



**Kempston East
Methodist
Church
e-Newsletter
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October 10th
2021**

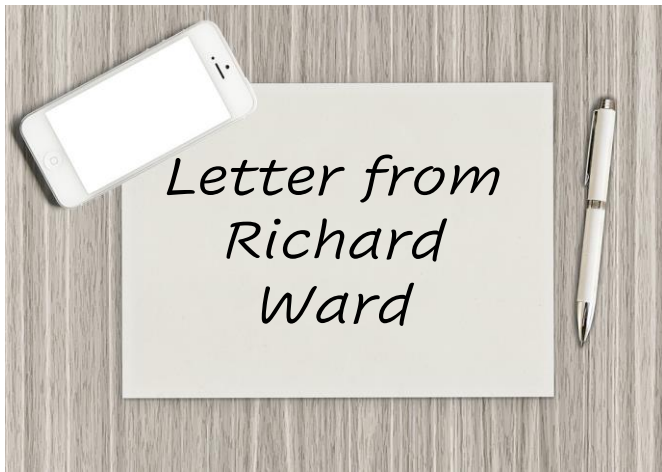
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World Homeless Day (October 10th)

www.worldhomelessday.org

www.kempstoneastmethodist.org



Sue and I went away for the weekend last week. We rented a pine lodge just north of Matlock and spent four days there with our son and his partner.

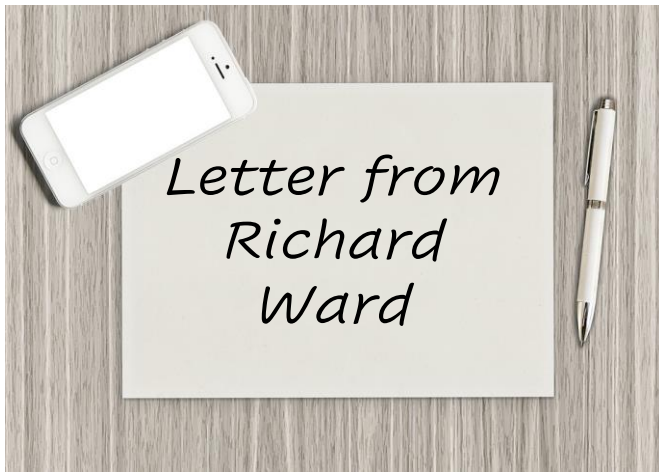
As ever in this country, the weather was a bit mixed ... but Sue, Rob, Hannah and I were prepared for it and had a good time. I took the opportunity to top-up my stock of 'Sunday PowerPoint' photos with some scenic Derbyshire views which I use to bridge the gaps in Orders of Service (for example between the ends of hymns and the start of the next item). Photos need to be interesting without being distracting ... and I know Michael S loves to see my holiday photos in this way!

But because we were away for the weekend, a couple of things fell by the wayside. I would normally deliver printed copies of this Newsletter to a few people on Friday evening or Saturday morning: those had to wait this week until we got back on Monday. Sue and I would usually clean the New School Hall, toilets and kitchen on Sunday evening but we missed our slot this week. Quite often I write the PowerPoint slides for Sunday morning (Geoff T and Tony M are the other writers) but I had already told Geoff I wasn't available and so Tony M did it. I understand it was a complicated one.

When we're not here, it's increasingly difficult to find others who can fill the gap for us. I'm very conscious that all the people who we might ask to pick things up temporarily are already wearing multiple hats: it's not that they wouldn't say 'yes' if we asked them, but it just feels unfair to ask.

The Church now relies heavily on Dom for our 'broadcasting' and social media activity. We've long relied on Keith and Andrew for sound arrangements on Sundays. There are lots of others who do – often unsung – jobs on which we all rely.

At Property Committee's last meeting, Michael announced that he intended to step down as Chair at the end of this Connexional Year. At that point, he will have been in post for 30 years. The Committee will need to find a new Chair. Geoff has recently stepped down from his part of the Church Treasurer role. We need to find a replacement. Our teams of cleaners are significantly depleted: we need more.



Most 'jobs' in the Church don't require huge numbers of hours to be devoted to them each week. Generally, there's a requirement for a steady few hours on a regular basis or a more concerted effort for a brief period from time to time.

Could you devote a few hours here and there to a role? Might you be able to pay-in a few cheques from time to time? Might you be able to dust the Church a couple of times a year? Might you fancy taking responsibility for cleaning a room once a week? Might you be ready for a larger role where you can play a role in helping to direct the Church's future?

I'm sure the Stewards would be pleased to discuss with anyone how they might help with roles around the Church, adjusting and adapting tasks to fit in with whatever time commitment you are able to make.

How did my weekend away in Derbyshire get me to this? Well, in part it was the realisation that Sue and I were leaving jobs undone by being away and that part of being away means having to catch up when you return. But it was also walking past the Church of the English Martyrs in Bakewell on Sunday afternoon: shut, boarded-up and for sale. It made me think.

Richard Ward

Water Aid

Those of you who were at Church last Sunday will recall that Michael Giles got members of the Brigades to walk up and down the aisle carrying bottles of water. He then spoke about the people in our world who have to walk miles every day to fetch water for drinking, cooking, washing etc. We have supported Water Aid for many years and, now we are back to meeting in Church again, I would ask that you don't forget these people who don't even have fresh water to drink. It's only with our support that the organisation can get water near to where they live so they can avoid the long journeys and the dangers of using dirty water. The donation box is back on the shelf next to the door to the vestry corridor. Please show your support by putting in your loose change and donations. The box is emptied regularly and money banked in the Sunday Club accounts before it is forwarded on to the charity. Thank you, *Jane Mayhew*

Thank You

Bedford
Foodbank

would like to say thank you to

KEMPSTON EAST METHODIST CHURCH
HARVEST DONATION OF
FOOD & TOILETRIES

for your generous donations which will directly
help fight poverty in the local area

Total weight:

123.50 kg



Thank you for your Harvest donation of food & toiletries which weighed 123.50 kg.

The need for help from the Foodbank continues to increase year upon year. We usually regularly feed over 700 people a month, giving them enough food for 3-4 days, or around 10 meals. The monthly food leaving our warehouse is generally in the region of 5-8 tonnes, so we are very grateful for all donations, whether money or food, that we receive as each one is vital for the ongoing work of the foodbank and is greatly appreciated.

In August 2021 10.5 tonnes of food were given out, 466 vouchers were redeemed, 936 people fed, and of which 298 were children.

Q&A with Chief Executive, Mike Griffin



Wouldn't it be better to give money to the people you support so they can buy their own tools and support the local economy?

- In many of the rural areas where we work there are simply no places where you can buy tools.
- If you can buy tools, they are very expensive and cost almost the same as they do in the UK, which puts them well out of reach for the many people who survive on less than a pound a day.
- The quality of many of the tools available is very poor. I have often seen tools bought locally which have broken the first time they are used.

It seems to cost so much to send a container to Africa. How can you justify this?

- it costs an average of £8,500 to ship, pay customs, duties and transport to send a container to Africa. It sounds a lot but consider this: it's 7,200 miles by sea and another 1,200 miles by land to our busiest distribution centre in Kitwe, Zambia. That works out at 89p per mile. Whereas if I were to catch a train from Ipswich to London at peak time, it would cost me around £55 to travel 63 miles. That's 87p per mile. Which makes an entire container for 89p a bit of a bargain!

More Q&A with Mike Griffin in a future newsletter



Our Church Family



Please remember in your prayers:

- Rosemary H
- Brian F
- Jean B

Please let me know of anyone you know of who should go on to our prayer list

This Week at Kempston East

Monday October 11 th	3.00pm	Hillgrounds Housegroup meet at 1 Slater Close
Monday October 11 th	7.30pm	Finance Committee meet in the Church
Tuesday October 12 th	2.00pm	Tibbs Dementia Foundation meet in the New School Hall
Thursday October 14 th	12.30pm	Lunch Club meet in the New School Hall



Rosemary H sends her thanks to Kempston East for the lovely flowers that she received and to Phil B for delivering them to her. She is progressing well after breaking her elbow a few months ago.

Samaritans Purse

Thank you all for your gifts of money, hand knitted gifts and other items. If you're assembling your own shoe boxes the completed ones need to be brought to church on November 7th – or Barbara G can collect them from you. Just call her on 301685.



WORSHIP AT EAST

This Sunday, at our service at 10.30am, we welcome Chris Robinson to lead our worship. Chris is a local preacher who has recently moved into the circuit. 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 Oct 17 th	10.30am	Geoff Talbot – Guild Anniversary
Sunday Oct 24 th	10.30am	Rev Gordon Sollis (Church Anniversary and Holy Communion)
Sunday Oct 31 st	10.30am	Local Worship led by the Stewards

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



Talking Jesus Course

www.talkingjesus.org

There will be two opportunities to join in the 'ROUTE 51 Fellowship Group' on 2nd and 4th weeks of November, January and February with a Christmas break. You can either join a Tuesday evening session (7.30pm/7.45pm to 9pm) on Zoom, or you can join a Wednesday morning session (10.30am to 11.45am) in the New School Hall. If you're interested then sign up sheets are available in the church, or you can email Rev Michael Giles at michaelgiles2017@gmail.com

Full details of the course can be found in the past two newsletters.

JMA Boxes

If you have a JMA mission box, please can you give it to Barbara G so that the money can be counted. If you have a box that you no longer need, could you please give it back to Barbara G so that it can be used elsewhere. Equally, if you haven't got a box and would like one, please let Barbara G know.



Anniversaries

October is the month when we have two 'church' anniversaries – the Wesley Guild anniversary and the main Church anniversary.

Guild Anniversary

Guild Anniversary is on Sunday October 17th and, this year, the service will be led by Geoff Talbot.

Church Anniversary

Church Anniversary will be on the following Sunday, October 24th and will be the culmination of quite a packed weekend.

Coffee Morning

The weekend will begin with a coffee morning in the New School Hall between 10.00am and noon on Saturday October 23rd. As well as coffee, tea and other refreshments, the usual cards, books and cake stalls will be there.

Gift Day Weekend

Church Anniversary Weekend is also our Gift Day Weekend, the time when you can make your gifts to thank God for all the good things that He has given to you. Despite the trials of the past year, I'm sure that we all have lots of things that we are thankful for. Gift Day envelopes will be available in the church before and during the weekend to give you time to prayerfully consider what your gift should be. You can put your gift envelopes in the box at the Coffee Morning and in church on the Sunday morning.

Church Quiz

After a rest in the afternoon (!) you're invited to come back at 7.00pm for the annual Church Quiz. This will also take place in the New School Hall. Teams of up to four (but no more than four!) can take part. If you're planning on entering a team, please let Geoff T know beforehand (although we will try to accommodate teams and individuals on the night as well). Tea and coffee will be served in the interval but you're also welcome to bring your own (non-alcoholic!) refreshments for during the quiz.



Church Anniversary Service

Finally, we welcome Rev Gordon Sollis to lead our church anniversary service at 10.30am on Sunday October 24th. Many of you will remember Gordon when he was a minister in the old Bedford South and Amptill circuit some years ago. He moved from that circuit to Bridgend/Port Talbot in South Wales and after retirement he has stayed there. Gordon should have led our church anniversary service last year but, because of all the pandemic restrictions he was unable to travel. It will be doubly good, then, to welcome him.

Weekly COVID-19 Cases in Bedford Borough

Another (but, this week, smaller) increase in new Covid-19 cases in Bedford Borough as new cases rose from 651 cases in week ending September 26th to 684 new cases in week ending October 3rd. This equates to 391.6 cases per 100,000 population. There were also two deaths reported in the week ending September 24th.

These numbers yet again emphasise the need for everyone who has been invited to go and get vaccinated. The vaccination numbers for week ending 26th September were:

	1 st jabs:	2 nd jabs:
People over 16 in Bedford Borough	79.0%	72.7%

[It has been suggested – tongue-in-cheek – that if Mayor Dave wants to get vaccination rates in Bedford up he should announce there is no shortage of vaccines but there is a temporary disturbance in the delivery arrangements for getting the jabs to vaccination centres resulting in queues around the block! It worked for petrol and diesel]

New case numbers rose in Wootton to 37 from 29 and in Kempston Rural to 27 from 23. New case numbers in the other Kempston wards are all low – Kempston West 12, Kempston South 8, Kempston Central and East 6 and Kempston North 5. Along with Clapham these four Kempston Wards make up the lowest five in the Borough.

Riverside Meadows

Judging by the number of posts on Facebook following the consultation on this proposed development last Sunday, there appears to be quite a lot of local opposition to the whole scheme. There are a variety of reasons for this. It's on a flood plain and, apart from the potential flood risk on the development itself, residents in Church Walk and Water Lane are also concerned about the effect on their properties. There are also comments about which 'community' the Grace Community Church will be serving, particularly as a car park for 300 cars is planned, suggesting that most people will be arriving from farther afield than Kempston. We will try to keep you updated on developments (no pun intended!)



If you have any prayer requests, thanks, how you're passing the time, feelgood items and, indeed, any other items and news that you would like to go into this newsletter then please email these to geofftal@btinternet.com, ideally by Wednesday each week, but we can usually slot short, last minute things in up till Friday morning.

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.