

REPORTS FOR GENERAL CHURCH MEETING MAY 2019
WESLEY MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

CHATTERBOX

Chatterbox continues to meet every Monday morning between 9.30 and 12 midday, serving tea, coffee, biscuits, toasted tea cakes, toast – and sometimes even cake!

We have about 20 people who come fairly regularly and that includes some church members and some who do not come to church, though some of these have been joining in other activities such as church meals and MWiB meetings. Anyone who comes is always made welcome as we are a friendly group of people and we try not to let anyone sit on their own unless they want to. We are willing to listen to anyone who has a problem they wish to share (in confidence) and will pray with them if they wish. We recently were pleased to welcome circuit MWiB members in to coffee before their Quiet day began. Day visitors to Epworth see our signs outside and come in for coffee and a chat.

The short Church Communion is held on the second Monday of the month in the Guild Room and several of our Chatterbox friends like to attend.

We are pleased to have four regular helpers and are very grateful to others who cannot help every week but who are willing to help out when one of us is not available.

We still only charge 50p for tea or coffee, but people are very generous. This year we have been giving the money we take on the first Monday of each month to the church's Charity of the Month.

Please come and visit if you are near the church on a Monday morning. We will be pleased to see you.

Pauline

MWiB

REPORT FOR THE GENERAL CHURCH MEETING 2019

Our programmes have been interesting and varied this year and have been enjoyed by all.

We always start each session with Sacrament, and then so far this year we have had a Burns afternoon, a talk on early years of teaching, memories of Malta, Samaritans Purse, a musical afternoon listening to the story and music of Carousel, and a special afternoon for Holy Week. There's still more to come before we have our AGM at the end of June.

We have also been collecting items for the Samaritan's Purse shoebox scheme. There is a working party in Grimsby who can make all sorts of useful things out of our oddments. (We have a list of what they can use if anyone is interested)

Although it is officially a Women's group we often welcome men if they wish to join us at any time.

We joined with our friends at the Anglican Church for Women's World Day of Prayer in March as they were hosts this year. Next year we will host it at Wesley and they will be invited to join with us here.

We always end with a cup of tea and a chat. Come and join us if you can. *Pauline*

Jack In A Box Playgroup – April 2019

Our Wednesday morning playgroup is a total delight to be part of. All is going really well and it surely could not be as enjoyable without the help of our fabulous and committed ladies who help with the refreshments, helping the children with crafts, chatting with the carers and the big tidy up at the end of the session. A huge thank you to Helen, Mary, Marie, Marilyn and Maureen who are incredible with their support and great energy for this group. We have an average of 18 children and 14 carers and so the hall is surely a hive of activity.

The session starts at 10am and finishes at 11.30am. The room is laid out so that the children can enjoy a range of activities and the session is structured in the same way each week ... free play, refreshments and a snack of biscuits, fruit and bread sticks followed by a song time where Birthdays may be celebrated. This is also the time when 'Church happenings' is announced ie AAW, Messy Church and then we have 15 minutes or so of free play before tidy up time. Once a month, Marilyn joins us and sets up a stall selling Fairtrade produce.

Our weekly craft activities are usually seasonal, charitable or biblically based. The carers are very supportive sitting with their children and encouraging them to use scissors and glue safely and seem to actively engage in each of the crafts available.

The playgroup has supported charities throughout this year, local, national and international and sent weekly subs and/or donations. We have supported MacMillan, The local dementia support group at Epworth Hub, Embrace, The Forge, The Foodbank, Ending Period Poverty, Fairtrade Fortnight, Action For Children and a local lady who is involved with Nepal and their 'untouchables'.

Once again at Christmas time, 60 families from Messy Church and Jack In A Box were each given a Fairtrade Advent Calendar each of which depicted the Christmas Story in a beautifully written and illustrated booklet. For many families, this may have been the only time that the real meaning of Christmas will have been shared during the Advent season. All of the calendars were kindly sponsored by our congregation and a huge thank you for your support!

The Jack In A Box children were each given a hard back book of the Christmas Narrative (age related) as their gift from Father Christmas – these were supplied from Jack In A Box funds. A huge thank you to Ron who plays our special visitor perfectly.

Christmas also brought us the opportunity to take part in Owston Ferry's Christmas Tree Festival. We were asked to design our tree around Susanna Wesley which went down a

treat with all involved. It was awesome hearing folk talking about what they knew about her and her name being spoken during our Playgroup session.

Easter has brought another opportunity to give each child from Jack In A Box a Messy Church a Fairtrade Real Easter egg with the Easter Story booklet included. Again, 30 children will have received one of these eggs giving us the opportunity to ensure that the Easter story was shared in homes. These were purchased from Jack In A Box funds.

Families are encouraged to come into Church sanctuary on occasions as its hoped that families will see this as a welcome space. The children have loved doing activities and decorating the space for Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, and Mothering Sunday, and Easter.

As children move onto Nursery School, we present the family with a Bible to help them remember their time with us. They always go down very well. The Bibles which have been sponsored by our congregation for use at Baptisms are also used for Jack In A Box, if the family have not already received one.

And finally, we would like to ask that if any of our congregation are able to give an hour or so of their time to come along for a cuppa, become a familiar face and a welcome ear, to many of our carers, you would be warmly welcomed. Please keep us in your prayers.

Louise

Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals

held in Wesley Memorial Methodist Church

According to the database 1st May 2018 – 1st May 2019

8 weddings

21 baptisms

15 funerals

Local Church Pastor

This role has existed in our district for almost 3 years now. Each LCP looks at the role differently according to what their church require. Here at Wesley Memorial the need is for visiting and I take great delight in doing my best to fulfil part of that role (although many others visit too!). I'm looking forward to being back in full visiting mode again after a quieter time in the role. I also do the odd occasional services such as baptisms or funerals.

If you would like a visit yourself or you are aware of someone who would appreciate one, even if we don't see them at church so much, please let me know. As a church it would be

good to reach out to them, in a non-threatening way.

If you wish to know more about the role please speak to myself or Angy.

Lyn

House Groups

A house group has been held, approximately once a month, for many years now, often in my home but others have hosted it. It's a small group because of the setting, which makes a discussion and response to it comfortable to share or take part in. It's a setting of encouragement and friendship. In the one I lead we may have a theme, a piece of scripture or even a hymn to inspire and facilitate the discussion and then take it from there. It's informal, not academic and we support each other.

I know there are other groups, including the men's group, but MORE ARE NEEDED! I've always appreciated, throughout my Christian journey, the atmosphere of a small group and the freedom of speech they present and, of course, the encouragement received through them. Perhaps you'd consider instigating one yourself? I'd be very happy to speak with you about doing so.

Lyn

Epworth Christians Together

Our little committee continue to meet regularly to discuss the ongoing business of the Epworth Churches. We started the year with a service at the Baptist Church during Christian Unity Week. In March we distributed 200 daffodils on the Saturday prior to Mothering Sunday, which as in the previous year were very well received. The Lent study groups were reasonably well-attended at all 3 churches and the course followed was very thought provoking and spiritual. Many thanks to Stuart and Angy for leading ours at Wesley. More recently we distributed hot x buns and sweets during and after our Good Friday Walk of Witness. Our "gifts" were once again appreciated. Of course we will be holding a service in our marquee at the Epworth Showfield at 6.00 pm on 25 August and on Bank Holiday Monday we will be providing hospitality and a little musical entertainment to those attending the show.

We have also been holding prayer meetings throughout the year to which all have been invited. Our next meeting is on the 1 May at 6.00 pm and if anyone is interested in coming along to join us you are very welcome.

Marilyn Hall

Traidcraft

In October last year you may recall that we were shocked to hear that Traidcraft may have to cease trading. However following a torrent of responses and an enormous drive to increase selling by their various outlets (including Wesley Memorial), it was with absolute delight that we heard this was not to be the case. Traidcraft, now in its 40th year, is continuing, initially with a massive sale of old stock and now with ambitious new plans for the future.

We raised £220 during Fairtrade Fortnight, which was duly forwarded to Traidcraft Exchange and I really would like to thank you for your contributions in so many ways towards this.

Traidcraft goods are available in the school room for sale at our monthly coffee mornings, after the All Age Worship service on the 4th Sunday of the month and in Jack in the Box on a monthly basis, however, goods can be purchased at any time either by contacting me or via the honesty box which is situated in the room adjacent to the old crèche.

We are proud to be called a Fairtrade Church and believe that the way to fight poverty is through trade, helping people live better lives.

The Spring/Summer 2019 catalogue is now available if you would like a copy.

Many thanks.

Marilyn Hall

Catering Report: March 2018 to November 2018

During the year 2018 we met some very friendly and charming people from different parts of the world.....mainly America. All our guests have been very appreciative and have made providing food a pleasure.

During 2018 we provided hospitality for 631 guests on 25 different occasions.

None of the catering would be possible without the very willing help of a wonderful team of volunteers, who have our very sincere thanks. Yes, it is hard work but the friendship and fellowship we enjoy as a team is special. A very big "Thank you" to everyone.

As we prepared for the visitors for 2019, we revised our price list (a copy of it is on the back of the kitchen door) and our Menus. The cost of each item/menu has risen slightly and we now provide 2 extra menus, including (1) a picnic bag and (2) sandwiches and cake/pie and cream.

We continue to work together with the Old Rectory, sharing any profit, regardless of where we cater, Wesley or the Old Rectory.

So far this year, 2019, we have 18 different groups booked in, so we look forward to offering them hospitality and meeting some more interesting people.

Mens Fellowship

We have enjoyed a successful year continuing to meet on the third Monday evening of the month.

Usual attendance is 7 or 8 from a pool of a dozen or so. Youngest in 5th decade; oldest in 8th. Can we spread the age range?

We meet informally for social chat and for discussion. This past year we have covered topics such as racism esp antisemitism, memories of Christmas, new starts and forgiveness, as well as watching part of a Mohammed Ali dvd . We have had a talk from member of Amnesty International.

We were actively involved in the church BBQ in September.

As an off shoot a small group (and wives) visited the holocaust museum for the district conference on anti Semitism. Perhaps as a church we could visit the museum some Sunday afternoon.

All men are invited to join us and see how we develop. we start at 7.30 and finish by 9.00.

John L

Garden Work Group

We have greatly missed Michaels involvement. He was a hard worker and with his trailer responsible for the removal of garden waste. This luxury we no longer have.

Jean kindly organised for a gardener to visit on a regular basis depending on the season and need. The grounds look tidier but much still needs to be done. The garden rubbish he generates still has to be taken away. At present in the back of estate car but not sure what will happen if I replace it.

Ian continues to cut the lawns at front of church. Again cuttings need removal.

We have had stone chippings around the raised beds. This was carried by a godson of mine and his family members. I am hopeful he will be free to help with some of the heavy pruning that is constantly needed. We have tried to cut things back to levels manageable as we age.

I am trying to plant some of the raised beds with vegetables. Please feel free to join in this and the harvesting (hopefully). A contact of Angy's has the strawberry beds.

I hope with the summer weather we can get back on top of things.

Thanks to Stan and Dave for help and anyone I have forgotten.

Any new volunteers please let me know

Please if you see a weed or broken branch deal with it as you are able.

John L.

Safeguarding Report

This year has been one of consolidation for Safeguarding at Wesley Memorial. New Safeguarding policies came out in 2017/18 and during this year GDPR has added to the workload.

We as a church have to respond to the implications of these initiatives. I realize that, at times, it just seems to mean more paperwork but we do need to remember that one of our greatest duties as Christians is to care for each other.

Increasingly this year I have felt that my duties as Circuit Safeguarding Officer have overtaken my role as Church Safeguarding Officer and I am both pleased and relieved that we should have a replacement for me in this church in September.

Andrew Bamford

Working with Schools

My work with schools in the Isle continues. I now visit 5 primary schools on a monthly basis. The theme this year has been "Tell me the stories of Jesus" and has included talking about the parables of Jesus as well as stories of Jesus' life. Next year's theme is about people who have made a difference.

I attended a day conference on RE in schools and am now, in my role as governor at Epworth Primary Academy, working with the RE co-ordinator to rework the RE curriculum to better reflect Christian values.

I have also become involved in RE workshops with St Martin's School and Haxey School.

Andrew Bamford

Worship Band report

The Worship Band plays at All Age Worship on the fourth Sunday of each month and at other times when required. There are eight core members who meet to rehearse once or twice a month, usually on a Tuesday evening in Church. New members are always welcome- a desire to service God in this way is the only requirement.

The band play a mixture of worship songs by well known modern Christian song writers such as Stuart Townend, Matt Redman, Hillsong, & Chris Tomlin. They are trying to widen their repertoire and have recently learnt 6/7 new songs which are being gradually introduced to the congregation. If you would like to sing a particular song at All Age Worship, please do ask and we will do our best to accommodate you. It may be that we have learn it first so we would need plenty of warning.

The band have also played for several services at West Butterwick Methodist Church.

Once again in June 2018 the band opened the day's music at Wesley Memorial Methodist Church on Epworth Music Day with a set of eight songs, which were very well received.

Val Hackney

Messy Church

Messy church continues to take place on the first Saturday of every month from 10.30 until 11.30 (but normally everyone is still around at 12.00) Cathy and Julie meet to plan each month taking guidance from 'Messy Church Magazine' and also church led initiatives. We have a regular group of helpers without whom we could not function who support by running activities on the mornings, talking with the families and serving drinks and snacks. We have about 10 regular families and it has become a close group. We try to include a food based activity, a messy art activity, a physical activity and there is always a prayer or reflective activity that we then move into the side chapel at the end of the session. We also put up a display to celebrate and inform the church about our most recent meeting. As well as craft, each session includes songs a bible story or passage and a prayer. We endeavour to take the families into the church for some part of the session such as treasure hunts and in the case of harvest and Christingle we held our celebration service part of the morning in the front area of the church. There is no charge for messy church but voluntary donations help to cover all our expenses. Highlights this year have been incorporating the use of the big screen, the Christingle where we raised money for the Children's Society, the very well attended nativity service where we also involved the dance group and as part of our next meeting we look forward to welcoming one of our leaders, John Wilkinson, into membership. Thanks again for the support from the church and remember anyone is welcome to come along and join us. Alternatively keep the group in your prayers.

Julie and Cathy