

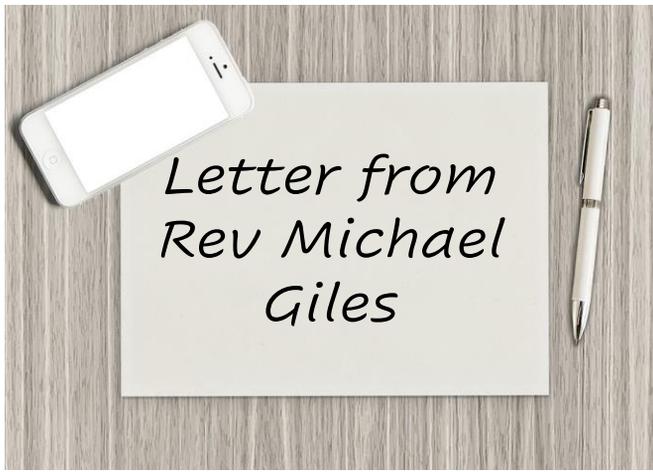


**Kempston East
Methodist
Church
e-Newsletter
Issue 75
September 19th
2021**

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



Harvest Festival



KEMPSTON EAST AND ZIMBABWE LOCAL and GLOBAL HARVEST

Dear Friends,

My first appointment as a Methodist Minister in 1991 was to five churches, one market town in Saffron Walden and four village churches. I quickly learnt that Harvest was more important than Christmas due to the strong connections to the farming community and countryside. Church Council meetings were held in the farmstead home of a Mrs Fox, where on the wall of the living room was mounted the head of a fox (they caused huge distress to sheep, poultry and wildfowl). I had a lot to learn as a townie and I have carried that love of Harvest Festivals ever since then. Back then I usually attended five harvest suppers in two weeks, held in churches and local community halls!

HARVEST LOCAL AND GLOBAL

Local

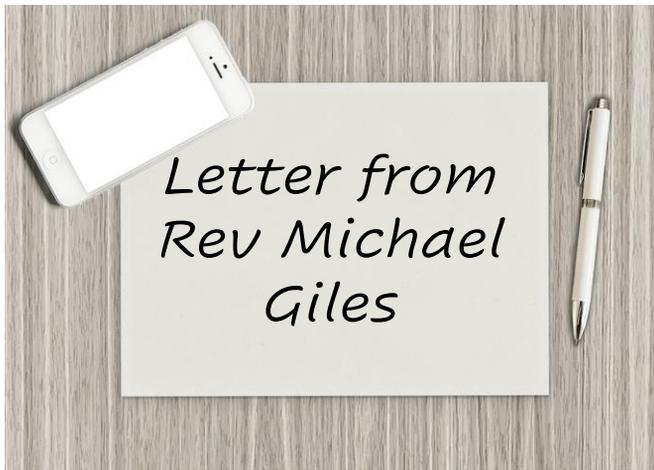
This year Kempston East will, as usual, be supporting Bedford Foodbank with its Harvest Appeal (details of non perishable items can be found on page 7 in the newsletter).

Global

But in addition Kempston East will be supporting the AWC (All We Can, the Methodist relief charity) Harvest Appeal theme 'The Next Steps'. This year its focus is on Zimbabwe and its local partner HEFO (Health Education Food Organisation) in the areas of Nkayi. This area faces the impact of climate change and there is widespread hunger and food shortages. Women are particularly disadvantaged in terms of rights to land, property and decision making. Some of challenges include walking between 2km and 10km each day to collect water for drinking, washing, crops and animals.

There is also the impact of Covid, lack of vaccinations and the impact of local health services.





Vaitei, her husband and their two grandchildren plough their fields in Nkayi, Zimbabwe

But we can and should make a positive difference to other people's lives.

www.allwecan.org.uk/steps



Gracious God,
Guide the way as we take the next
step in our walk with you.
Lead us towards justice;
Show us the path of abundant love;
Set our feet on the road towards
building your kingdom.
May our next steps follow yours,
And our hearts be turned outwards
as we love by following your
example.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

See above the prayer from the web site and a photo of Vaitei who will benefit together with her granddaughters from our support.

Gift Envelopes: There will be envelopes at Church services for the next few weeks for people to give.

Blessings
Rev Michael Giles



Wesley Guild meet again this week

The second meeting of the Guild's new season will be this Wednesday at 2.30pm in the New School Hall. This week we will be entertained by Pam Ayres as she reads some of her poems. Unfortunately, Pam won't be there in person so we will be listening to a recording of her instead!

BB Activities by Phil Timms



Our annual inspection display took place in the form of a recorded Oscars evening with the badges and trophies being presented and some short items. The video is available online, so do please take a look: <https://kenc.wistia.com/medias/o1dc67wnsv>

During the summer months our Anchors and Juniors continued to meet at the church and the Company and Seniors at Addison Park. Sadly it appears that, between the Borough Council and Fusion Leisure, they have ceased all activity at the Kempston Outdoor Centre, so we were unable to do any climbing or canoeing activity, and we await to see what happens with the centre in the future.

On the last Friday of the summer term the full company met together at Kempston Hammers Sports and Social Club for a family barbecue evening followed by a game of rounders. This was the first time that the full company had been together since December 2019, so it was great to enjoy an evening together. We were also blessed with a fantastic weather for the evening.

On Sunday 25th July we travelled to Hallowtree Camp Site for our annual camp. Again, the weather was fantastic for the majority of the week with the exception of the final morning. We enjoyed a variety of games and activities and had a fantastic week away. One thing that we did notice was that this year for the first time we had a number of younger Juniors who had not camped before; in fact it soon became obvious that their Mums had packed their case and they had absolutely no idea what clothes they had with them, and quite a few didn't take all their own clothes home afterwards either! Our seniors were however fantastic in looking after the younger lads, although I am not sure that any of them will want to have children in the future.

During the summer the Boys' Brigade has launched a new fully resourced badge programme for the Company and Seniors age groups; this complements the new programme that was launched for Anchors and Juniors last year and is based on a number of weekly activity programme cards. The new resources look very good and we are excited to start using them very soon.

Over the last weekend, two of our lads completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's expedition in the Lake District, Karl Chido and David Fox are now completing the other elements of the programme and will hopefully receive their badge later in the year.

As you saw during the Christian Aid fayre, we now have our new recruitment tent, banners, posters and leaflets and we are now actively recruiting new members. If you know an area where we can display a poster or distribute leaflets, or an event where we can use our stall to spread our name please let us know. A banner is now on display at the front of the church to tell the world that we are OPEN and that we meet here. This coincides with a national campaign by the BB (#OPENTOBB).

In terms of dates, there are a few to note:

- Sunday 3rd October enrolment parade at Kempston East – Revd Michael Giles
- Monday 6th December 7pm – The Boys' and Girls' Brigade Christmas Carol Concert
- Friday 13th May 7pm – The Annual Inspection and Display and Award Evening.



Please do support us by coming along!

And finally, in my previous report I outlined that we were struggling financially and that we may only just be able to cover our capitation fees to Boys Brigade headquarters this September.

As you know we cycled virtually from Kempston to Glasgow with all three sections completing the distance. This alone raised over £4,000. Following on from the publicity of this event I was contacted by a lady whose brother had been a member of Boys' Brigade in Glasgow, she wanted to donate to our cause and subsequently sent us a cheque for £2,000. Prior to all of this I had also written to the Bedfordshire Charities (formally the Ibbett Trust), and I am pleased to say that they have recently confirmed a donation of £1,200 to cover this year's capitation. So, whilst finances were a very worrying subject for us earlier in the year, our fortunes have been totally transformed, thanks to the efforts of our Boys and the very generous donations we have received.

So, in summary, we are looking forward to being back to a new normal (and not the new normal we had 18 months ago), we have money to support us, but we need to focus all our efforts on recruiting new members and growing once again.

Thank you for all of your support during the most challenging of times, and special thanks to Sue and Richard for all their work cleaning the halls which enabled us to continue and Barbara for her work cleaning the loos. We know that this was a lot of extra work but we really do appreciate it.

Here's to our 63rd year working with the young people of Kempston here at Kempston East.

Every blessing
Phil

Philip Timms
Company Captain
1st Kempston Company,
The Boys' Brigade



Our Church Family



Please remember in your prayers:

- Les and Rosemary R
- Rosemary H who is progressing well after breaking her elbow
- Brian F
- Jean B

Samaritan's Purse

It's the time of year when we need to start planning for our Samaritan's Purse Appeal. Boxes or items or money are all welcome. I will have the flat-packed boxes so please let me know what you need and I will let you have them. This year, we will need them a bit earlier.



Thank you
Barbara G (301685)

Kempston East Lunch Club

The team has regathered and Lunch Club is restarting!

We will return to our normal pattern of serving a meal on the second Thursday of each month ... and prices are being held at the pre-pandemic level. That means the first meal post-lockdown will be on Thursday 14 October. Cottage pie and seasonal vegetables will be followed by blackberry and apple tart with ice cream.



You do need to book in advance if you want to come along. Contact Sue on 852400.

WORSHIP AT EAST

This Sunday, our Harvest Festival service at 10.30am will be led by Rev Michael Giles and will include a celebration of Holy Communion. Until we get full wifi installed in the church we will not be live-streaming our services. However, Dom will put an audio recording of the service on the church website later on Sunday and an audio recording on CD will be available to those who normally receive these.

Forthcoming Services from Kempston East

Sunday Sept 26 th	10.30am	Local Worship – Anwar Masih
Sunday Oct 3 rd	10.30am	Rev Michael Giles – Parade Service
Sunday Oct 10 th	10.30am	Chris Robinson

All these services will be held in the Church following the advice and guidelines given in the Stewards' recommendations in earlier newsletters

Harvest Festival

As part of our thanksgiving we invite you to bring gifts which can be placed on the tables at the front of the church before the service begins. All the food will be given to the Food Bank in Bedford so packets, tins etc would be the most useful to them. Envelopes for the All We Can Harvest Appeal focusing on projects in Zimbabwe will also be available.



Bedford Foodbank are, at present, seeing a record level of demand so your help will be very gratefully received. In July they gave out 448 3-day emergency food parcels, feeding 914 people, which is a new record for this year.

They have indicated that they would find the following items particularly helpful for their important work: UHT Milk, Cup-a-Soup, Fruit Juice (Longlife), Tinned Carrots/Peas/Sweetcorn, Tinned Tuna, Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit, Rice 250g/500g/1kg, Ham (Small Tins), Coffee (small), Biscuits, Shampoo, Washing-Up Liquid, Anti-Bac Spray, Deodorant (Unisex), Tin Openers, Saucepans.

Fund-Raising Walks

Walk for Parkinson's 'Your Way'

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.

I am planning to take part in this year's Walk for Parkinson's Your Way. Instead of an organised walk this is a way of raising money for research and support for people with Parkinson's disease. I can walk where I want over the weekend of September 25th and 26th and will walk for 6 miles, probably around the various bridges and embankments in Bedford.

I have a sponsorship page at <https://events.parkinsons.org.uk/fundraisers/geofftalbot>. If you feel able to sponsor me I (and Parkinson's UK) will be very grateful for your support

Many thanks,

Geoff Talbot

Tibbs Dementia Foundation
'Stride Out for Memory Walk'



SCAN & REGISTER

**STRIDE OUT
FOR MEMORY
WALK**



Join us **Saturday 25th September**
at **Priory Country Park**
10:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Minimum donation **£5 per adult.**
Register on the day or
Pre-register at
<https://bit.ly/pre-regnow>

More
information at -
tibbsdementia.co.uk
or
Telephone us on -
01234 210993



**T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR
£6 TO BUY ON THE DAY!**

On Saturday 25th September Tibbs are holding their first big fundraising event since the pandemic. They hope people will come and join them, have fun and help raise money for this worthwhile local charity.

Weekly COVID-19 Cases in Bedford Borough

New Covid-19 cases in Bedford Borough continued to fall slightly from 488 cases in week ending September 5th to 455 new cases in week ending September 12th. This equates to 260.5 cases per 100,000 population. There were three deaths reported in the week ending September 3rd. Case number changes in our local wards are mixed with cases having risen in Kempston Central and East to 23 new cases and Kempston South to 13 new cases. New case numbers in Kempston North stayed constant at 12. In the other wards case numbers have fallen – Wootton 21 new cases, Kempston West 12 new cases and Kempston Rural also 12 new cases.

Vaccinations in the Borough are significantly lower than in England as a whole. As of September 5th 72% of adults in the Borough had had their first jab (89% in England as a whole) and 65% had had both jabs (81% in England as a whole)