

Upper Caldecote Methodist Church



February 2024 Newsletter & Diary

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Diary Dates for February 2024

Saturday 3rd February	10.30/ 12.00	‘ChariTea & Coffee’ In aid of the ‘East Anglian Air Ambulance’ Charity	Marion & Tom Greaves & Linda Smith & helpers.
Sunday 4th February	10.30am	Mission Group Service at Henlow led by.....	Rev Lorna Valentine
Sunday 11th February	3pm	‘T@3’ led by..... Church Stewards..... Readers..... Welcome Steward..... Flowers.....	Mrs Liz Little Jan & Jonathan Sandra Kim Mrs Joyce Prime
Saturday 17th February	12 – 1.30pm	Light Lunches	
Sunday 18th February	10.30am	Morning Service led by Church Stewards..... Readers..... Welcome Steward..... Flowers.....	Local worship Jan & Marilyn Jan & Kim Kim Mrs Joyce Prime
Sunday 25th February	10.30am	Café Worship led by..... Church Stewards..... Readers..... Welcome Steward..... Flowers.....	Rev Lorna Valentine Marilyn & Elsie Marilyn & Elsie Kim Mrs Sue Parrish
Saturday 2nd March	10.30/ 12.00	‘ChariTea & Coffee’ in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)	Sandra Payne, Irene & Les Ward & helpers.

You are welcome to join us for worship, if you require transport to a Mission Group service or further information about any events at the church, please contact Jon Payne.

Hall Bookings

Contact: J & S Payne, Tel: 01767 318993/email: jon.payne51@outlook.com

Other Local Methodist Church events

Biggleswade Coffee Morning – on Tuesdays from 9am–12 noon.

Henlow ‘Coffee & Conversation’ - on first Friday of the month at 10.30am.

Henlow Coffee Morning - on third Friday of the month at 10.30am

Beeston Coffee Morning, The Baulk, on first Thursday of the month at 10am.

Willington Lunches – on 1st Tuesday of the month (**this month only**) from 12.30 - 2pm Soup, bread roll, dessert, tea/coffee £5. Book with Pat on 01234-838667.

Future Events

ChariTea & Coffee Saturday February 3rd from 10-30am to 12 noon a charity coffee morning in the hall, this month supporting the East Anglian Air Ambulance Charity. A representative of EAAA will be attending. Mrs Linda Smith is currently collecting good quality used soft toys on their behalf for their future raffles etc. If you have some you wish to donate, contact her on 01767 224323 or bring them along on the day. Once again, we invite you to come along and enjoy a cuppa, cake and chat, you will be most welcome.

Light Lunches. Saturday 17th February from 12 noon – 1-30pm. The next in the series of Light Lunches serving Soup, Bacon Rolls and desserts. All welcome.

Church Council Thursday 22 Feb @ 7.30pm. All interested in the life and work of the church are invited to attend.

Lent Reflection Fri 23 February, 4-6pm. An invitation from Rev Lorna and Mark to the Manse for an informal time to sing and pray in Lent with soup and rolls served! If you require transport let me know.

ChariTea & Coffee Saturday March 2nd from 10-30am to 12 noon a charity coffee morning in the hall on the first Saturday of the month, this month supporting the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

'Meet the Minister' Sat 9 March 10-30 to 11-30am. The Rev Leslie Noon who takes over pastoral care for us from September wants to come and meet you, members and friends of our church. Please come and have a coffee and a chance to chat to her.

'Open the Book' at Caldecote Academy A small team of story tellers take a bible story into school each week on Wednesday mornings. Materiel is provided by the Bible Society. The team could do with one or two more helpers, men or women. There are no lines to learn and sometimes we act out the story with pupils. If you would like to find out more, please speak to Sandra or Jodie.

News from the Vestry.

Dear Friends,

Following our meeting in November to discuss the formation of the Eastern Section of the Circuit under the pastoral care of Rev Leslie Noon at Biggleswade in readiness for September 2024. It was decided we would form a closer relationship with Beeston and Sandy churches who are similar in size and with whom we have some affinity. We will now continue to agree the way ahead both from a pastoral and administrative perspective. I will continue to report progress in our newsletter but please ask if you want to know a little more detail, I am quite happy to chat.

The January **ChariTea & Coffee** event, raised £308. Thank you. The summer programme is planned, watch out for future advertising.

Also look out for future planned church events in 2024!

Postage Stamps & Blister Packs – I am still collecting used stamps, old coinage and notes and pill blister packs. Alternatively, blister packs can be taken to the Superdrug Chemist in All Hallows, Bedford.

Every blessing, Jon Payne, Senior Steward, Tel: 01767 318993 or email: jon.payne51@outlook.com.

February reflection



Lent starts on 14th February this year. I think it is fitting that our journey towards the sacrificial act of love Jesus offered starts on a day which has become associated with love and connecting with others. This year during Lent, the Methodist Modern Art Collection will be on display at the Focalare Centre for Unity in Welwyn Garden City. I was privileged to work on some of the collection when working as a graphic designer for Methodist Publishing House. So when the collection came to the Cathedral in Peterborough, I was keen to go and see it for myself.

I decided I would ask my neighbour, who I had become friendly with, if she would like to go with me. I am pleased to say that she did and together, as we looked at the pictures and responded to them, we began to talk about faith and our different experiences of and understandings of faith. That time of sharing and looking at art opened up a whole new part of our relationship as friends and we would often talk about life and faith after that. All because we looked at the pictures together.

One of the ones I was most looking forward to seeing is called the Dalit Madonna by Jyoti Sahi. I had worked with the image for one of the prayer handbooks I designed and loved it. I was quite overwhelmed when I finally saw it as the scale and colour in person was just amazing. I could barely take my eyes of it and, being an oil on canvas painting, the texture added a whole other dimension that I hadn't expected. It was such a moving experience and I am so glad that I went both for myself and for the friendship that grew.

I hope that many of you will feel able to go and visit Welwyn to see the collection yourself. Maybe you could invite others and see what grows from that for you. However you mark Lent, may God reveal new colour and texture in your life and in the lives of those around you.

Loving God, we give thanks for art and artists, but also for all those things that help us to connect with others. May we seek those connections of love this Lent in your name. Amen.

Every blessing, Lorna