

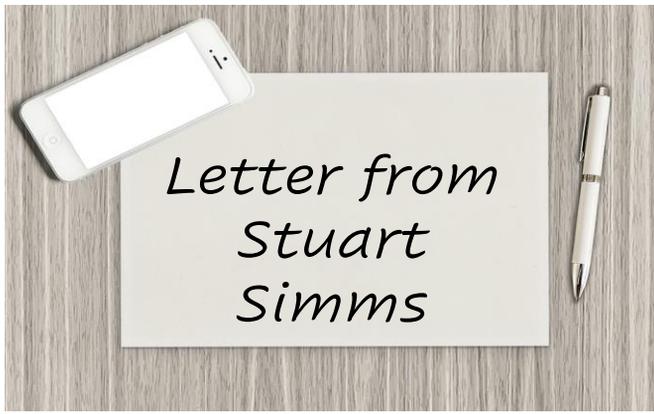


**Kempston East
Methodist
Church
Newsletter
Issue 108
May 15th
2022**

Minister: Rev Michael Giles
Michaelgiles2017@gmail.com
01234 930882



Christian Aid Week – May 15-21



SUNDAY CLUB ANNIVERSARY

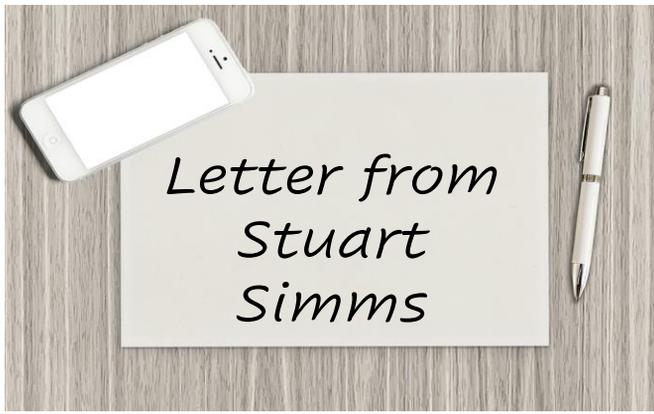
I think it is fair to say we all like having or going to celebrations. They may be birthday party celebrations, wedding anniversaries, celebrating achievements, or just getting together with friends or family to have a barbecue or dinner, enjoying each other's company.

A few weeks ago the Simms family were all together at a cousin's wedding, a lovely celebration of two people being joined in marriage, and afterwards we travelled to an old water mill for the reception. We all had a lovely time, but because of the situation with lots of water all around there were no children at the reception. Personally I like to see and hear children at weddings, it being a family occasion, but I do understand the situation - having to use my life saving skills in my new suit would not do it any good at all.

On another occasion at a local football ground watching a cup final, before the match started the two teams had brought their young supporters dressed in team colours and they showed off their skills, running up and down the touch line to the delight of the crowd. It was great fun. I think some people enjoyed this warm up more than the main event.

Today we have the opportunity to celebrate our Sunday Club Anniversary, our children and young people. It may have changed its name a few times over the years but we are here today to give thanks for the young people who have come to this Church, who come today, and who have been part of the Church. Some of you may have been members of Sunday School or Junior Church years ago and I am sure you have many happy memories, and you are still here.

I remember very well my Superintendent Sunday School teacher at Potton Methodist Chapel, Hubert Whitfield, always in a suit and tie, ready to tell us stories, lead singing, do some crafts, and perform magic tricks. Yes magic tricks!



He knew how to get our attention, but he always said they were just deceiving the eye, not miracles like Jesus performed.

We are always pleased to see young people here taking part in Worship and Sunday Club. We also like to see those who help with Sunday Club. Without them it would be very difficult to continue, so thank you to all who help.

In Mark 10 verse 14 Jesus said “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these”.

It is our duty to bring and encourage children and young people to come and share in our fellowship, learn of the love of Jesus, and be part of the life here and in doing so it will enrich their life and the life of the Church here now and in the future.

Stuart

Discover Together Evening



The Miracles of Jesus

The Reverend Jeffrey John

Associate Chaplain, St George's, Paris;
formerly Dean of St Albans

will lead a session exploring
“The Miracle Stories in the
Gospels”

Monday 16th May
8.00pm via Zoom

BELIEF sessions at St Andrew's

Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 7.30pm on Zoom.

Luke Bretherton

**"Christ, Democracy, and the Struggle for a
Common Life"**

During the session Luke will use key Christian ideas, including love, lament and listening, to unpack how through doing politics in a democratic way we can help sustain a generous and just common life in days when societies can be divided and polarised. These are important matters in the world today. Please do come along and engage with them and with Luke, in this session.

£10 per person

Booking via Eventbrite using this link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/272123918967>



Join us this Christian Aid Week, and help turn hunger into hope. Hope lives in you.

In Zimbabwe, the climate crisis is causing aching hunger for many families. The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict, and drought have robbed parents of the power to provide for her children. And 7,000 miles away, the war in Ukraine will drive up food prices in Zimbabwe, and around the globe. Without the fertiliser and food - like wheat and cooking oil - that Ukraine and Russia produce, vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger.

But hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you.

With every gift, every action, every prayer, we celebrate and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe.

Donate, and help turn hunger into hope

Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help families in Zimbabwe set up water taps on their farms, learn to grow food, and provide seeds that thrive in drought – giving them all they need to turn their dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

It's time for polluters to pay!

In Zimbabwe, crops are lost to drought. In Haiti, homes are damaged by a hurricane and in Kenya, a road is washed away by a flash flood. This is what the climate crisis looks like - it's hitting the poorest people in the world the hardest. We say it's time for polluters to pay up and repair what's damaged.

By paying into an international loss and damage fund, the countries and polluters who've done the most to cause the climate crisis could help people recover and rebuild when disasters strike and compensate them for all that is permanently lost. The only problem is, no such fund exists – yet! But it's time that governments across the world set up a central fund to pay for the loss and damage caused by climate change: a fund which those who are hit hardest can easily access; a fund which would pay for the rebuilding of homes flattened by hurricanes; a fund which can support those who can no longer farm their land, because of rising sea levels or persistent drought

Our message to Boris Johnson: back the fund

We're calling on the UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, to fully back the creation of an international loss and damage fund as a matter of urgency, and to push for other governments to back this too.

[Add your name to our petition now.](#)



General Church Meeting Needs YOU

General Church Meeting

‘The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church’ is the main governing document for Methodism in this country. It requires us to have a General Church Meeting at least once a year for:

“fellowship, for mutual counsel respecting the condition of the Local Church, including its financial affairs, for the election of church stewards and representatives and for any other purpose which the Conference may direct.”

In practice, it’s an opportunity for everyone to hear from the Stewards, from the Finance team and from others about ‘what’s going on’ and to elect Stewards (we have names to put forward) and representatives from the Membership to sit on Church Council (ditto).

Before Covid, we had got into the habit of holding the General Church Meeting in the New School Hall after the Sunday morning Service. People would bring along a contribution to a ‘bring and share’ lunch and we’d have the meeting at about 1.30 when everyone was ready. The meeting itself would usually last less than an hour.

Of course, during the pandemic we couldn’t do that: Zoom was our friend.

This year, we’re reverting to the Service – lunch – General Church Meeting approach. The General Church Meeting will take place on **Sunday 17 July**.

So this is all a long-winded way of saying: “Can you write General Church Meeting” into your diaries, please?

Richard



Our Church Family



Please remember in your prayers:

- Joyce and Peter
 - Margaret and Martin
 - Jean B
 - Chris, Olga, David and Ruth
 - Julie, Sarah and Philippa
 - Vivienne, Graham and Alice
 - Shamun M (son of Francis)
 - All those taking exams at present
- All refugees arriving and arrived in the UK, especially for Ukrainian families, that they will find peace and a good life here

This Week at Kempston East

Monday May 16 th	1.00pm	Thanksgiving Service for the life of Brian Fox
Tuesday May 17 th	2.00pm	Tibbs Dementia in the New School Hall
Friday May 20 th	9.30am	Parents and Toddlers meet in the Halls
Saturday May 21 st	4.00pm	Soup Kitchen in the Church Garden

Church special clean

Over a three year period, the whole of the Church property at East is given a special clean by the Property Committee. One year the New School Hall block is thoroughly cleaned, the next year, the Old School Hall block and the finally the Church. This year the Church is to be cleaned between Tuesday 17th and Friday 20th May and the Property Committee would really appreciate some help. There are jobs to suit all abilities and there is always quite a lot of friendly banter. If you feel you can offer to help please speak to Andrew Judd, the Property Steward (07922 152312) to agree the best time(s) to come along. Please help if you can.



WORSHIP AT EAST

This week, our morning service at 10.30am will take the form of the Sunday Club Anniversary and will be led by Keith Lilley from Willington Methodist Church

We should also be able to get back to live streaming the service this week so those of you who connect in by either Zoom or YouTube should once again be able to watch the service online. An audio recording on CD will be available to those who normally receive these.

Forthcoming Services at Kempston East

Sunday May 22 nd	Glynne Rowlands
Sunday May 29 th	Brian Addington
Sunday June 5 th	Rev Michael Giles – Holy Communion and Songs of Praise

PS In his message last Sunday morning, Alan Davis mentioned 'There's No One With Endurance (Like The Man Who Sells Insurance)' by Frank Crumit. If you would like to experience this vintage comic song, it can be found here: https://youtu.be/cBlgJ_C3g8M

Summary of Guidelines for Covid-safe Services at Kempston East

Although you are no longer legally required to wear a face covering while in the church and halls, you may decide to still carry on doing this to protect both yourself and others. That is a personal choice and we should respect people's personal decisions in this.

With this in mind, we will still be reserving the back three rows of the church for people who do not wish to sit with those without a face covering so, **please do not sit in those rows if you have an uncovered face!**

Other than that, you can sit anywhere but, from a courtesy point of view, please ask if it's Ok to sit next to or close to someone already in the row you're heading for.

Funeral of Brian Fox

The funeral of Brian Fox will take place on Monday May 16th.
A Service of Thanksgiving for Brian's life will be held at
Kempston East Methodist Church at 1.00pm.

Everyone is, of course, welcome to attend.



Pentecost and Queen's Platinum Jubilee Sunday June 5th



To celebrate both of these occasions we hope to have a Bring and Share picnic lunch in the Church garden after the morning service on Sunday 5th June. We need to know, however, if enough people are interested to make the occasion viable. There is a list at the back of the Church so please add your name if you would like to come.



Bedford 'Hope Space

It is with some sadness that we are having to give up our Hope Space shop in Bedford Town Centre; it closed yesterday on 30th April.

Our initial two planned weeks of opening have become more than two years, and we are grateful to God for all that He has done in that time - lives saved and changed, many people given hope, thousands of pieces of literature given out, prayers answered and people healed and so much more as people have looked in and read the texts on display.

Thank you to everyone who has prayed, and given financially into this work. We do not believe that this is the end, but a time to seek God for his direction as we reset and regroup. A seed has to fall into the ground and die first. God's ways are far greater than ours, as this has shown.

Please continue to pray that we have wisdom and God's leading at this time, as we firmly believe He wants a presence in Bedford Town Centre, and for more churches to be involved in something even greater.

Blessings to you all,

Stephen and Pip Elphick.

If you have any prayer requests, thanks and, indeed, any other items and news that you would like to go into next week's newsletter then please email these to Dominic Simms (dominic.simms@hotmail.co.uk), ideally by Wednesday.

If you know of someone who would like to receive this emailed newsletter could you please send their email address to richard.ward4@btinternet.com. Equally, if you would like to be removed from the distribution list, please let Richard Ward know.