



Newsletter



March 2024



**Epworth, Scunthorpe & Gainsborough
Methodist Circuit**

*From Rev Vicki's
desk*



Dear Friends,

There are certain things that we see or hear that stick in our memories. Perhaps they have made us curious. Perhaps they have made us cry. Perhaps they have made us laugh. Something that stuck in my memory falls into the last category. It was a sketch from a comedy sketch show that made me laugh. Many of you will have heard of the taxi firm 'Uber' where people use their own cars to act as a taxi service. The sketch that made me laugh featured an 'Uber' driver who was :

'...a Mum, first, an 'Uber' driver second, and a wannabe rock star third.'

The unsuspecting customer of this 'Uber' taxi mum was about to get a crash course in what it means to 'share'. He is picked up to be taken to the airport and ends up sharing the back seat of the car with two of the driver's children. As he doesn't jump out of the car to try another taxi option, he is faced with the choice of sharing the family's musical tastes – 'Wheels on the Bus' or 'Drake'! As if this wasn't bad enough, the driver proceeds to collect another passenger – the eldest son, from his karate lesson. Just as the man starts to despair of ever getting to the airport, the driver nips off to get a few bits of family shopping. The customer has certainly been drawn into sharing with the driver and her family – whether he wanted to or not!

What relevance does this silly sketch have to anything to do with being a disciple of Jesus? Well, when you are a disciple of Jesus you don't take the journey alone. Sometimes we choose which church we would like to attend but we cannot handpick the other disciples

there to suit our own tastes. As disciples of Jesus we are called to share with all sorts of different people – people who don't like the same music or style of worship as us, people of different ages and backgrounds, people who want things to change and move along quicker and those who don't.

Fortunately, disciples of Jesus have something that unites them in a way that the 'Uber' driver and the customer don't. Disciples of Jesus share the world's greatest resource- the gospel of hope and new life as shown in the Cross and empty tomb. Best of all, the gospel is free and is something that can be shared with the wider community, not just those in our church fellowship.

There are certain things that stick in your memory. For disciples of Jesus, both the original disciples we read about in the Bible and disciples today, the last week of Jesus life and the aftermath of his death & Resurrection must surely have stuck in the memory. It made them curious – how could this mysterious reversal of expectations have happened and what was this 'power from on high' that Jesus promised? It made them cry – the sufferings of Jesus and the ways they felt they let him down brought tears to their eyes. It made them laugh – seeing Jesus alive again brought joy and delight. So much so, that the disciples can't contain their excitement very long, despite fears about the authorities. They have to go and share the good news. I wonder what things will stick in your memory this Easter and how you will respond to the challenge to share good news, spiritually and practically?

BLESSINGS FOR LENT & EASTER,

Rev Vicki





Ministers day off

Rev Vicki Atkinson

Rev Paul Braisdell

Saturday

Friday

Bereavement Support Group

First Wednesday of the month

2:00 to 3:30 pm

at Ashby Wesley Methodist Church

DN16 2JT

Opportunity for conversation

and a listening ear over tea, coffee and cake

Everyone is made welcome

For more information,

please ring 01724-340948

Student Presbyters Visit Epworth

On Tuesday afternoon 16th January Epworth was visited by a group led by Rev Erika Stalcup from Switzerland. They were students, or graduates awaiting ordination, from countries with no Methodist seminaries and were spending a week at Cliff College. They had all studied “on-line” and met up for the first time. They came from Algeria, Hungary and Switzerland. A busy late afternoon was followed by tours of Epworth Old Rectory, Wesley Memorial Church and St Andrews Church followed by supper in The Red Lion Inn.

Of particular interest to them were the Communion table in Wesley Memorial and Chalice in St Andrews from which both John and Charles received their first communion and the font at St Andrews in which both were baptised.

We often forget how much these three places mean to Methodists from all over the world though we tend to take them for granted. Uplifting to meet, albeit briefly, ministers from distant places.

John Lambert



Ashby Wesley's garden at Christmas

Ashby Wesley garden at Christmas time with their new real Christmas tree and willow circle lit up well.

Shared by Laura White

Ashby Wesley

The regular Thursday coffee morning at Ashby Wesley Methodist on 28th December saw the flow of creative juices as well as hot and cold beverages, and along with pies of mince and plum bread some poetry was shared. This was one of several activities, in part, prompted by the 'Out of the Ordinary' theme being used across the Connexion. Some people brought poetry to read - written by someone else or themselves prior to arrival.



Some people wrote during the coffee morning - one of these was Ann Speed who has given her permission to share one of her poems.

*The words of life
are always clear
They bring emotions
to the ear.
Pain, trauma,
beauty, fun
Thoughts can often
weigh a tonne.
But you can always dig
real deep
Excitementr and lights
you'll surely meet.
Don't be afraid of failure
use it as a learning tool
but positive, warming cheerful
words are encouragement
for all.*

© **Ann Speed 2023**

Gunness Methodist Church will be 95 this year



**and it will be 200 years since Methodism
arrived in the village**

Come and join us for this special double celebration

Saturday 23rd March

Chapel opens from 2 to 4 pm

- *To view old photographs and artefacts of Chapel*
- *Refreshments*
- *Talk by Mervyn White at 4:30 pm about the history and Songs of Praise*



***Sunday 24th March at 10:30 am
service led by Rev Brian Bailey***

Celebration at Gunness

Dear friends of our Circuit,

Gunness Methodist Church will be celebrating their 95th anniversary and it will also be 200 years since Methodism came into our village. Everyone is most welcome to join us in our special celebrations and will be made most welcome.

We look forward to seeing you.

Good wishes from Anne Craddock and all at Gunness



News from Lea



With kind permission of all those pictured it's nice to share with you all the visit of the travelling nativity to the Monday Club at Lea.

As well as the visiting figures we had a Carol singalong, some fun quizzes, and yummy snacks. By having the nativity figures present gave a special feel to the fellowship we shared, so thank you Rev Vicki for the lovely idea.

Pat Gray

An Out of the Ordinary Christmas

I enjoyed an 'out of the ordinary' Christmas this year at Ashby Wesley!

Inspired by the Methodist Church theme and materials, and following a planning meeting in September, our Christmas began with Pizza, a Quiz and Carols on a Saturday evening in November to raise the money to fund our Christmas outreach.

As a result of this several Thursday coffee mornings were spent with all hands on deck to make Christmas gift bags for all the people who use our premises during the week, from the youngest to the oldest. This year they all received a little gift of Christmas from Ashby Wesley including chocolate and an invitation to our Christmas services and events. We also gave out Gift Bags at some of our services and events too – in total over 350 Gift Bags given.



Since early October the knitters and crocheters of Ashby Wesley, and especially the Knit & Natter group that meet on our premises on a Monday, had been busy making angels for a secret mission. Ten days before Christmas the Thursday coffee morning team were busy parcelling up over 200 angels with a simple Christmas greeting from our church. Then at 10.00pm on the Monday before Christmas a crack team stealthily attached the first flight of angels to the fencing around church. By early Tuesday morning the word was being spread around through local Facebook posts as people took an angel as a gift. Many meaningful conversations took place on Tuesday and Wednesday, with another flight of angels landing on Tuesday night and the final flight appearing on Wednesday night – by Thursday all had flown to new homes and we know how much this simple gesture meant to many people.

Ten days before Christmas we launched our Christmas memory trees and the church was open all day for people to come and write the

name of a loved one on a wooden bauble and hang it on one of our memory trees, either outside in our garden or inside the church. Many conversations were had. That evening we finished our open day with Carols and Hot Chocolate (with marshmallows) outside on the church steps. There was a fantastic atmosphere and all ages joined in. We were especially delighted to welcome a group from Great Oaks who came to join us and very much enjoyed the singing and the warm drinks.

Worship each Sunday morning through Advent and Christmas was intergenerational and it was great to see everyone, old and young, getting involved as we worshipped more creatively and in a different way to usual. On Christmas Eve the morning congregation were all involved in making the Christingles for our traditional 5pm family Christingle service and again the fun and fellowship was evident as we talked and sang and prayed together.



Christmas Eve communion at 9pm (midnight Bethlehem) felt extremely poignant as we lit our Christ candle whilst our 2nd candle on our Advent wreath remained unlit as it had throughout Advent as we remembered that the lights in Bethlehem were dimmed this year. Christmas Day and Covenant Sunday were not the end of our celebrations because on Tuesday 2nd January we held an event for our Toddlers and their siblings with toys and craft, table tennis and snooker plus food, giving families chance to have a few hours out together.

An 'out of the ordinary' Christmas indeed – now what can we do next year?

Bronwen Braidell



Some news from Winteringham



Note from Will Maw. "Parents and carers have given their permission for the photographs to be put to general print".

Christmas Eve All Age Family Service

We are pleased to report over 35 adults and Children attended this service. The Rev Vicki led the evening.

We learned all about Poinsettia plants and how in Mexico, their native country, they were considered a weed but now a special Christmas plant.

The children who came along sang and William Cooke played a Christian version of Jingle Bells on his guitar. Everyone agreed that it was a lovely start to Christmas, with all ages together, celebrating Jesus' birth.

We finished the evening with a marvellous buffet and a **big thank you** to all who helped with the preparations.

Our picture shows the young people who took part and were more than happy with a presentation of a selection box each before going home.

Monthly coffee morning

The January coffee morning was the best one attended after a long time. People commented how refreshing it was to get out and meet a few folks, mainly from our village.

Our next Coffee morning will be in the Chapel on Tuesday, 6th February, from 10.00 am till 12.00 noon. Everyone will be made most welcome. Why not take a ride out to our event? We sell books and hold a raffle. Everyone will have a great time, with plenty of laughs, which is rumoured "is the best medicine".

Hall for Hire

We have a modern hall for hire, with a kitchen and toilets. Our current 2 hourly session rate is £18.00. The hall is suitable for parties, art groups, craft groups etc. Please contact Will Maw if you are interested. **Tel no. 01724-734631**

Box in a Barrow

We are pleased to report how successful **The Barrow** has been again, proving if the Church is involved with the community in a simple and unintuitive way, people are prepared to support our work.

People in our village have been so supportive and generous, giving vast amount of food and money to support **The Forge Project**. The Forge in Scunthorpe is a warm place where homeless and deprived people can meet to meet others, get advice, use toilets, showers and

eat prepared hot food within a dining room environment.

Thank you to everyone who helped with **The Barrow** and also hosts of the barrow who gave a daily “giving space” for daily donations throughout December.

We also mention Graham and Sue, who helped again this year to transport the food to The Forge. Their van was full again.



Our picture shows the food collection at the Chapel. Also not shown was a hamper and two large sacks of potatoes, donated by our local farmer, Mr Dowson. The second photo was taken at The Forge, where you can see the helpers who work or attend.

If anyone would like to explore the possibility of starting a Box in a barrow, please contact Will Maw who will explain how this simple idea can work in any town or village. We at Winteringham only push The barrow out in December but it could be an idea to use at any time of the year.



Consent given to publish photo of The Forge personnel.

Shared by Will Maw

Greetings from Gainsborough

Hi All

My apologies for my delay in writing to you before Christmas. bit too cosy in my little mouse-hole world.

Well.... Christmas went well at GAINSBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH. There was plenty of food about. The food bank 'manger' overflowed so much it needed a truck to cart all the food donations to the Salvation Army down the road.

I wouldn't touch that grub cos there are folks with greater need. However, there were events with food... BREWS_UP (that posh coffee morning every second Saturday of the month) coincided with the Bazaar and you wouldn't believe how many morsels I picked off the floor before they cleaned it.

Café Church became the norm during Advent. The new chap and his wife did a marvellous TOY SERVICE, with some of the Church members 'playing' nativity characters. A lass from BRIC gave a moving talk... explaining Building Resilience in Communities (BRIC), which is a Lincolnshire-based charity supporting vulnerable children and their families. It is a support organisation with a dedicated team, which has changed the lives of many children and families since 1984.

To cap it all, just before Christmas there was a bring and share lunch... that fortunately filled my Christmas larder with all the crumbs... before they swept up.

I suppose we have a bit more to look forward to... Valentines Day is the first day of Lent... you can send me my chocolates the day before... don't worry I'll find them! Then, if tradition goes to plan, there should be an Easter Bunny Drive, just like a beetle drive but dafter. That is on the Saturday of Palm Sunday.

Longer term I hear there will be a male voice choir, probably in July... don't book your holidays yet.

The Wolds and Trent music group will be performing at Mid Rasen chapel PRAISE service on 17th March, 2.30pm, with a reprise on 7th April 4pm at GMC (more nibbles?). I'll have a front row seat as usual, last time it was packed out and uplifting, some of our lot are in the band. When the ONWARDS social planning group gets its head together, I might tune into all the goodies they've planned, then share them with you.

Some inquisitive readers have asked if I'm related to Mick-e-mouse... maybe!... I know he was named after the famous cartoon character who is, now, just out of copyright restrictions.

Spring is springing...I might ask the cleaner to dust my mouse hole... so until the next time, let's share every blessing.

Anon-e-mouse



Christian Humour – Facebook



News From Burton

On Sunday 21st January we held an Ecumenical covenant service, where we were joined by members of St Andrews Burton, Winterton Methodist Chapel and friends from Winterton Anglican Church. The service was led by Rev Vicki and accompanied by Winterton worship band. It was a most uplifting and encouraging service with members from all the congregations contributing, including a prayer for Christian unity. Following the service, we continued to share fellowship over a drink.



Barbara Hope

Greetings from Happy New Year everyone!

Old Brumby

United Church

Old Brumby United Church has, over many years, hosted the Annual Rotary Club Festival of Christmas Trees event. This year, 60



individually decorated trees were on display in the church during the first two weekends in December. Rotary arranged a full and varied programme of musical events from local singing groups and choirs to entertain the visitors as they viewed the trees.

Refreshments were available throughout the two weekends. The weather during the first weekend was not kind to us, and footfall was slow, but things picked up the following weekend. Donations of £1000 each were presented to Lindsey Lodge Hospice and Healthcare, and Macmillan Cancer support.

Many thanks to Rotary Club members and church volunteers who all gave freely of their time.

We hope to do it again on 7th/8th and 13th/14th/15th December 2024!

Irene Holtby

A message from Lawrie Holtby

Simon Cross, who is a Minister-in-training from the United Reformed Church will be leading our Church Anniversary Service at Old Brumby United Church on 19th May and it will be his last service before he moves on towards ordination and placement with the UR Church. Simon has been with us in the Circuit since September 2023 and has been mostly preaching in Old Brumby United, Epworth Wesley, Owston Ferry and Haxey. I know I can speak on behalf of all of those chapels that we will miss him but wish him well for the future. Simon has been offered a position in 3 UR Churches west of Hull.

Misterton

A knitted blanket has developed during last year through our Prayer Shawl ministry group. The lady on the left is Marjorie (who has sadly died recently).

The group has now stopped for a while, as Jo Kershaw who ran it has moved away.

Our regular coffee mornings continues on Thursdays from 10 to 11 am, and every so often we have a fish and chip week where people stay after for lunch.

Shared by Stephen Bilton

Consent given for photos to be published. **S. Bilton**





Methodist Women in Britain

For women, for justice, for Christ

Lincolnshire MWiB District Day



WED 6th March 2024
10.30 am - 3.00 pm



Speaker:- Rev. Sandy Osgerby



Subject for the day

Climate Change and the Environment

Washingborough Methodist Church,

2 Main Road, Washingborough, Lincoln LN4 1AT
A car park is situated at the rear of the building.



Please bring a packed lunch

Easter Offering envelopes will again be available in churches over Easter. All the money raised each year is for the work of the Methodist World Mission Fund. year the Epworth & Scunthorpe circuit raised **£1502.75**. As a connexion over

Our spring District day will take place on Wednesday 6th March 2024 at Washingborough Methodist Church, Lincoln, 10.30am to 3pm. Our day will be led by the District chaplain, Rev Sandy Osgerby who will lead our thinking about how we can look after our planet for future generations. Why not get together with a group from your church and join with us – men are more than welcome along too. These days are always a good time of fellowship with others from around our District and an opportunity to share ideas.

Contact Bronwen Braidell or Eileen Bamford if you want to know more details.

£190,000 was raised. The theme of this year's Easter Offering service is 'Let Justice Roll' and tells stories of people standing for justice, persisting in the face of setbacks and taking up the challenge anew as circumstances change. Some stories show how people now have hope because justice has 'rolled' into their lives. The service has been prepared by members of Methodist Women in Britain as a gift to the Methodist Church. **The Circuit Easter Offering service will take place on Thursday 23rd May, 2pm at Ashby Wesley, followed by light refreshments.**

Also taking place in our circuit, on Saturday 18th May, is the Methodist Women in Britain Garden Party at Epworth Old Rectory, starting at 2pm. This is a national event so you will need to book tickets, but please make a note of the date if you are interested in finding out more about the Methodist Women's Collection housed at the Old Rectory.

The annual MWiB Swanwick conference takes place 19th – 21st April this year and booking is through our website, www.mwib.org.uk – entitled this year Words create Worlds our keynote speakers are Becca Byass from All We Can and Rev Jenny Pathmarajah. There are already several people from our circuit booked in to go so if you are interested please contact either Bronwen Braisdell (bbraisdell@hotmail.com) or Eileen Bamford (eileenbam50@gmail.com) and we would be happy to tell you more.

Bronwen Braisdell

Candlemas

What flowers are associated with Candlemas? "The snowdrop, in purest white array, first rears her head on Candlemas Day". Candlemas day is 2nd February and it is true that it was this weekend that I first saw a carpet of snowdrops. One of their common names is Candlemas Bells. They are usually the first flower that we see in the New Year.

Ruth Goudy-The Flower Writer (2nd Feb 2024)



Trinity Methodist Chapel **Winterton**

At Trinity we are blessed to have some large windows at the entrance.

Since lockdown we had the idea to use our display boards in these windows, rather like a 'wayside pulpit' as we face out into the street. These we try to change every couple of months to fit with the time of year, eg Christmas, Lent to Easter, Pentecost and so on. We also have themes which through prayer become apparent, our current one being, 'Light in the darkness - Jesus Light of the World'.

These are always Bible based, using the most accessible Bible translations such as NIV, NLT and the Message; and also occasional quotes from well-respected sources eg Christian & sometimes secular writers/speakers.

To present the themes in an attractive way, we also use photos, illustrations, artefacts & currently lighting too. In this way we hope and pray that those passing by or using the building (we have many 'lettings') will pause and be encouraged by what they see.

Photos of our window displays are posted on our website if you'd like to take a look. <http://www.trinitywinterton.org>

Averil Dew

Getting the message

Our church speakers sometimes pick up the local taxi messages. Recently, just as the minister said 'Amen' at the end of the prayers, the message boomed out through the speakers: "Request understood and will be dealt with promptly".

A.B. The SUN letters page (Christian Crackers Compiled by Phil Mason)

Do you want to know the Christian World's best kept secret? Have you ever wondered how and why **HOPE HELP AND HEALING** can be delivered to some of the most inaccessible places on Earth? Well....., **Mission Aviation Fellowship** could be the answer.



MAF is the world's biggest Christian, Humanitarian airline...It's not just an airline but a lifeline.

Flying to more destinations than the top five passenger airlines added together, it by-passes swamps, jungles, rivers, deserts, mountains even war zones, all in the name of Jesus.

We are offering to help your overworked stewards to conduct a Mission based **Local Arrangement** service, subject to Super's blessing and our availability. Midweek meetings can also be accommodated, both Christian and secular.



Beyond that, we have designed a PROPELLERS PRAYERS and PIZZA evening which could develop into a Mission Weekend. It involves a virtual medical air evacuation, with the possibility of landing one of our new Quest Kodiak planes, and there is FOOD! It is even better if there is a largeish crowd.

All these events are free of charge. You will, certainly, be taken on a journey that you might want to extend. The old postcards that you have received from other's journeys are welcome, and we sell them on to fund more flight miles.

Chat with your stewards and email us for more information at david.tattersall@maf-uk.org

& SEW TOGETHER.

FRIDAY 26TH & SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 2024

Gainsborough Methodist Church,
North Street, Gainsborough, DN21 2HP.

SPEND TWO DAYS ENJOYING A CREATIVE ATMOSPHERE WITH OTHER PEOPLE WHO LOVE TO SEW AS MUCH AS YOU DO!

This time is dedicated to simply sewing, creating, sharing and enjoying freedom from the routine of daily life.

Although not posh, the location has been carefully chose to ensure that we are very close (3 minutes on foot) to sewing shops, places to stay, places to eat and a long stay car park.

"It's not where we sew that makes the atmosphere, it's the people we choose to spend time with that truly makes a creative space filled with laughter and smiles"

Bring a project with you (along with your machine and favourite tools) knowing that Lucy will be on hand to support you, give sewing advice and maybe even teach you something new along the way! Lucys patterns will also be available to buy on the day.

Time will be available during your stay to visit the local fabric shop and you will also meet Featherweight Phil on day 2 who will be demonstrating these wonderful vintage sewing machines and delving into their history.

The Two day SEW TOGETHER costs £110 per person
(including tea, coffee (and homemade cakes!))

For more information and to book your place visit

www.sewprettysewmindful.co.uk

Lucy Picksley aka Sew Pretty, Sew Mindful is a Sewing Pattern Designer, Sewing Teacher & Guest Presenter on Sewing Street TV. She will be your host and guide over the two days offering her wealth of experience and enthusiasm for all things sewing and fabric.



Journeying

3 d · 🌐



A Celtic Blessing for Peace by Iain Tweedale.

**May you see peace in the view from the
mountain**

**May you hear peace in the wave breaking on
the shore**

**May you taste peace in the sweet water from
the spring**

**May you touch peace in the lush grass of the
meadow**

**May the peace of the divine come to dwell in
your heart**

Peace.



www.journeying.co.uk

16. A Lesson From the Fig Tree

Luke 21:29-33 AMP

And He told them a parable: Look at the fig tree and all the trees; When they put forth their buds and come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and perceive and know that summer is already near.

Even so, when you see these things taking place, understand and know that the kingdom of God is at hand.

Truly I tell you, this generation (those living at that definite period of time) will not perish and pass away until all has taken place.

The sky and the earth (the universe, the world) will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

Mark 13:28-31 CEV

Learn a lesson from a fig tree. When its branches sprout and start putting out leaves, you know summer is near. So when you see all these things happening, you will know that the time has almost come. You can be sure that some of the people of this generation will still be alive when all this happens. The sky and the earth will not last forever, but my words will.

Matthew 24:32-35 NLT

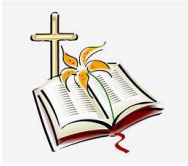
“Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know his return is very near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.”



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16. A Lesson From the Fig Tree

ALIVE	HAND	PUT
AWAY	LEAF	SCENE
BRANCHES	LEAVES	SKY
BUDS	LIVING	SPROUT
DEFINITE	NEAR	START
DISAPPEAR	NEVER	SUMMER
EARTH	PASS	UNIVERSE
FIG	PERIOD	UNTIL
FOREVER	PERISH	WORDS
GENERATION	PLACE	WORLD



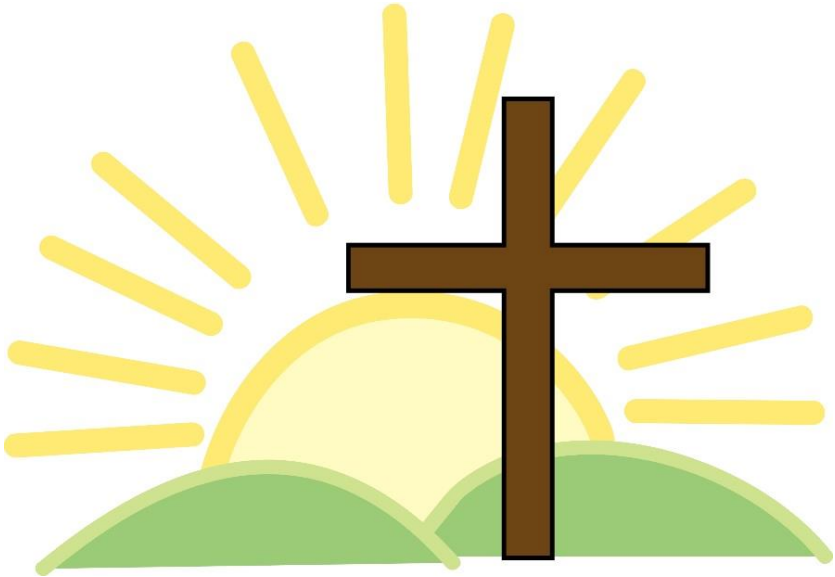
Lectionary readings for March to May 2024

3 rd March (3 rd Sunday in Lent)	Psalm 19 John 2:13-22
10 th March Mothering Sunday *	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Psalm 34:11-20* John 3:14-21 John 19:25-27*
17 th March	Psalm 51:1-12 John 12:20-33
24 th March	Psalm 31:9-16 Mark 14:1-15:47
31 st March	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 John 20:1-18
7 th April	Psalm 133 John 20:19-31
14 th April	Psalm 4 Luke 24:36b-48
21 st April	Psalm 23 John 10:11-18
28 th April	Psalm 22:25-31 John 15:1-8
5 th May Vocation Sunday	Psalm 98 John 15:9-17
12 th May	Psalm 1 John 17:6-19
19 th May	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b John 15:26-27 16:4b-15
26 th May Aldersgate Sunday	Psalm 29 John 3:1-17



**In the day thou believest,
thou shalt surely live.
Thou shalt be restored to the
favor of God; and in his
pleasure is life.”**

John Wesley



Circuit Safeguarding: Mrs Karen Elvidge

07533-554615

Circuit website @ <http://www.epworthandscunthorpemethodistcircuit.co.uk>
(new website coming soon)