



The Methodist Link

FEBRUARY 2018

Linking the Methodist
Churches at Elburton,
Oreston, Pomphlett and
Cattedown to the Community
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ORESTON METHODIST CHURCH

Plymstock Rd, Oreston PL9 7LL

WORSHIP AT 10.30am

Minister: Rev'd Simon Leigh Tel:335773

Secretary: Mrs Ann James Tel: 404971

Treasurer: Mrs Val Hopkin Tel:403425

Senior Steward: Mrs Dorothy Turpitt Tel: 484038

Link rep: Mr Roger Dodd Tel: 406850

POMPHLETT METHODIST CHURCH

Pomphlett Gardens, Plymouth PL9 7BL

www.pomphlettchurch.org.uk

WORSHIP AT 9.30am

Minister: Rev'd Andrew Day, Tel: 342519

Secretary: Bert Symons, Tel: 210820

Treasurer: Mrs M Williams Tel: 493251

Senior Steward: Mrs Mary Symons Tel: 210802

Link rep: Mr Bert Symons Tel: 210820 or

email: pomphlett.church@gmail.com

ELBURTON METHODIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Springfield Rd, Elburton PL9 8PR

WORSHIP AT 10.30am AND 6.30pm

Minister: Rev'd Simon Leigh Tel: 335773

Secretary: Mrs Tricia Stringer Tel: 482532

Treasurer: Mr Robert Faulkner Tel: 491779

Senior Stewards: Mrs Elizabeth Coleman Tel: 335662

and Mrs Jean Davies Tel: 404239

Lettings Secretary: Mrs Helen Carhart Tel: 480319

Link rep: Tony Raine Tel: 405483

GATEWAY PROJECT, CATTEDOWN

3 Tresillian St, Cattedown

WORSHIP AT 11.00am every 2nd Sunday of each month

Minister: Rev'd David Youngs Tel (880286)

Senior Steward: Mr Roger Dodd Tel 406850

ABOUT YOUR LINK

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NB The Editor may need to amend or omit articles submitted though he will do neither without discussing it with you.

THE MARCH ISSUE DEADLINE: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11th

The Link is available in printed format or online in colour, at www.elburtonmethodist.org.uk/thelink or your church web site.

Contact Tony Raine on 405483 for details.
mobile: 07505 286682

THE LECTIONARY

4th February

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9: 16-23
Mark 1: 29-39

11th February

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

18th February

Lent 1
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

25th February

Lent 2
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:22-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

FRONT COVER: Snowdrops - The promise of Spring.

BACK COVER: A concert at Pomphlett

Letter for Elburton and Oreston



Dear One and All,

Travelling is part of the Bible story and part of what it is to be a Christian, as we are all on a pilgrimage of faith-discovery. Travel they say broadens the mind; or travel is a curse according to Thenardier in *Les Misérables*. Either way it has an impact.

As I write this letter I am preparing to go on my travels. All the usual things from 'where's my passport?' to 'do you think this is sufficient socks?' There are times I think I could give Boots the Chemist a run for their money, as I seem to have medications to prevent anything from cold sores to Dengue fever. It must be a left-over from being a boy scout, 'be prepared'.

Of course this turns my thinking to Jesus. The preparations for his earthly life come from ever lasting to everlasting, there being an eternal thread to Christ. His earthly life was formed in a family and when his ministry began, it was formed as he travelled. Grounded in prayer and with a group of fellow travellers, he missioned. The journeys Jesus took, though not over huge distances were still, in his day, perilous and arduous. As he travelled so he expounded the virtues and values of the Kingdom of God and what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus. He gave those who met with him a real foretaste of the Kingdom of God. Travelling with Christ was a demanding and yet enlightening experience.

Two thousand or so years later we are travelling with Jesus on a daily basis. We need to ask how we prepare ourselves for the journey. How we engage with Jesus on the way. What are our hopes, our expectations, our fears? As we travel, stop every so

often and take a look at the view and see how it changes as you journey on.

Be prepared for when the going gets tough and take a map! And finally ask yourself 'how is the journey changing me, from when I started until this precise moment'. Pause and reflect. How will this reflection affect the next part of your travels?

Every blessing,

Simon

PRAY FOR YOUTH PRAY THAT GOD'S VISION IS OUR VISION

We have lots of exciting projects and ideas planned for the young people in our church and local community but we need your help. We need all our work to be covered by prayer. Could you please include in your prayers. whether its in your own personal prayer time, at house group or any other event.

JAM and Messy Church - we are planning to develop a time and a space for the older children to meet together.

Sunday Cinema - this has been a huge success that we want to build on with many families coming from our local community,

Sportif - a sports event in the planning involving the Uniformed Organisations and the local community.

Facebook - we want to reach more people in Plymstock, to spread the Good News of the Gospel.

Link - we want to develop a programme that will link all these activities together, so that Elburton Methodist will be a part of family life to more people in Plymstock..

Thanks

The Youth Team

Elburton Methodist Community Church



SUNDAY

SERVICES	Morning 10.30 am	Evening 6.30 pm
February 4th	Mrs Di Smart	NO SERVICE HERE Refresh at United Reform
February 11th PARADE SERVICE	Mr Paul Courtney	Rev'd Kate Conrad
February 18th LENT ONE	Rev'd Terry Higgins SACRAMENT	Mrs Di Smart ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP
February 25th LENT TWO	Rev'd Simon Leigh	Mrs Gillian Higgins

After starting a new diet I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and as I approached, there in the window were a host of chocolates, donuts, and cheesecakes. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed ... "Lord, it's up to You. If You want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery."

And sure enough, on the eighth time around the block, there it was! God is so good!

Elburton Methodist Community Church

JaM (JESUS AND ME)

- 10.30 a.m.

JaM is the name for our children's and youth ministry. We meet in the Moore Hall for 10.30 am. The first Sunday is a family and parade service which we are also part of, in the church.

SOUNDS ALIVE SINGERS

When we have a presentation to work towards we meet for rehearsals at 11.45 am after church on Sundays to share our love of music.

MONDAY

DANCE FITNESS - 10.30 a.m.

Contact Sarah Danning, 01752 881447 or email:
info@physicallyfabulous.co.uk
www.physicallyfabulous.co.uk

LUNCHEON CLUB - 11 a.m.

On Mondays lunches are provided for those less able to cook for themselves. Contact June Dinner (407418) for 3rd Mondays, Barbara Jeffery (311100) for the other Mondays.

BEAVERS - 5 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.

CUB SCOUTS - 6.00 - 7.30 p.m.

SCOUTS - 7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.

There are a few vacancies for boys and girls and also helpers. Contact Roger Galloway 268803 for more information.

NOTE NEW TIMES FOR SCOUTS

TUESDAY

METHODIST WOMEN

IN BRITAIN - 2.30 p.m

Feb 6th: Rev'd Darren Middleton

Feb 13th: Pauline & Tony Raine

Send a Cow update

Feb 20th: Clare Mains - "Fill your cup"

Feb 27th: Rev'd Edgar Daniel

RAINBOWS - 4.30 p.m.

BROWNIES - 6.00 p.m.

The Women's Network Fellowship, now called MWiB, meets in the Moore Hall of Elburton Methodist Church. For more information contact Carol Batchelor 491962

Contact Julie Hoskin on 481605.
There is no Guides group at present.

Elburton Methodist Community Church

PLYMSTOCK & RIDGEWAY

MEN'S GROUP 7.30 pm

Feb 13th RIDGEWAY Brian Poole

"Princetown Branch Line"

Feb 27th ELBURTON Reg Wood

"Things you all know."

Contact Andrew Gow (341037) for more details. Half the meetings are held at Ridgeway, the others are in the Rank Hall, Elburton Methodist Community Church.

WIVES CLUB - 7.45 pm

Feb 6th: Tina Powell - Scams

Feb 13th: Shrove Tuesday pancakes

Feb 20th: Stacey Pearse - Boots No7

Feb 27th: David Pinder - "Wembury, the port that never was."

Ladies are invited to join us on Tuesday evenings at 7.45 pm in the Elburton Moore Hall. For more information contact Sylvia Harris (514818) or Carol Pike (311150).

HOME GROUP 1 - 7 p.m.

The Tuesday group is held at Pam Kingsland's house and led by Rev'd Simon Leigh.

WEDNESDAY

EXERCISE CLASS 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Contact Denise Avent (402818)

HOME GROUP 2 7.30 pm

Held at the home of Trisha Stringer and led by Maureen Richardson (407137)

HOME GROUP 4 8 p.m.

A group meets at a different home each week (helpful for the young families who attend). Contact Jon Carhart (480319).

THURSDAY

WORKING PARTY from 9.30 am
Normally FIRST Thursdays BUT
For February only it's the SECOND
Thursday Feb 8th.

Come and help us keep our church in a good state of repair. Contact Tony Sleep (403247) for details.

Elburton Methodist Community Church

MEET AND EAT

THIRD Thursdays from 10 a.m.

A good meal, tea/coffee, and good company for everyone, led by Rosemary Lee, Barbara Jeffery (311100) and Jennifer Tomlinson (403896).

TABLE TENNIS 3.15 - 5.15 p.m.

Contact David Finemore (406372)

HOME GROUP 3 7.30 p.m.

David and Brenda Youngs (880286) lead this group on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm at Ruth Sweetland's home.

FRIDAY

LUNCHEON CLUB

11 a.m. (in term time)

A lovely lunch provided for those less able to provide for themselves. Good food, good company. Contact Trisha Stringer (482532).

SATURDAY

COFFEE MORNING


Last Saturday of the month
10 a.m. - noon

Held in the Moore Hall, Arranged by Margaret Passmore (404929), run by various groups. Funds go to church projects, term time only.

MESSY CHURCH

First Saturday of month 10.30 a.m.

An informal kind of worship tailored to the needs of the whole family with lots of fun, food, activities and a Christian message.



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MESSY CHURCH SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

The theme this month is **MOSES**

MESSY CHURCH is **FUN**, it's **MESSY**,
it's for **FAMILIES**, it involves **CRAFT** and

FOOD which is why it's **MESSY!**



SPRING MARKET

Saturday 17th March.

Please put this in your diaries



Meet and Eat



The next one is
Thursday 15th February

Come and join us for good
food, good company, games
and happy conversation.



Sorry - I had no room for this last month. It was taken at Sidholme showing the Methodist Women in Britain taking a break in the gardens.
EDITOR

ELBURTON METHODIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Planning a party? Need a venue? Looking for a hall?

All our facilities are available for letting.

Come and see! We have large halls, meeting rooms, a stage, a well equipped kitchen, our own car park, toilets suitable for those who are less able, and all the facilities necessary for children's parties, meetings, exhibitions and indoor sports such as table tennis.

The buildings are all fully disability compliant with lift access to every level and we have a performance licence. To look around or for further details of price and availability please phone Helen Carhart on 480319.

Good Morning

I am God. Today I will be handling all your problems. Please remember that I don't need your help.. If the devil happens to deliver a situation that you cannot handle DO NOT attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the S.F.J.T.O, (Something for Jesus to do) box.

It will be addressed in my time, not yours. Once the matter is placed in the box, DO NOT hold on to it or attempt to remove it. Holding on to it or removal will delay the resolution of your problem.

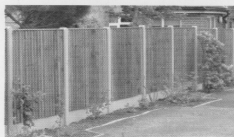
If it is a situation that you think you are capable of handling it, Please consult me in prayer to be sure that it is the proper resolution because I do not slumber, nor do I sleep. There is no need for you to lose any sleep.

Rest my child. If you need to contact me I am only a prayer away.

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SAMARITANS PURSE SHOE BOX APPEAL



Thank you very much to everyone that supported the Operation Christmas Child shoe box appeal this year. A good number of boxes filled to the brim have made their way to children in Albania.

Also a special thank you to Mavis, Marion and her carollers for singing at a number of local residential and nursing homes this festive season. They brought a bit of Christmas cheer to the housebound, their families and carers and I know it was very much appreciated that they gave up their time to do this.

RACHEL

HEARING PROBLEMS?

Apparently only the older hearing aids have the option of a T switch. If you click on it you are tuned to the loop which goes all round our sanctuary and should bring you the sound loud and clear. Modern devices either tune in automatically to it or don't need it. Quietly spoken preachers can still be a problem, we can only give limited amplification without feedback noise but the loop brings them in clearer.



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STEWARDS

From having an unusually large number of Stewards, we have a sudden need for more appointments because of illness, people moving away, and those coming to the end of their five-year stint. Please think prayerfully if this might be a possible ministry that you could offer. it is not onerous, you are not required every Sunday and there is always plenty of help available. If you are thinking about it, please talk about it with any steward. Your age or any previous stewardship are no impediment.

LIZ COLEMAN JEAN DAVIES

Mel Hoodless' wife Mavis passed away on Thursday 4th January. We remember with affection many things that she has done for her Father in Heaven, for our church and for us, and our prayers and love go out to Mel and their family at this time. The funeral is 2pm on Feb 2nd.

Sale Bargain ? Alterations

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Prayer Page

Friday 2nd February is The Presentation of Christ

We give you thanks and praise, o God, for the gospel of the presentation: for the wisdom and insight of Simeon and Anna, for the loving care of Joseph and Mary, for the simplicity and innocence of the child Jesus. We pray for the different generations of our own day, that in offering their lives to you and to each other they may grow in mutual respect and understanding, and so enrich the life of all, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Basil Naylor*

Sunday 11th February is Racial Justice Sunday

God of all peoples, we pray for all victims and targets of racial hatred, discrimination and injustice. We pray for your protection especially for those affected in our churches, our institutions and in our communities. We also pray for reconciliation through the work of God's Spirit. Wherever there is division and divisiveness between us and others, because of our culture or ethnicity we pray that we may all be led to reconciliation, understanding and acceptance. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. *CTBI*

24th February is St. Matthias Day

Lord Christ, we thank you that in every age you call faithful men like Matthias to be your witnesses and to serve you in the apostolic ministry. Give your grace to those who in our own day are called to be leaders in your church.

Wednesday 14th March is Ash Wednesday

Almighty God, we pray that through this season of Lent, by prayer and study and self-discipline, we may penetrate more deeply into the mystery of Christ's sufferings; that following in the way of his cross and passion we may come to share in the glory and triumph of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Adopted*

Lord Christ, who came to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance: help us in this season of Lent to hear and respond to your call; that by your grace we may turn from whatever in our lives is at variance with your will, and walk in the way of holiness and love, to the glory of God the Father.

Frank Colquhoun

Holy Father, whose son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the desert, give us grace to discipline ourselves in humble submission to your Spirit, that we may lead upright and holy lives in your honour and glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Christian's Prayer Book

JAM NATIVITY

Lights, camera, action, the stage is set to go,
To witness a re-enactment of a scenario of 2000 years ago.
The 'Nativity' has been performed on many an occasion
But this performance gave us an engaging interpretation.
The Angels appeared, some diffident and shy
To the shepherds with their amazing flock standing by.
Later one of their number appeared with a little lost sheep
And casually tossed him on his woolly mates whilst they were fast asleep!
Mary and Joseph arrived with their donkey, a very sturdy creature
But he had a dual role to play and would later feature
As a camel, a very clever transformation
Bringing the star-led Kings to join the adoration.
The Narrators were superb, their diction loud and clear,
(Most certainly appreciated by those who find it hard to hear).
In the finale the 'Muppets' made merry you could say
On seeing baby Jesus lying in the bed of hay.
So to the Leaders of JAM and all those taking part,
We were totally engrossed from the very start.
Thank-you for transporting us to the time of our Saviour's birth
And presenting it endearingly with a touch of mirth.

JUNE DINNER

Palm Sunday

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5 year old Craig stayed home from church with a babysitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds.

Craig inquired as to what they were for.

'People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by,' his father responded.

'Wouldn't you just know it?' Craig complained, 'the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up.'



MWiB MEETING AT OTTER NURSERY



On 28th November, instead of our normal MWiB meeting, 26 ladies and 3 brave gentlemen visited Otter Nursery for a shopping and eating extravaganza, completely taking over a section of their conservatory. It was also Barbara's birthday, so we raised our voices in true Methodist style to sing Happy Birthday to her. Most people enjoyed a half price cream tea (not seasonal fare, but extremely delicious nevertheless!) thanks to a generous donation of vouchers by Jean's cousin. We are very grateful to the efficient staff from Otter, who gave us excellent waitress service. It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship enjoyed by us all.



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ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP



In the evening of the third Sunday of most months we hold an alternative form of worship. We use guitar and keyboard for more modern songs with strong tunes, and tea or coffee is provided at the beginning of the service. Preachers often allow the congregation to ask questions and discuss what they have said, as part of the worship.

NEXT: Sunday February 18th

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Every month except in the holiday periods, on the last Saturday there is a coffee morning held in the Moore Hall in aid of church funds. It is a happy social event with many regular attendees.



NEXT: Saturday 24th February

BOOKINGS SECRETARY

As from January 2018 Sylvia Eke is no longer Lettings Secretary. She has decided that it is time to retire after 25 years! Helen Carhart has been brave enough to take over from her. Sylvia thanks us all for the support we have given her over the years and we in turn thank her for 25 years of sterling service.

A new Pastor spent the first four days inviting members to come to his first services. The following Sunday the church was all but empty. Accordingly, the Pastor placed a notice in the local newspapers, stating that, because the church was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent Christian burial. The funeral would be held the following Sunday afternoon, the notice said. Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the "funeral." In front of the pulpit, they saw a closed coffin, smothered in flowers. After the Pastor delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his congregation to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead church. Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a "dead church," all the people eagerly lined up to look in the coffin. Each "mourner" peeped into the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look. In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror.

CHRISTINGLE - JESUS - LIGHT OF THE WORLD

From the warm greeting to the lovingly prepared oranges, from a welcome cup of tea to bright eye-catching decorations, pictures and tasty crafts, from clearing and washing-up to sweeping the floors, all who volunteered gave something of themselves and no matter how big or small, we came together to reach out to others making this such a warm and welcoming event.

To give is to care, to care is to love, and a little love can go a long way. You may never know who you touched by your tenderness or how much. The point is, you cared enough to try. Thank you, and a special thank you to Debbie Warley whose life and heart has been very full lately, but who still found time to help. Love, good health and happiness to you all,

Julia Washbrook



GARLAND OF CARDS

The garland this year raised the amazing sum of £372 which goes to the Methodist Mission in Britain which now includes the Mission Alongside the Poor. It also helped to make our church look lovely at Christmas. Thank you, Jenny Weymouth for organising this.

THE BIG BREAKFAST

This was another great event involving a lot of work from a lot of people cooking and serving the food. It raised £213.51. Thank you to too many people to name but you know who you are. Our church couldn't run without you and your willingness to give your time.

Oreston Methodist Church



SUNDAY SERVICES ARE AT 10.30 AM

February 4th	Mr Roger Dodd - "Where have you built your house"
February 11th	Mrs Di Smart
February 18th	Rev Colin Phipps
February 25th	Mr Brian Gerry

I would like to say a thank you to all those who supported Oreston's Christmas Singing for Fun Lunch which raised £333.00 for Action for Children. There is another one planned for the next School Half Term on 15th February when another charity will be the beneficiary. Please book your place with Ann James 01752 404971 as soon as possible. ***Dorothy T.***



SINGING FOR FUN

Thursday 15th February
Light lunch and Singing
for Fun with Brian Gerry
At Oreston Methodist
Church. Lunch at 1 pm £5

Christmas at Oreston

As always the church at Oreston was beautifully decorated for Christmas. The displays brought many favourable comments from visitors over the festive season. Thanks to all those who worked so hard to make it a success. One of the displays (pictured) of Victorian Carol singers was provided by Sandra Mead and her daughter Jade.

They are soon moving to the Southampton area to be near to Sandra's other daughter. We thank Sandra and Jade for all their involvement and support over the years at Oreston and wish them well for the future.

Roger Dodd



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ORESTON EVENTS...

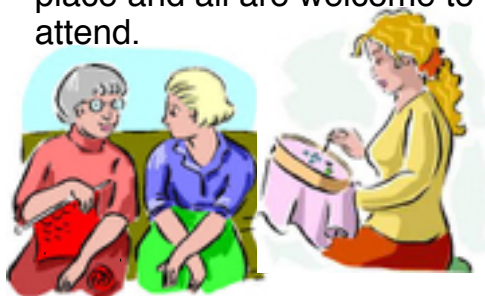
Oreston Parents and Toddlers

The Group meets every Friday in term time, in the Church Hall



Oreston Stitch, Knit & Natter

The group meets every Monday from 2.00 – 4.00 pm in the Church Hall. Craft activities of many types take place and all are welcome to attend.



All Age Table Tennis



2 pm to 4 pm each Tuesday (excluding School Holidays) Used to Play? Want to Learn? or just want to have some fun & exercise at the same time? Drop in any Tuesday and expect A WARM WELCOME!

THE INTERCHURCH BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Twice monthly from 1 pm. 2nd Tuesday at Pomphlett with Revd. Andy Day (342519) and 4th Tuesday at Oreston. Current Bible Study Subjects: Bad Girls & Bad Bobs?



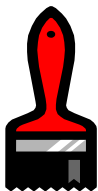
An 80-year-old couple was worried because they kept forgetting things all the time. The doctor assured them there was nothing seriously wrong except old age, and suggested they carry a notebook and write things down so they wouldn't forget. Several days later, the old man got up to go to the kitchen. His wife said, "Dear, get me a bowl of ice cream while you're up." "Okay," he said. "...and put some chocolate syrup on it and a few cherries, too," she added. "You'd better write all this down." "I won't forget!" he said. Twenty minutes later he came back into the room and handed his wife a plate of scrambled eggs and bacon. She glared at him. "Now, I told you to write it down! I knew you'd forget." "What did I forget?" he asked. She replied, "My toast!"

WHO IS THE BOY?

answer on page 36

You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

A man's character is like a fence. It cannot be strengthened by whitewash.



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Box Office: 01752 510934

Prices: £13, £12 concessions, £7 students

SISTER ACT



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Book by
**CHERI STEINKELLNER
& BILL STEINKELLNER**

Lyrics by
GLENN SLATER

Additional Book Material
DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE



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www.soundsmusical.co.uk

POMPHLETT METHODIST CHURCH



PREACHERS AT POMPHLETT ON SUNDAYS AT 9.30 AM

February 4th	Mr Brian Gerry
February 11th	Rev'd Andrew Day SACRAMENT
February 18th	LENT ONE Local Arrangement - Fresh Expressions
February 25th	LENT TWO Mrs Gillian Mills



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Welcome to Family Worship

Sundays @ 9.30 am

Experience the Pomphlett Welcome

Please pop in for a cuppa
After the service at about 10.30 am

We want to welcome back our Minister Rev Andrew Day after a short illness. We have struggled a bit without his leadership but are very happy to have Andrew back with us. We thank God for helping Andrew back to good health. We continue to pray for God's blessing on our folk who are struggling, Betty who goes for an op later this month, Mary who is suffering with back problems, Bert H, Lillian, Gwenda. We pray that these and other folk will be restored better health soon with God's help.



**We meet
Wednesdays at
10 am till 12 noon.
Tea and Coffee and
bikkies on tap.
Internet access, new
friends to meet and
chat to and advice on your computer
use just for you. Pop in and meet us.
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It would be great to see you.**



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Cafe Style Church

Sunday

February 18th

Try Something New

Informal Worship

Come grab a seat

Enjoy a cuppa

It's Church

But not as you know it



February

12th, 26th

March 12, 26th

From 2pm

Come along

**and enjoy the music,
the dancing, the friendship,
a cuppa and a bun**

For more information please call 519168 Just Pop in and Dance !!!



4th Friday of
Each Month

10 am in the Lounge

We start our Prayer meeting
with a cuppa and a chat.

Then we move into our prayer time
which is led by our Minister Rev'd Andrew Day.



Buffet Lunch & Film



Friday February 2nd

Buffet @ 12.15 pm Movie at 1pm.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
(INTERDENOMINATIONAL)



2nd March 2018



All God's Creation is Very Good!



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 CHURCH HALL
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 THURSDAYS 11-12
 Enjoy a cup of tea after in
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For more information please call
 Sarah on: 07588640241

Coffee Cakes Chat 

Saturday
February 17th

Teas Coffees
from 9 am

Bacon Butties
from 9.30 am

Table Top Bargains
Raffle and stalls

Pomphlett Methodist Church
Friendship
Group

Alternate
Wednesdays
2 pm

Feb 14th
Flowers With
Wendy

February
28th
Plymstock
History

March 14th
Jewellery

March 28th
Easter
Bonnets

Gateway

The Church in a House



To my friends in Gateway:

As you will have seen from the prayer sheet there are several things to remember in this month of February. Yet there are a couple of things which are not mentioned there. The first is Valentine's Day. Saint Valentine officially Saint Valentine of Terni is widely recognised as a third-century Roman saint commemorated on February 14 and since the High Middle Ages is associated with a tradition of courtly love. All that is reliably known of the saint commemorated on February 14 is his name and that he was martyred and buried at a cemetery on the Via Flaminia close to the Ponte Milvio to the north of Rome on that day. It is uncertain whether St. Valentine is to be identified as one saint or the conflation of two saints of the same name. So states Wikipedia.

Shrove Tuesday (also known in other countries and Ireland as Pancake Tuesday or Pancake day) is the day in February or March immediately preceding Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), which is celebrated in some countries by consuming pancakes. In others, especially those where it is called Mardi Gras or some translation thereof, this is a carnival day, and also the last day of "fat eating" or "gorging" before the fasting period of Lent. This moveable feast is determined by Easter. The expression "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word shrive, meaning "absolve". Shrove Tuesday is observed by many Christians, including Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and Roman Catholics who make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs they need to repent, and what amendments of life or areas of spiritual growth they especially need to ask God's help in dealing with." Being the last day of the liturgical season historically known as Shrovetide, before the penitential season of Lent, related popular practices, such as indulging in food that one sacrifices for the upcoming forty days, are associated with Shrove Tuesday

celebrations, before commencing the fasting and religious obligations associated with Lent. The term Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday", referring to the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday. (Also thanks to Wikipedia.)

At my secondary school, which was Cooper's Company's School at that situated in Mile End, London, there was a special celebration of Pancake Day. The sixth and fifth formers would change into their old rugby shirts and shorts; the cook would bring in a large pancake and the headmaster would toss it into the main body of the hall which was reduced in size by the benches being moved into an arena. The ensuing melee would endeavour to get as much pancake as they could during the next five minutes egged on by shouts of the rest of the school. When the time has elapsed, the head blew his whistle and the combatants would flattened out their pieces of pancake and show them to the headmaster. He would then decide with the help of another master who had the largest amount. The person would be given an apprenticeship to the worshipful company of Coopers - something that was quite valuable in terms of money.

May you continue to know the presence of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in your lives and remember that He loves **YOU** very much.

David

Our last Coffee Morning was a celebration of Christmas involving mince pies and carols accompanied by David Youngs with his accordion. It was a really lovely morning,

We meet every Wednesday morning at 10.30am for coffee or tea, and once a month on the second Sunday at 11.00am. In February this will not happen because of holidays so the next Celebration is on March 11th when it will be led by Tony and Pauline Raine. It is also Mothering Sunday so we will not have a meal afterwards.

Answer: Bert Symons



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THOUGHTS FROM INDIA

When I tell people we went to India last summer, they imagine either the Golden Triangle or some exotic beach. Neither is true. We spent most of the time on the Ganges which is probably the filthiest river in the world. A rich lady realised that it would be possible to float a small cruise boat up the river when it was in spate during the monsoon season and she had one built. It still runs aground occasionally but was the only such boat on the Ganges so tourists were not expected and we had an unrivalled experience of rural Indian life as we visited villages. They photographed us as much as we them.

Firstly, we discovered that, though poor and living a hand-to-mouth existence sleeping in straw huts, and knowing that 54% of India does not have a toilet, we found most people had mobiles and quite a number had motorbikes. My concept of poverty had already been changed when I found the same in Ethiopia. Apparently there are 7 billion mobiles in the world and 37 million motorbikes in India alone.

Secondly, religion dominates peoples lives and seems to be a significant influence behind the economy. For example at the time of any festival, and there were plenty, everyone rich or poor must buy flowers. If they cannot afford flowers they buy leaves, and if that is beyond their means they buy grass.

There are far more people with an active religious faith in these poorer countries than in the UK. Most of India is Hindu (80%), although there is also Islam (14%), Christianity (2%), Sikhism (>2%), Buddhism (>1%) and Jainism (>1/2%). The Hindus worship many gods though in a sense they regard them all as part of one god. Shiva, Vishnu, Ganesha and Brahma are some of their principal gods but the river Ganges and all cows are also venerated. At the end of their lives many Hindus wish to return to the Ganges mud after a cremation on the banks of the river, and this is especially so at Varanasi where around 200 bodies are

cremated at pyres on the ghats (steps on the river banks) every day. Their ashes and charred bones are then swept into the river. If they died by snake-bite they are not burned but the body is launched into the river where it may be found floating downstream. Allegedly this is because they might not actually be dead, although personally I'd rather be burned while unconscious than wake just before I drowned in that foul water.

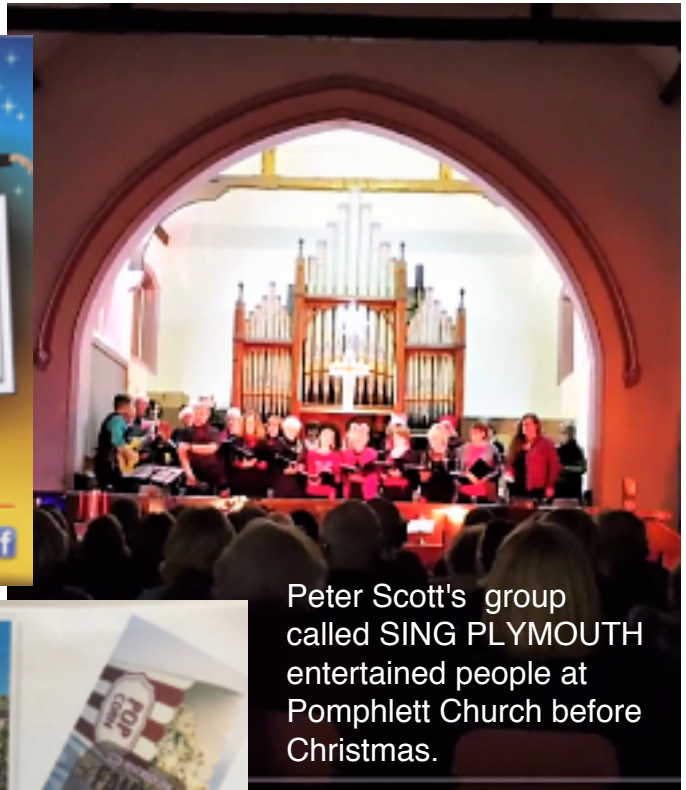
It is easy to smile at the beliefs of others as they swerve in their rickshaws and motorbikes around the cows on the streets knowing if they hit one they would instantly be mobbed by the masses who regard the animals as gods - but that is the problem. Seeing any religious activity as funny, unnecessary and quirky leads towards ostracising that religious person. Regarding other faiths as humorous and misguided is the first step towards separation by faith. This can lead eventually to vilification and conflict (although nobody's faith tells them they must hurt unbelievers) - but think Moslems and Hindus during the partition when two million died; think Buddhists and the Rohingya Moslems today (unofficial toll of at least 3,000 dead). Think honestly: if you had been born into a Moslem family would you not be a Moslem?

The fact is that we must each regard other faiths with the respect with which we wish our own to be regarded. We may well believe that nobody can come to the Father except through Christ but telling such people they are bound for Hell in a basket is far from an effective way to get alongside them. Treating them as misguided fools is simply arrogance on our part. Don't forget that we ourselves believe in much that others think stupid.

None of us knows who will and who will not earn the life eternal since we believe it is attained through God's grace rather than by exemplary behaviour, and it is surely not our place to second guess God. Only Christians know God as Father, and the God of love; (to a Moslem, "lover" is the 47th of 100 names they give Him) but the average Moslem seems to worship Him more fervently than many of us do.

Perhaps, if we get to heaven, we may be very surprised by who else is there.

AR



Peter Scott's group called SING PLYMOUTH entertained people at Pophlett Church before Christmas.



GROWN UPS CINEMA

Sunday 25th February 2018 at 2 pm at Elburton Methodist Community Church.

We've really enjoyed running our family cinema so we've decided to have one for the grown ups. The event will be the same but for adults. Popcorn will be served. No entry fee and everyone is welcome! It's FREE!



THE SPORTIF

Elburton is also hosting a JaM, Scouts and Brownies sports afternoon called the Sportif on the 11th of Feb at 13.45. Again poster on our Facebook page.