Jesus shine” using all the Sunday club instruments – we certainly made a joyful noise, the children (small and large) loved it.**

I have had much positive feedback from people and so we are stepping out in faith and having another café Church on *Easter Sunday*. The morning will start at 8.30am with Holy Communion. Breakfast at 10.00 am followed by Easter café Church. It will be a wonderful morning of fellowship: something to which you could invite others to!!

I would like to thank everyone for their support and especially Phil and Bryan who provided and cooked the sausages and bacon, which was quite difficult with one oven/grill in the kitchen!

**We are hoping to extend the menu for Easter – it must be eggs!**

### **Barbara Hall**

*A hymn is sung (right) in between bites!*

*Not much left on the food table below, except a few sausages, Phil!*





## New evangelism and growth team launched

The Methodist Church has announced a new team that will encourage growth and confidence within the Church. The team will focus on supporting the Methodist Church's network of 4,650 churches through promoting everyday evangelism, helping churches reach out into their local communities, and starting new churches.



*The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. This new team is part of the Methodist Church's response to God and to the cultural and demographic shifts within society. Facing a declining membership along with other denominations, the Methodist Church wants to connect with people who are currently unaffiliated to faith or exploring spirituality in different ways. New roles have been created to work alongside leaders across the Methodist Church and with its ecumenical partners. The emerging strategy promises innovation, experimentation and adventure with its intention to develop hundreds of 'new places for new people' and to help existing churches come alive and grow.*

Leading the team is Trey Hall (above right), the new Director of Evangelism and Growth at the Methodist Church, who began creating the team after he started work in the late summer of 2018. Trey commented: "I am absolutely delighted to welcome these gifted folks to the team.

*"We want to take some joyous risks in evangelism and growth as we learn to speak and live out God's goodness in honest, inclusive, and culturally compelling ways. This will certainly be a challenge, but it's a challenge that will build up life, creativity, and energy ahead as we seek to live out our calling!"*

These three new members of staff are due to start work in the months ahead.....

**Emma Nash, Mission and Community Engagement Officer**, will help existing churches move towards health and growth by equipping congregations to build deep relationships in their communities. Emma is a Baptist evangelist and minister who has worked ecumenically in different church and mission settings, always asking 'who is God calling us to reach and how might we best do that?'



**Matt Finch, Pioneering and Church Planting Officer**, will work collaboratively to develop and implement a Church-wide strategy for 'new places for new people', developing leaders and pathways that promote experimentation, multiplication and growth. His current appointment as a Methodist minister in the St Neots and Huntingdon Circuit has seen Matt establish a café church, a contemplative community and new patterns of children and families ministry.



**Steve Hollinghurst, Contemporary Apologetics Officer**, will help the Church to communicate the foundations of Christianity and encourage congregations to confidently speak of God and to share faith with others. Steve has 28 years of experience in mission, evangelism and communicating Christian faith in contemporary culture. An Anglican priest, he is the author of several books and has spoken on national radio about how Christians should respond to the increasing number of people who are spiritual but not part of traditional religions.

The new team will be travelling across the nation over the coming months, meeting with church leaders and congregations, and working collaboratively to equip the Church for new life.



## Poetry Corner

### Prophecy

There will come a time when mountains fall and crumble to the plains  
and the seas spew forth unbridled fearsome rage,  
when the moon will turn to blood and evil shadows stalk the land  
as the final chapter ends on history's page.

As destruction, war and hatred grow with every passing day  
and fanatics take all names of God in vain,  
Mother Nature is preparing and will have the final say,  
as she takes her bitter vengeance for the pain.

In a fury she will vent her wrath on foolish, wasteful man  
and erupt with passion, cruelty and fire;  
as the Earth begins to shake and comets fall from blackened skies,  
we will reel at God's supremacy and ire.

Maybe then we will remember how we threw it all away  
through our ignorance, or quest for power and greed—  
all those countless blessings showered on us freely and with grace  
now destroyed by each imagined, pointless need.

We will weep to lose these treasures and in terror we will flee,  
while the scales descend from unforgiving eyes—  
yet from out of devastation there will come a time of peace  
when the heavens and a new Earth will arise.  
From the deepest ocean chasms to the towering peaks on shore,  
from calamity will grow a perfect land,  
where the salivating wolf will trot beside the harmless lamb—  
and a little child shall lead them by the hand.

**Catherine Lee**

### The faces behind the verses

Now you can all see the faces of our two main contributors to 'Poetry Corner'.

Catherine, below, wrote this thought-provoking poem a few years ago, but I feel it retains a resonance fit for today.



### Not only Wordsworth!...

Other poets have written beautiful poems about daffodils and I think this one from Nicky is right up there with the very best...



### Daffodils

It seems no time since last spring's crop  
Was going over, nor all those years ago

That you, three that very day.  
Proudly sporting new red duffel coat

And navy woollen hat pulled low,  
Helped me tie down yellowing leaves,

Leaves which, over weeks, would rot back into  
The ground, showing no trace, no suggestion

Of golden announcements to come.  
And you walking towards me now,

Arms full of bunches, radiant smile,  
Your quarter century bringing news of its own.

**Nicky Phillips**



## ***Government slashes children's services funding - again!***

**Shocking new figures from the UK's leading children's charities on 26 February have revealed funding available for children's services has fallen by a third per child in England since 2010.**

The new analysis of official figures by Action for Children, Barnardo's, NSPCC, The Children's Society and the National Children's Bureau has identified "kids' cuts hotspots" across England – where local councils have faced the biggest real-term drop<sup>2</sup> in this funding. Councils in London have suffered the largest cuts, with the top five worst-hit all in the capital. Westminster tops the list with funding slashed by more than half (51%), followed by Tower Hamlets (49%), Camden (49%), Newham (46%) and Hackney (46%).

*Yet the problem stretches far beyond London. Areas such as Manchester (45% drop), Nottingham (43%) and Birmingham (43%) also made it into the country's top twenty "kids' cuts hotspots". Councils are facing a £3 billion funding gap for children's services by 2025, with many services having already been stripped back or shut down. Over 1,000 children's centres have closed since 2004, while 760 youth centres have shut since 2015. The charities are warning that thousands more children and young people could fall into crisis if these cuts continue.*

**Chief executive at Action for Children, Julie Bentley, said:** "Children's services are at breaking point and these alarming figures reveal the true scale of the devastating and dangerous funding cuts made year after year by successive governments.

"Every day at Action for Children we see that children's services can be a lifeline for families – from helping mums suffering with post-natal depression or families struggling to put food on the table, to spotting children quietly living in fear of domestic abuse or neglect. Thousands of families across the country rely on these services to step in and stop problems spiralling out of control.

"With the number of child protection cases and children being taken into care at their highest for a decade<sup>6</sup>, it's unthinkable to continue forcing councils to make crippling cuts to services. Without urgent cash from central government, thousands more children at risk of neglect and abuse will slip through the cracks and into crisis."

Despite cuts to funding for children's services, many councils have sought to protect this area as best they can – with spending falling by less than the funding drop<sup>7</sup>. Councils may be making up the difference by drawing on reserves or slashing spending on other areas – but the charity alliance stressed neither approach is sustainable in the long term.

**Chief executive at The Children's Society, Nick Roseveare, said:** "Vulnerable children are continuing to pay the price as councils face a toxic cocktail of funding cuts and soaring demand for help. This shocking analysis lays bare the enormous scale of this funding challenge, which is making it near impossible for councils to offer vital early support to children and young people to prevent problems escalating.

"Funding cuts are not only an inhumane economy, they are also a false one. The reductions in early help for children they lead to simply intensify the need for more costly interventions further down the road – like taking children into care as they face growing risks, including everything from substance misuse and mental health problems, to repeatedly going missing, and being sexually or criminally exploited.

"The Government now faces a stark choice at the next Spending Review: either continue to leave councils short of the money they need to keep children safe, or address the funding gap and give some of our most vulnerable young people hope of a brighter future."





*Back behind the Goffs Oak lectern is Rev Donald Sampson who led our Anniversary Service*

## Anniversary weekend memories



*Reminiscences and refreshments at the Anniversary Tea*



*Members of the Youth Club from the 60s and 70s reunite at the Anniversary Service.*

*On the left are memories in the form of objects, photographs and copies of **Acorns***

*Below left and right - scenes from the "Evening of Memories"*





## **The Fosters in Chile**

### ***February 2019 Prayer update***



At the start of January we helped out at the summer camp that CEP runs for young people who are involved in leadership at their churches and universities. The theme was 'proclaiming the glory of Jesus' from the gospel of John and we returned again and again to the declaration of John that....

*'We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.'* John 1.14

Give thanks with us that the glory of God is found in the grace, goodness and love of the Lord Jesus. Thank you for praying along with us as we seek to enjoy more of this glory ourselves and share it with those around us. It is the middle of summer here in Chile and we wanted to update you about the "three C's" of our summer since we last shared our news.

## **Christmas**

It feels a long time ago now, but we wanted to share how encouraged we were by the Christmas outreach event that our church organised just before Christmas. It was a wonderful event and more than three hundred people came and heard the good news about Jesus. A large proportion of that number were friends and family and neighbours from the local community. Many people came because they had received invitations at the front door in the market. We were personally encouraged by one of our neighbours coming with their family. Please pray for us – and the rest of the church – to be building these relationships so that more from our community might know the glory of Jesus who is full of grace and truth.



*A group heading out to hand out invitations in the barrio. The chap with the red cap and his wife joined the church family after receiving an invitation to the event two years ago.*

## **Campamento**

As we mentioned in a previous update CEP runs a camp every summer for young people (17-25) who are leaders within their churches and student groups. There are training sessions on how to understand and teach the Bible and how being a Christian makes a difference to how we live in a range of different contexts. Luke was asked to do the four main teaching sessions on the glory of Jesus that is made known in the first four chapters of John. Please pray that the life and ministry of these young people – and of us all! – would flow from a personal encounter with and commitment to the glory of God's love in Jesus. Please also pray that Lord would raise up future pastors and Christian leaders from this group who would be able to lead churches in the proclamation of this glory in the communities that surround them.

## *The Fosters in Chile - continued...*



## Calor

After Christmas and campamento comes 'calor'. It's the Spanish word for 'heat' and sums up what it's been like in Santiago over the past few weeks. We have been hit by some of the highest temperatures that the city has experienced for decades. Wonderfully we had the chance to spend some time at the coast with Luke's parents who came to visit us for the month of January. Give thanks for a wonderful time together as a family and some happy memories and



great rest that we were able to enjoy in our time away. Although the children are on holiday until the start of March work continues over the course of the summer months. Luke is preparing classes and getting administrative systems set up before the start of term at CEP – and Mary does the real work of caring for the kids over the long hot summer days. We are very thankful for this time where there are fewer urgent pressures and deadlines and so have the space to catch up, refocus, and get ready for the year ahead. Prayer Points Please pray for lasting fruit from the outreach even before Christmas. Please especially pray that as people get into the normal routine of life again after the summer that they might remember and act on their desire to find out more about Jesus. Please pray for the young people who were at camp. Once again, as normal life begins, please pray that they would love to live and share the good news of our glorious saviour Jesus. Please pray for a good start to the new year at CEP (25 Feb) and school (5 March)



**Luke and Mary Foster**



# The next English saint?

*Cardinal John Henry Newman is closer to being canonised after a second miracle in his name was confirmed by the Pope*

Two authenticated miracles are required before sainthood and Newman, who was already credited with curing a man's spinal disease, is now said to have healed a woman's unstoppable bleeding. The Birmingham Oratory announced Pope Francis' decree with "great joy".

Newman, born in 1801, will be the first English saint since the Forty Martyrs, executed under Reformation laws, were canonised nearly 50 years ago.

The first miracle the Catholic convert from Birmingham is said by the Vatican to have performed was curing a deacon from Boston, Massachusetts, of a crippling spinal disease.

Pope Francis has since decreed a second miracle, with Newman said to have healed a pregnant woman "suffering from unstoppable internal bleeding".

Newman was beatified in 2010 by Pope Benedict before tens of thousands of people in his home city of Birmingham after the first miracle was recognised.



## Four steps to sainthood:.....

The process cannot begin until at least five years after the candidate's death and involves scrutinising evidence of his or her holiness and work.

- ◆ First, the individual is declared a "servant of God"
- ◆ He or she is then called "venerable"
- ◆ Beatification: an individual is declared blessed after a miracle is attributed to him or her.
- ◆ Canonisation: The candidate becomes a saint after a further Vatican-authenticated miracle.

## The Mission of my life

### John Henry Newman (1801-90)

*"God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.*

*I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I so but keep his commandments.*

*Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still He knows what He is about."*

## What is JMA?

Before the official beginning of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, children were involved in the support of the work. The movement began in 1812 when Joseph Blake heard a very inspiring sermon about missionary work. He returned to his village of Wandsworth, Surrey and started to encourage the children in his Sunday school class to contribute 1/2d (half an old penny) a week for this work.



Other teachers copied the idea and started to collect 1/2d from their pupils each week. After a few weeks, Blake noticed a drop in attendance and discovered that some children could not afford 1/2d and could not attend. He also noticed that there was a rumour that the money he was collecting was wages for the teachers! Blake gave back all the money he had collected and put an equal amount from his own pocket into his missionary box.

In 1815, there was a Juvenile Missionary Society started at City Road, London. Similar Societies were also formed in Leeds, Hull, Halifax and at Kingswood School.

In 1815, Blake moved to Harrow and he found that there were no contributions made to missionary work except his own private subscription. In 1823, a local preacher named Mr Hill came to live in Harrow and he and Blake became good friends. They decided to hold a missionary meeting to try and arouse enthusiasm. They invited the secretaries from Mission House (then a house in Hatton Gardens). After this meeting a missionary branch was formed; one of the collectors was a small boy of eight who, under the direction of his uncle, collected £2 5s (shillings) 0d (pence). The whole group raised £11 7s 0d in the first year. In 1830, the result was £35 6s 6d but later this result fell because a boy who had previously collected £11 0s 0d left Harrow.

It was then gaining interest and Blake was asked to work out a plan for training children to collect for missionary work.

***Our very successful Family Quiz Night on Saturday, 2nd March raised £250 for JMA!***

If it proved successful then it would be used throughout England. Blake emphasised that the plan to train the children to be collectors must not be estimated solely by the amount of money given to the Mission Society but by the way it would train their characters.

In 1841, JMA became an integral part of the Methodist Church throughout Britain, but the proportions of the money raised to support work 'at home' and 'overseas' varied from place to place, until in 1932 when the Methodist Uniting Conference laid down that:

**Junior Mission for All (JMA) was created so that children would be able to learn about and support the mission of the Church in a fun, creative and engaging way.**

**It is also about sharing the insights of God's people all over the world with children in our churches.**

*The JMA Promise is to:*

***Learn, pray and serve with the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ.***

**'In every Circuit of Great Britain, and where possible, in every local church, there should be a Juvenile Missionary Association (later changed to Junior Mission for All), the members of which shall be taught to regard the missionary activity of the Church, as one whole, irrespective of geographical position. They shall collect for mission, simply so denominated, and the amounts so collected ... shall be divided between the Methodist Missionary Society and the Home Mission Fund in the proportion of 4/5 and 1/5 respectively.'**



## Spring fun for the young (and not so young)

A few of your editor's childish puns should put a spring in your step .....

Evergreens might not mind winter, but for all the other trees, spring is a great re-leaf.

This is the time of year when the bees first come out. Ah, the joys of sting!

They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Ewe might say it sheepishly.



X K C X N P S S T C Q G G E X F X E S S A R G M N  
 N T J G Z O U Q L U L P B A L Z A I W H G V F E M  
 E L Q K X N W W V Q Z Y G K L S T H L R B L S E Z  
 W Y Q U S S D A F F O D I L T O Y A E X R T S E J  
 N X Q H H K R W G F O T O E J L S E A Y E Q J J V  
 K J I X L X D E E R L M R W F L N H Y T E G N B J  
 B N I I C A W S W R L D B R T A Z K E D Z L V R I  
 E B R I C O G X J O Q G E P O M L R W S E G B E T  
 R P F H B F I A V A L T C L Q B N Y D C T O P A U  
 A L Q N K Y U H Q A T F P Y N B L O O M S O J P O  
 X X I S R N B J I U Y A L T Y H X C P X W J V F R  
 G A T X A V E G B I D Y J F E X J H T B W Q U M P  
 R S O T L B X Q C H C S B F G U O I R C P J A N S  
 C E Y T Y J J V H T F C X W U W N C M U L F N W E  
 D L N I A R R V U C T T I B B A R K P G F N D Z U  
 A D J F O R A T N O R A U K F J X O P E N G R O W  
 L D K J F F I L H S I A O U Y K E N I A T I Y T K  
 U U I P L E N Z N K Q X M G T Z X H L N A D R F H  
 E P H F H K C A L L E R B M U A B T U H N O I P R  
 P A F N U G O I E A E U D I R A D G T I I L X Y S  
 D E Q H I V A B C Z S B O P F O Y P W Z B G T A A  
 Y I C P P F T S H O W E R S T Q W N O O W U J M J  
 H E F C O D A L I U P L M E G J F N W L Y P N L B  
 O J O R B A E K Q E F V W D R P E R C V E L C N D  
 W Z S V G O H U W U V P J X V R Z O M I M X F Y Y

APRIL  
 BLOOM  
 BREEZE  
 BUNNY  
 BUTTERFLY  
 CHICK  
 DAFFODIL  
 EASTER  
 FLOWERS  
 GALOSHES  
 GREEN  
 GRASS  
 GROW  
 JUNE  
 LAMB  
 MARCH  
 MAY  
 NEST  
 PUDDLES  
 RABBIT  
 RAIN  
 RAINBOW  
 RAINCOAT  
 SHOWERS  
 SPRING  
 SPROUT  
 SUNSHINE  
 TADPOLE  
 TULIP  
 UMBRELLA  
 WINDY  
 WORM