

METHODIST CHURCH, IPSWICH MUSEUM STREET

A town centre Christian church committed to enriching individual lives and the wellbeing of community



Prayer for our Church

We give you thanks, O God, for this Church to which we belong, the faith to which we bear witness and the fellowship that we offer. As we face the changes the future demands of us, may your Spirit challenge us to enlarge our vision of your Kingdom, binding us together as we step forward in faith in the service of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

Minister: Revd Derek Grimshaw

Tel: 01473 805486

Website: <http://www.museumstreet.org.uk>

Ministers letter

Dear Friends,

As we journey through Lent there has been a recurring theme in our lectionary readings over the last couple of weeks. We have reflected on the story of the transfiguration and on Christ's time in the wilderness. The theme that keeps recurring is that of being away from the work in a place of reflection.

Today as I write this letter, it is five weeks to my sabbatical. When I mentioned this to a friend recently he surprised me by asking what a sabbatical is and I explained that I would be freed from my day to day duties for three months. He asked how he could become a minister so that he could have a long holiday like this.

A sabbatical is not a holiday. As Christ took time to create space in his busy and often chaotic life so that he could spend time in God's presence I think that not just ministers but all God's people benefit hugely by creating space and whilst I will be taking a break from the day to day work of ministry this will be an opportunity to stand back, do some research and refocus my ministry so that when I return, I should be better equipped to be the minister God has called me to be.

This is maybe a way that we use Lent. Some people take the advantage of forty days to give up chocolate or some other form of self-denial. Others cease the opportunity to read something that otherwise they would not do. We often have Lent groups that give us time and space to reflect on God's word.

All in all, Lent is a time of creating space to think about God.

It is right that we do this, because Lent is the time that we, along with Christ set our sights on Jerusalem, knowing the challenges that face us in the last week of Christ's earthly life and all the emotions of Easter weekend.

Time out with God is a good thing that can bring us closer to him and at times like this we catch a glimpse of his glory as we create space for him. I pray that Lent will be a season for you that brings you into an even closer relationship with God.

Derek Grimshaw

CHURCH DIARY

Wednesday 2 nd	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee
Sunday 6 th	10.45am	Rev Derek Grimshaw including Sacrament of Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Town Churches Service
Tuesday 8 th	7.30pm	Get Together – QUIZ NIGHT
Wednesday 9 th	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee and a chat
Thursday 10 th	1.00pm	Ipswich Arts Lunch Time Lecture – “The Long Shop Museum and Garretts of Leiston
Saturday 12 th	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee and a chat
	7.00pm	CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SUPPER
Sunday 13 th	10.45am	Rev D Jenkins – CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
Monday 14 th	7.00pm	Church Life
Tuesday 15 th	2.00pm	Tea and Talk
Wednesday 16 th	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee
	10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 23 rd	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee
Sunday 20 th	10.45am	Rev Derek Grimshaw
Tuesday 22 nd	12.30pm	Community Lunch
Wednesday 23 rd	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee
Friday 25 th	9.30am	Good Friday Worship
Saturday 26 th	10.00am	Come and join us for coffee
Sunday 27 th	10.45am	Rev Tony Brookes

Sabbatical

As many of you are aware, I will be taking a Sabbatical from normal Church duties from Monday 20th March, returning on Monday 21st June. This is not a holiday, but an opportunity for me to do some research that will feed into my future work of ministry.

Some practical points

The Methodist Church doesn't leave Churches without a Minister and so during my absence Rev Martin Dawes will be the Superintendent Minister, Rev Bev Barclay will be the minister of Museum Street and Rev Kathy Flynn will cover Museum Street. The life of the Church will continue and my absence should not impact on the day to day life of the Church.

Betty Lindsay will be your point of contact should anything crop up and my answer machine will direct people to either the Circuit Office or Martin. The details of all these people can be found in the Circuit Directory.

All activities will continue as normal and Communion services will be led by different ministers during my absence

What will I do with my time?

There are three key tasks that I am hoping to focus on.

A study of effective leadership in the twenty first century Church:

Coming from my background in business management, I am aware of the massive changes that have happened in the business world during the thirty years I worked in what we call today "logistics" yet at the same time the structure of Church Leadership quite often is a similar format to when I was a young lad in Church.

I intend to read current thinking about the role and style of leadership both in the secular world and in the life of the Church. My hope is to visit people to discuss how they deal with leadership in different settings and to consider how this might be applied both to the Circuit and to Local Churches given our challenges in the modern world.

Research my family history:

My maternal grandmother was brought up in the National Children's Home and for much of my life I knew little if anything about her story. It was only in 2004 that I learned not only that she was born in Great Yarmouth, but that her mother spent her later life in the village of Brooke, just south of Norwich.

When I was stationed as a probationer in 2005 one of my Churches was Brooke Methodist Church and in my eight years there I never researched anything of my own history in that place.

Programmes like the BBC's "Who do you think you are" have generated a significant interest into genealogy and with all that is available on the internet today research is much easier than perhaps ever before. I intend to try to find out more of this part of our family story to share it with the next generation.

Reinvent weekends:

Many years ago I heard a minister put this in his sabbatical plans and to be honest I thought he was just daft. Since arriving in Ipswich Karen and I have struggled sometimes to get even a day off together. My research should mean that I will need to visit different places and we are hoping to be able to turn some of these visits into an opportunity to go away together for short breaks.

What do you need to do?

I see the sabbatical as being a gift to me from the Methodist Church and therefore I feel responsible to make the most of this opportunity. The gift is not only to me though; it is a gift to the Church. Please think about how YOU can make the most of these thirteen weeks.

Website

If you haven't visited the Church website for a while, please take a look.

<http://museumstreet.org.uk>

Over the last few weeks Michael Parker has invested a lot of time in bringing the website up to date and we are grateful to him for what he has done.

This continues to be a work in progress and whilst the bones are now in place we need flesh on them. The website will only do its work if people send articles, photo's etc.

This is our shop window to the people of Ipswich and beyond and is the best opportunity we have to reach people. It will only work if WE make it work.

For the time being, if you have something to include, please send it to Derek on Dkgrimshaw@msn.com or speak with Betty Lindsay during my sabbatical and she will give you an alternative e-mail.

Concert in aid of L'Arche Ipswich
The Community Light Orchestra
is giving a concert

at St John's Church
Cauldwell Hall Road

On Saturday 12th March

At 7.30 pm

Admission is free

Conducted by Roger Jones and led by Cecillia Metherill, the CLO will perform music from the shows of Rogers and Hammerstein and a variety of light classics

**There will be a retiring collection in aid of the L'Arche Ipswich
Expansion Fund**

As you know that Timothy is in L'Arche Community in here Ipswich

The Sabbatical

You should all now be aware that Derek will be “on sabbatical” for three months beginning after Palm Sunday. The term sabbatical is most commonly used nowadays in academic circles, where it is recognised that researchers are in danger of losing the sharpness of their creativity and can become stale unless they break their pattern, by taking a period out from their normal environment. Typically, they go to spend a period working in a different university and amongst different people. They are renewed and refreshed by the experience.

The Methodist church recognises exactly the same risk: that ministers will become blunted by the exhausting challenge of pastoring to a community with all its needs and perhaps the odd conflict or frustration, and still being a constant source of spiritual inspiration whatever the world throws at them. But looking for parallels in the contemporary world misses the point completely. The concept of sabbatical is firmly rooted in biblical teaching. The word “sabbatical” has its origin with the word “sabbath”. It begins in the opening chapter of Genesis when God rested on the seventh day to celebrate the delights of the world he had created. Mosaic law teaches that every seventh year, the land should be set aside to prevent it from being over cultivated, allowing it to recover. It teaches that the prisoners should be set free, that debts should be cancelled, mortgages paid, balance in life restored. So it is that Derek will be spending his sabbatical to refresh and renew: physically, mentally and spiritually, so that he can spend time reconnecting with his call to ministry, reflecting on all he has experienced and through which he has grown. Finding the time to make sense of these experiences and planning how God wants to redirect his spiritual energies to His and our benefit. So we need to pray for Derek, that he is guided, refreshed and renewed in this important time for both him and us.

But sabbatical is even more than that. It was not just a time for the farmers to rest and recover, but also a time for the land to benefit from the freedom and rest so that it too could recover its energy and vitality. It is important for us as a church to seize the opportunity granted by the sabbatical, so that we are more open to the challenges we face, more prepared to be inspired by the message to which the spirit has guided Derek. We must be ready to face the pain and anguish and joys and delights. Eagerly waiting to bring the presence of God afresh to the secular world in Ipswich.

To help us face this challenge, the majority of our worship whilst Derek is away will be led by our own preachers, invited to focus their message on the range of contemporary issues facing the church and society. So Grahame has chosen to focus on the migrant issues, and Colin will no doubt mirror this as he takes the Christian Aid theme of Love thy Neighbour, whilst David will put migration in the context of a global population that grows by 3 more people every second, the majority of whom will be born into hardship of poverty or unrest. Chris will look at diversity and equality, whilst Harry will explore what Jesus stands for in a multi-faith world. Coming early in the Easter season, Martin will be guided by the lectionary of how Jesus changed the life of Saul, whilst Ray will echo some of this as he explores recidivism, and Diana, preaching on Aldersgate Sunday will think about the dramatic effect God's love had on Wesley.

Pray for Derek, pray for our family of preachers, pray for the church and community, and pray for these enormous subjects we will be exploring.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Thank you to all collection box holders and to those who gave me annual donations for Action for Children. The generous sum of £763.80p was raised last year in this way and was sent to Action for Children in January.

If you would like to have a home collection box to help Museum Street Church to maintain this generous response, please let me have your name. The boxes are only collected once a year in December.

**Brian Pipe,
AFC Box Secretary**

Gettogether - Tuesday 8th March 7.30pm Quiz Night

For those who supported the Quiz Night last year it has come round again and we hope you will be there again. [For those who couldn't make it please come this year as we had a really good evening.](#) We need teams with a maximum of 6 members, but if you haven't got a team just come on the night and you can join others. We are charging £3 per person which includes refreshments - all proceeds to Church funds. This is just a fun evening and promise not to make the questions too hard! Please do come and bring family and friends.
Kath and Richard Calvesbert

Report of the Pastoral Meeting, Saturday 6 February 2016

Devotions were led by Rev. Derek Grimshaw.

There were twelve members present.

Matters arising from the meeting held in September 2015:

Fire drill arrangements were published in the November newsletter.

There was another Pastoral Leaders' service between the five central churches, held in January of this year.

A Christingle Service was held on Christmas Eve 2015 and one of our recently baptized children did attend.

Kath Calvesbert gave a very interesting and informative talk mentioning bereavement especially.

Pastoral Information:

Deaths: John Pipe, October 2015

Kate and Russell Ashton have decided not to join Museum St.

John Colyer now attends Christchurch, Tacket St. where his daughter worships.

The Pastoral Lists were discussed.

The question was raised as to whether we do enough to share our celebrations and happy times with the Church family. This will be pursued at a later date.

Rev. Derek Grimshaw will be on sabbatical from 21 March (Palm Sunday) to 20 June 2016.

The next Pastoral meeting will be held on Saturday 24 September 2016 at 10:00

Calling all taxpayers

Do you pay income tax on your income? It might seem a very cheeky question, but I think you know me well enough now! I have recently taken over as the Gift Aid Secretary and I am anxious to ensure the church receives all the money it is due from the government.

You probably know that the church can reclaim 20% of the amount you give to the church at no cost to you if you pay income tax at the standard rate. Last year the church received over £6200 from our claim, money not to be sneezed at.

Mike Howell, the church treasurer, and I will be re-issuing forms to all those who already do gift aid their donations, but we would like to get even more people to do so. Please speak to one of us as soon as possible so that we can reclaim on any money you have given over the past year. It is a simple form which only needs basic personal information (name address etc), but it could do so much good for the church.

Thank you for your help,
Grahame

LEPROSY MISSION – EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

We have received two letters from the Leprosy Mission thanking us for our donation of £156 to their Nepal Earthquake Appeal. One is from the Regional Manager and the other from the Medical Director of the Hospital which reads:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am Dr Indra Napit, Medical Director at Anandaban Hospital Leprosy Mission Nepal. I wanted to thank you personally for your very kind donation which is already helping people in tremendous need.

The long winter days in Nepal are cold, dark and temperatures have dropped rapidly. The freezing conditions mean we are very busy at Anandaban hospital. Because of the love and compassion of your church we can be the hands and feet of the Lord Jesus bringing healing, providing food and shelter, and helping people who have been bereaved. Your love and care will also mean that people with permanent disability – caused by leprosy – can have their homes and lives rebuilt following the devastating earthquake last year.

Myself and the medical team at the Anandaban Hospital are so very grateful for your incredible generosity ensuring those affected with leprosy are cared for, loved and comfortable.

May God bless you richly as you reach out to help our brothers and sisters who find themselves homeless and hopeless. Together, and in Christ's name, we heal and restore those affected with leprosy.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Blessings,

Dr Indra Napit

Thanks to Colin Westren for leading the service highlighting this cause and to all who gave so generously in the retiring collection.

Diana Sawyer

The Life of the Church

Sunday Services

10.45 am Morning Service (creche available)

Holy Communion usually on the first Sunday Morning of each month and on the third Wednesday of each month at 10.00am
Baptisms and weddings by arrangement with the Minister

Weekly Events

Wednesday 10.00-11.30 am Come and join us for coffee and a chat
Saturday 10.00-11.30 am Come and join us for coffee and a chat

Other Meetings

Hot Potato Lunch and
Talk First Wednesday of each month at 12.30pm
Get Together Monthly Second Tuesday October to April at 7.30pm
Tea and Talk Third Tuesday of the month 2.00pm except August
Youth activities Please contact Chris and Maggie Finbow (680306)
Community Lunch Fourth Tuesday of the month 12.30-1.30 pm except
August
House Group Monthly. Please contact Colin Westren (743724)

Items for the next Newsletter should be with Barbara Wearne by

Wednesday 16th March 2016

Email - mismcnewsletter@live.co.uk/barbwearne@hotmail.com