



## **The Church on the Waits**

A newsletter from  
St Ives Methodist Church  
The Waits, St Ives, Cambridgeshire  
PE27 5BY

**Website:** [stivesmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://stivesmethodistchurch.org.uk)

Minister: Rev Nick Witham  
01480 462293 [info@simc.co.uk](mailto:info@simc.co.uk)

### **Minister's Message**

Dear New Friends,

We all have a story to tell and I look forward to hearing any that you are willing to share and how God has been involved in those stories even if you cannot immediately recognise exactly where and how he has been at work.

In the meantime, I have been asked to share some highlights of my own story. Are you sitting comfortably? Then I will begin (you have to be a certain age to remember this!!). I have a twin brother born on a different day to me, we grew up in South Croydon and my Mum dragged us to church – we would much rather have been playing rugby, but we had to go to church first before we could play.

I became a Christian aged 15yrs as a result of a couple of brilliant youth leaders who ran a Christian youth club and Bible study. I met Elaine at this group, and we got married while I was serving as a Police Officer in South London and we now have two grown up children, Sophie (who got married last year) living in Sheffield and Andy in Leeds.

After nearly sixteen years' service in the police, I finally answered the call to ordained ministry and was initially stationed in the Harrogate & Knaresborough Circuit, before moving to Dane & Trent Circuit where I was minister for a few churches including the famous Mow Cop (it's a Methodist thing – Mow Cop was the birth place of a big revival in the church and country which led to something called Primitive Methodism).

As you will discover, I am a passionate Crystal Palace fan and try to get to as many games as I can over the season. I love sport and have just about retired from most – still hanging on to cricket. So now I watch a lot of different sports but want to start playing golf (I haven't told Elaine yet!!). I love watching films, open water swimming and I have a long bucket list of things I would still love to do. Recently chalked off driving a tank, but still need to ride a horse, go to grand prix, hire a jet ski and many, many more.

We are both really looking forward to meeting you all and hearing more of your stories.

Take care & God bless

Nick

## All change

Many of us have experienced something new this year, because, if like Joan and myself you have started attending SIMC in the last 11 years, you will not have seen a change of Minister. But now we all have!!

After 11 years, Matt has taken up a position working for the Connexion as Pioneering and Church Planting Officer and has now finally taken that up full time after splitting his time between his new role and SIMC since 1st March.

During his time here Matt developed worship in the Church in many ways with the introduction of Café worship and Breathe (a quieter, meditative style of worship), as well as introducing many new songs from Singing the Faith and worship from the Iona Community.

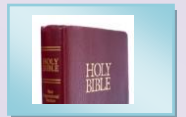
We wish Matt, Yaz and the boys well for the future as they face whatever challenges may lie ahead and trust that they will be good neighbours as they've move just round the corner. By the time you read this we will have welcomed Nick and Elaine to SIMC, and we will be getting to know each other and discover what blessings they bring to share with us. I believe that there are really exciting times ahead for SIMC and I am really looking forward to being involved.

**Clive Jones**

## Monday Afternoon Bible Class

Meets alternate Monday afternoons between 2 and 4 pm usually at the home of Barbara Cooper, 3 Clare Court, St Ives. Classes will resume on 2nd September.

For our last study John Gibbon led us through the letter of St Paul to the Colossians. We followed the study book prepared for the Methodist Church and other denominations by Professor James Dunn. Ministers and Local Preachers had been asked to preach on this text throughout the month of June. Our group now intends to follow this up with a study of the letter to the Ephesians, a similar letter written at around the same time as Colossians. This will be led by Marion Rutherford and will use a recent Grove booklet written by the Rev. John Proctor. John taught Greek and New Testament in the Cambridge Federation of Theological Colleges and will retire next summer from his current post as General Secretary of the United Reformed Church. After Ephesians we intend to do a close study of the Book of Ruth. If anyone is interested in joining the group please contact Marion Rutherford or Barbara Cooper.



## The Thursday Bible Study Group

### 28 Chestnut Road, from 7.00pm

Is reading the Letters of John this autumn using a commentary by Tom Wright. We start with news and cake from 7.00pm on the following dates:

**19th September, 10th and 17th October, 7th and 21st November.** We would be delighted to welcome new faces – just contact Heather Walker for more details.

## Pastoral / Pastoral Friends

It was great to welcome Rosemary Pike and Caroline Armes into Membership of the Methodist Church in the July Café Service, bringing our membership to 111. Rosemary and Roy have been regular members of our congregation for the last 2 years, Caroline is our Children and Families Worker and can be seen in the children's corner most Sundays. A warm welcome to both of you!

Where would we be without friends, we all need friends and a Pastoral Friend is a special friend who you know you can always talk to in good and bad times, who will listen but not judge but keep confidences. Could **you** be that sort of friend? Please have a word with me if you feel you could, even just to one person would be a big help. Our present group of Pastoral Friends do a wonderful job and I say a big **THANK YOU** to them, but I am well aware of the age of most of them and the number of people they are looking after. It is also very much on my mind that shortly one of our Pastoral Friends will be moving away, Wendy Williams will leave a big hole in our Pastoral Team, she has a long list which consists predominately of our young families, she will be hard to replace. Pastoral care is perhaps the core of any Church, please think and pray how you could help the Pastoral life of our Church continue.



Joan Jones (Pastoral Secretary)

## Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship

Sadly, at our recent AGM meeting, the members of the Fellowship had to accept that events have now finally overtaken the group, and it was no longer viable to continue the meeting in its present form.

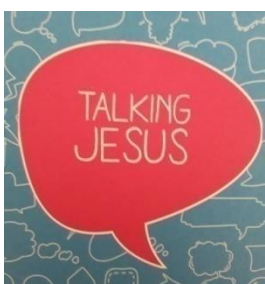
The Fellowship has a long history, going back over 100 years, commencing in the old Primitive Chapel in East St. as a branch of the Nationwide Sisterhood.

However, the fellowship between members is still strong and supportive of each other, and will continue to meet as an informal Friendship group, on alternative Tuesday afternoons, commencing on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>.

As a formal 'closure' of the Fellowship, on the following Tuesday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a special service of Celebration for the Fellowship to be led by Rev. Nick Witham with tea afterwards. All members of the Church, as well as past members, friends and speakers are invited.



Pat Wass



## "Talking Jesus"

Is a six-week course starting on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September**.  
It uses DVD clips to encourage us in conversation about our faith and what it means to be a Christian today.  
Everyone is welcome.



## Leadership Team

The leadership team consists of Clive Jones, Carol Hall, Penny Franklin and myself Vanessa Murphy. We are occupied with the general running of the church, as well as the spiritual input. We continue to be a point of contact for folk to share what they like and what they don't like. We like it when folk share their ideas and thoughts as it helps us to fulfil our role. We endeavour to discern where God is leading us and facilitate it.

The Leadership Team are grateful to everyone who does a job within the church and are especially grateful to you all for your patience and understanding as we bridged the gap between Matt moving on and Nick starting. Thank you too for all your prayers for us and the church. We couldn't do it without you!

This is a new season for SIMC. We have a new minister, Rev Nick Witham, and his wife Elaine. St Ives will be sharing Nick with four other Churches; Hilton, Over, Ramsey and Warboys, which presents opportunities for joint services or other shared activities. We trust that God knows exactly what we need at this time in our church life and look forward to working with Nick and all that lies ahead.

## Vacant positions to be filled within the life of the church.

At the back of the Church there is a Notice Board where descriptions of vacant positions that need filling can be placed. This is proving to be very successful and a template description sheet is there so you can just fill out the details and stick it on the Board. We are so fortunate to be part of a very vibrant and active church, but responsibility needs to be shared by us all

If you feel you can spare an hour or a couple of hours a week contributing to the life of your church, then please take a look at the board and if something takes your fancy, then speak to the contact on the form. Find out more about the role and the time it would take and your never know, it may be just up your street and fit in with your existing commitments.

Take time to look every Sunday as there may be just something for you.

**Please act now and don't delay,  
as before you know it, it will have gone away.**

## Safeguarding Update

Our community of people at SIMC has been really accepting of and understanding about the Safeguarding processes required in order to ensure our church is a place of safety for those who come along and share in our life together. It has been encouraging to see responses to training and form filling, references completed - especially with the recent Munch Bunch club - so that we do our very best to provide a safe and secure place for vulnerable people and children. Thank you.

If you require training in our safeguarding procedures (those involved in a role in church usually do) then please do get in contact. If you are a Pastoral friend who visits people in their homes, do come and have a word with me to make sure that we are supporting you as best we can and following the Methodist Church's safeguarding advice.

We do this all from a place of love; a place that says that we want to show love and care and respect for all God's children.

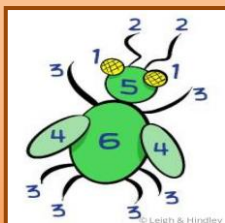
Karen Pickin

## Project 200

The P200 Team is looking forward to working through all your comments on the Imagine Groups Report. The deadline is **Friday 6 September** so don't delay!

We have commissioned new controls for the heating system hoping that will help us resolve some of the problems we had with the heating last winter. It should be fitted at the end of October. What we have learned is that the new system in the ancillary rooms is not as flexible as the old individual radiators. We are simply not able to adjust the heat to meet the needs of different bookings as those needs vary so much according to the nature of the group, eg: Yoga needs a warm room, Country Dancing needs a warm welcome and then a cool room! Assuming the new controls enable the system to work properly, then we will aim to meet each group's needs as far as we are able, but where several bookings follow on from each other all we can do is try to provide a constant temperature of 19° to 20°. If groups need to open windows to let heat out they will, hopefully, be mindful of those coming after them and make sure they leave the room as they found it.

In aid of  
Project  
200



5% to  
Calm  
Town

Come and have some fun at the  
Beetle and Buffet

On

Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup>

at 3pm.

£6 per head.

Under 11's free.

Contact Heather 350270 or  
Wendy 370185 for tickets.

## Quiz Night

**Friday October 11<sup>th</sup>**

7 pm

£10.00

Including Fish and Chip supper.  
or similar.

In aid of 'Project 200'

5% To 'Calm Town'

# Autumn Eco Fair

Sat. October 19<sup>th</sup>

10am to 2pm

CAN YOU HELP?

- Run a stall,
  - Serve refreshments,
  - Donate gifts of jewellery, cakes, tombola & raffle/hamper gifts, items for Bargain Basement etc.
  - Organise activities for children.
  - \_ All ideas welcome.
- Collecting basket in Church available from beginning of September.
- Contact;** Joan Tucker/Mary Gatehouse for more information.

## Craft 'n' Chat

Come and join us for coffee, cake and craft every Saturday morning 10 -12. Joan and Sue will be there to help you start a new craft or continue with an old one. At the moment we are making items for the Autumn Fair in October.

Whether you're interested in knitting, crochet, origami, needlework, painting or just want to come along and have a natter you would be more than welcome.

Hope to see you there.



## Property Committee News.

A lot has been going on and there are a lot of people to thank :

St Ives Town Council for a grant towards the chair lift,

St Ives Rotary Club for the new cupboard in the Hall,

St Ives in Bloom for financial help and guidance in replacing the rear car park wall.

Thanks again to all the willing volunteers who have also installed cycle stands, water butts and shifted large quantities of car park gravel. The rear of the premises has had a bit of an upgrade. It is, after all, the way many approach the Church for the first time.

## ECO AWARD

We are the delighted recipients of a Bronze Award from the A Rocha National Churches Award Scheme. Now for Silver!

## From a Munch Bunch Family

Thank you for a lovely breakfast!  
It is such a wonderful community.

We will keep you all in our prayers.

Reflections on the August 'Munch Bunch' in next edition.

## Groups in the Methodist Church

There are many groups to join in at the Methodist Church to help us stay fit and healthy.

Pilates, Line dancing, Table Tennis, Country dancing etc.

They all take an interest in the upcoming improvements as well.

A new group 'Tai Chi' will be starting up on  
September 24<sup>th</sup>. 7pm -9pm

## Prayer

Prayer is such an important part of our Christian life. It is our chance to converse with God and listen to his wisdom for every situation “under the sun”. Scripture tells us that Jesus frequently withdrew to pray and so it follows that we should too. Prayer is a personal thing but there is plenty of evidence that praying together is beneficial as well. If you don't already have a prayer partner, I encourage you to find one, or even two. For me, a prayer triplet helped grow my faith and enabled me to make deep and lasting friendships. I would love to help people gain confidence in prayer and am thrilled the Circuit are promoting Pete Greig's Prayer Course this quarter. The course has been revised slightly since the last one I ran, but still uses the Lord's Prayer to introduce the different types of prayer. It is now 8-weeks long and each session includes a video, and time for conversation and prayer. If you are interested, please come and talk to me, or email [prayer@simc.co.uk](mailto:prayer@simc.co.uk) and we can get a group together. One person who did the course previously has already expressed an interest in doing it again.

Within the church context, prayer directs and shapes how the church develops. We need to involve God in every detail and every decision, or we labour in vain. Traditionally, prayer meetings are the least well-attended meetings in a church, but I believe the more we pray, the more God moves. On a Wednesday morning, Rosemary Pike and I pray for the church and welcome any intercessors who would like to join us. Or if you have a specific prayer request you would like us to pray for (in confidence), please speak to either of us or email [prayer@simc.co.uk](mailto:prayer@simc.co.uk). It would be our privilege to pray for you!

Vanessa Murphy

### A Thank you prayer.

Thank you God  
for the little things  
that often come our way.  
The things we take for granted  
but don't mention when we pray.

**Thank you to all those who play a part in the smooth running of the Church and it's many activities.**



## Other Dates For Your Diary.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 10-4pm Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 12-4pm**

### The 2019 Heritage Weekend

We will display all our photographs, and ask you and the general public to add to them. It would be great to have some new ones to include in 'The Book' being prepared to celebrate the end of Project 200!



**World Church Sunday** is on **13th October** this year when we turn the spotlight on Haiti with our speaker Anne McConnell. Following the service there will be a 'bring and share lunch' and at **1.45pm a short workshop to give us chance to learn more about this** fascinating country and its long association with the Methodist Church.



## Autumn Eco Fair

**Sat. October 19<sup>th</sup>  
10am to 2pm**



### **Eco Ideas needed!**

This year we are going to try out some eco friendly ideas for the Autumn Fair. In the Craft Group we are trying to make items/gifts /crafts out of reusable materials donated to us. We are having a 'Leaf Trail' in partnership with Holt Island Nature Reserve and the Norris Museum. We would love to hear your ideas to make this event a success.

Please contact: Joan T and Mary G.

In aid of Church funds.

Contributions for the November/December 2019 issue should reach no later than

**Friday November 8<sup>th</sup> 2019.**

In **Times New Roman and font 14.** Please contact us if you are able to receive a copy by email.

[Joan.tucker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Joan.tucker@hotmail.co.uk) [mary.gatehouse1@gmail.com](mailto:mary.gatehouse1@gmail.com) [barbara.cooper3@ntlworld.com](mailto:barbara.cooper3@ntlworld.com)

Church Council accepted the offer of Barbara Cooper, Mary Gatehouse and Joan Tucker to compile two pilot editions of a Church Newsletter in September and November 2019. If a decision to continue is made it will be essential to recruit new volunteers.



