



# *The Methodist Link*

Linking the Methodist Churches at  
Elburton, Oreston, Pophlett and  
Cattedown to the Community

Donations of £1 are gratefully accepted

FEBRUARY 2019



## *A church near you...*

### **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

### **POMPHELETT METHODIST CHURCH**

**Pomphlett Gardens, Plymouth PL9 7BL**

**[www.pomphlettchurch.org.uk](http://www.pomphlettchurch.org.uk)**

**WORSHIP AT 9.30am**

Minister: Rev'd Andrew Day, Tel: 342519

Secretary: Mr 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: [www.pomphlettchurch.org](http://www.pomphlettchurch.org)

### **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 Steward: Mrs Pauline Raine Tel:405483

Lettings Secretary: Mrs Helen Carhart Tel: 480319

Link rep: Mr 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)

Worship Leader :: Mr Roger Dodd Tel 406850

In keeping with the new regulations concerning data protection, we have the emailed permission from all of the above to publish contact details.

## 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 2019 ISSUE DEADLINE IS

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 10th 2019

The Link is available in printed format or online in colour, at [www.elburtonmethodist.org.uk/thelink](http://www.elburtonmethodist.org.uk/thelink) or your church web site.

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

### THE LECTIONARY

#### **3rd February**

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalms 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

#### **17th February**

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalms 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

#### **10th February**

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)

Psalms 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

#### **24th February**

Genesis 45:3-11,15

Psalms 37:1-11,39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50

Luke 6:27-38

The above are usually the readings used in church and are offered here for your personal use and meditation.

FRONT COVER - JaM collected 5 pences all year and spent them on treats for the animals at Woodside and Gables. See also page 13.

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*Printed by Bretonside Copy, Mayflower House, 50-54 Bretonside,  
Plymouth, Devon PL4 0AU 01752 665254*

# Letter for Elburton and Oreston



Dear One and All,

## **'The stairs don't meet the landing'**

This week I have been in Durham University pursuing doctoral studies in theology and ethics. The comment above was made by a visiting lecturer and was a piece of home-spun philosophy offered by his Geordie mother. It is, in its own way, a shrewd piece of analysis of the human condition. If the stairs don't meet the landing, then there is a gap. The stairs in effect lead nowhere, even though they promise to take you somewhere. It puts me in mind of a traffic direction sign featured on our local television news, where the two signs on the signpost said on one arm 'somewhere' and on the other 'nowhere', leading to confusion and some amusement near a Somerset village.

The stairs not meeting the landing seems to describe where we are as a nation with Brexit. It is no wonder people are confused, exasperated, angry and anxious. There is an apparent gap between the referendum result and the mixed messages of those in government and parliament. The gap is not a good place to be for it is in that place that rumour, mischief and all kinds of skullduggery breed.

It is also appropriate for us to ask at the beginning of a new year how we match-up to the analysis as individuals and as a Church. As an individual, does our Christianity match the way we live our lives or is there a gap between the landing of the Christian life and the stairs of daily living, and if there is such a gap how is that to be remedied? If a gap appeared between the stairs in the Broad Room and the landing by the Moor Hall, we'd

soon have it fixed; however, the gap between Church and world is not so easily bridged.

Perhaps this year in our 150th year celebrations, we should mind the gaps so that we can have a safe landing.

Every blessing,

**Simon**

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***Out of 100 men, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian.***

***Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.***

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## **Cuttack Sunday - 3rd March 2019**

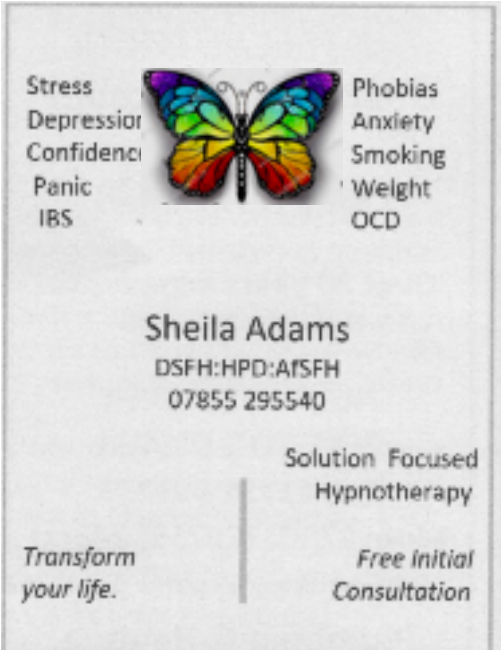
A reminder that the Sunday before Lent has been earmarked as 'Cuttack Sunday' when we specifically remember our sisters and brothers in the Diocese of Cuttack in the Church of North India - our overseas partners.

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## **CARD GARLAND**

Our Church`s  
Christmas Card  
Garland raised the  
wonderful  
Sum of £416 for the  
Mission in Britain  
Fund including  
Mission alongside  
The Poor.

Many thanks – Jenny  
Weymouth (M.in B.  
Treasurer and  
Secretary.



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# Elburton Methodist Community Church



## SUNDAY

### SERVICES

#### Morning

10.30 am

#### Evening

6.30 pm

February 3rd  
(with Oreston)

Rev'd Simon Leigh

Rev'd Simon Leigh

**HEALING & SACRAMENT**

February 10th

Mr Keith Angilley

Mrs Brenda Youngs

February 17th

Rev'd David Youngs

Mr Brian Carlyon

**SACRAMENT**

CHANGED

February 24th  
(With Oreston)

Mr Brian Gerry

REFRESH at St Matt's

**SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY**

**Can you think of a name for the new Cafe opening on the 28th of this month?**

It's got to be memorable, perhaps quirky, and reflect what it is - a normal cafe serving tea and good coffee etc, visible to the world through the porch doors, an opportunity to see inside the church for those who have not been before, and a chance to meet some friendly church members.



# Elburton Methodist Community Church

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## **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.

## **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.

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## **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 delicious 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.

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## **TUESDAY**

### **METHODIST WOMEN**

#### **IN BRITAIN - 2.30 p.m**

Feb 5th An afternoon of hymns:

‘A Joyful Sing Towards Spring’

Feb 12th Pauline & Tony (slides)

Feb 19th Members' Afternoon

Feb 26th Rev'd Arno Bessel

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

### **RAINBOWS**

#### **BROWNIES - 6.00 p.m.**

Contact Julie Hoskin on 481605.

# Elburton Methodist Community Church

## **PLYMSTOCK & RIDGEWAY**

### **MEN'S GROUP 7.30 pm**

Feb 12th Peter Crabb at Ridgeway  
Around Elburton

Feb 26th at Elburton

David Youngs - Canadian rail journey.

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 5th Naomi Kinsman -  
"Donkey Sanctuary"

Feb 12th Maggie Holmes  
"Greenbank Hospital"

Feb 19th Lorna Howell - "LukesLand"

Feb 26th Call My Bluff

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

□

### **HOME GROUP 1 - 7.30 p.m.**

The Tuesday home-group is co-ordinated by Di Smart and is held at homes of the group. For more information contact Di (405435) or Pam Kingsland (519452).

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## **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).

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## **THURSDAY**

### **WORKING PARTY** from 9.30 am 1st Thursday of month

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



# Elburton Methodist Community Church

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## **MEET AND EAT**

THIRD Thursdays from 10 a.m.

A good meal, tea/coffee, and good company for everyone, led by Rosemary, 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.

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## **FRIDAY**

### **LUNCHEON CLUB**

11 a.m. (in term time only)

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

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## **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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# ABOUT YOUR LINK

Many of you have now joined the number of those who read the Link on line and are enjoying the benefits of colour throughout, the extra pages and the up-to-date changes as these occur. There is a limit to the number of pages I can create in the printed copy before the magazine becomes too thick but no such limit for the on-line version. I therefore select any additional pages that I do not have space for in the printed version and that are time-sensitive, and include these in the on-line version. As changes have occurred I have altered the on-line version three times for the last issue. I will send you an email every month telling you when it is up if you tell me you want me to.

If you still need or prefer to have the printed version, please continue to take one without feeling there is any problem in you doing so. All I ask is that you consider helping to defray the printing expenses by an occasional, perhaps annual donation of between 50p and £1 per copy for the 10 issues a year.

Any article you care to write can be sent to me, Tony Raine, (contact details on page 3), and please take photographs if you can - remember a picture can say more than a thousand words! I can't guarantee to use what you send but I have more room now in the web version. I will always send an email to confirm your work is in.

THE EDITOR

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*Hi Tony, thanks for the story! Makes very interesting reading and good material for discussions. Do feel we have very much the same ideas with our faith - a God of love whom we try hard to emulate. I have grandchildren staying this week so will indulge in discussions later! I do enjoy them though can't get too worked up about the nitty gritty, seeing many as stories to try and explain things clearer. I read with great interest your articles and stories at the end of the link. I must tell you though and thank you for the one you wrote sometime ago on the prostitute never having had a birthday party. Look forward to discussions with you and others in the future.*

Rosemary Palmer

Hi

*Having just read Simons letter in the Christmas Link, it struck a large chord (literally) with me as I am lucky enough to be singing these beautiful words almost every week, it appears, in one concert or another with the Military Wives Choir..some of the words are obviously taken from the original poem and we were honoured to sing it on our new album 'Remember' which came out in June..it appears I am plugging the cd..but I just feel honoured to sing it and wanted to share this with you,*

*Joan Edwards*

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## 150 Years part 1

Do you realise that this church began only 92 years after John Wesley died? He believed that the Anglican Church should serve criminals, alcoholics, and ordinary labourers - the sinners and ordinary folk of the world, not just the upper classes. Unable to change the church of that time, he began to preach to sinners in the open air and anywhere he could. Others followed his example including William O'Bryan with whom Wesley disagreed and had banned from the nascent Methodism. William worked in Devon and Cornwall where he began the Bible Christian Church, sometimes called the Bryanites. Elburton was one of the Bible Christian Churches founded as a result.

When John Wesley died he still claimed to be an Anglican priest though he had begun what became Methodism as we know it today. There was much dissention in the new church with half a dozen fragments being formed as people followed Wesley's example and began to preach outside of the traditional Church environment. It was as late as 1932 before the Primitive Methodists, the Wesleyan Methodists and the group Bible Christians had already merged into called the United Methodists, joined together to form today's Methodist Church.

AR

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## **JaM Children's outing at Woodside cats and dogs home.**

The Sunday school children JAM have been collecting their 5 pence pieces for approximately 1 year and on December the 6th paid a wonderful visit to Woodside Cats and Dogs Home. They delivered a large Christmas hamper of goodies made up of food supplies for the animals with the money raised. It's surprising how a little change goes such a long way.

The Christmas Hamper was very well received by the charity who then gave us a grand tour of their vast facilities. We saw cats, dogs and little furry friends. Those who came, Jenny and Rupert Merafield, Morwenna Yelland and Bethan Carhart thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

The visit was arranged by the JAM leaders Julia and Tony Washbrook who also took time to put the hamper together beautifully.

Later we made a similar delivery to Gables Cats and Dogs Home. See cover picture and below.

COVER: Donation to Woodside.



ABOVE: Donation to Gables Cats and Dogs Home.

## **(Extract) News From Uganda**



Dear Friends,

Our church has continued to grow, its hard to tell exactly but we believe the congregation to be around 1000 people. We have a busy church programme every week, with daily morning glory prayers, lunch hour services and three overnight prayer services every week. Our services are very African as you would expect, with loud, vibrant music, lots of dancing and singing that could lift the roof off. This year we have been blessed to see so many people giving their lives to Christ, so many miracles and so many lives being transformed. Our biggest problem is trying to keep up with all that God is doing in our midst!! Our pastoral staff team is small because there is no money to pay for extra pastors but we do our best and we have a band of wonderful ministers in the church who help us carry the load.

For years there has been a very well known witchdoctor on the outskirts of town who has gathered a huge following leading people to worship ancient demon spirits of Western Uganda. The churches in this area have been praying for the demise of this harmful and dangerous "ministry". This man has been known to Silas for several years. Recently Silas was able to visit him and miraculously lead him and his wife to Christ, glory be to God. It was totally amazing! After counselling they also agreed to get baptised - another incredible moment. They then requested to sanctify their marriage and get properly married before God at King of Kings which they did. It was a powerful testimony to all those whom they had been leading into witchcraft. Please pray that God gives us wisdom to know how to also lead their followers to Christ and we establish a church where there has been a shrine.

There are now 265 branch churches under King of Kings Ministries. It has been such a move of God! Training and equipping leaders has become an essential part of the ministry. One such student is Pastor Elly Splendor, he joined King of Kings 6 years ago. I recently visited them to consecrate the land where they plan to build a structure for the church and to officially commission them as pastors. It brings us so much joy to see our sons and daughters moving in to the destiny and calling on their lives.

With regards to our family here, Joan, who has been part of our family for the past eight years, completed her Diploma in Social Work and while she is looking for a job in that field, she is managing a salon in town. Our daughter Mercy has started University; she is studying for a Degree in Procurement. I know she would value your prayers, she has found the first semester quite challenging. Amanyia (12), our other daughter, has just completed her Primary Leaving Exams and we are waiting for the results in January. We would also appreciate your prayers as we try to find the right secondary school for her. The majority of Ugandan secondary schools are boarding schools which we don't think is the right choice for Amanyia so we are looking at the possibility of her attending an international day school in Kampala. This will be logistically difficult for us as a family and we don't have all the answers yet but we want to give Amanyia the best opportunity to succeed in life.... Please pray for the right doors to open and for wisdom to make the right decisions.

Doreen has lived with us for the past three years and helps me run the house, is planning to get married early next year to a pastor and we are delighted for her. Please pray that we find a good replacement for her. We need someone that we can trust and fits in with the rest of this busy household!!

For the first Link of the year, what better time to say THANK YOU to all our family and friends who have so faithfully stood with us financially, in prayer and with love and encouragement. You are amazing! You make what we do here in Uganda possible. We pray for you regularly and ask God to pour out His abundant blessings in your lives.

**Nicola, Silas and family.**



*Elburton has regular retiring collections for this ministry. Any gifts you wish to make can be passed to any church member or steward and we promise it will reach Nicola.*

She has changed her email address back to:

[tayebwa@gmail.com](mailto:tayebwa@gmail.com)



# Meet *and Eat*



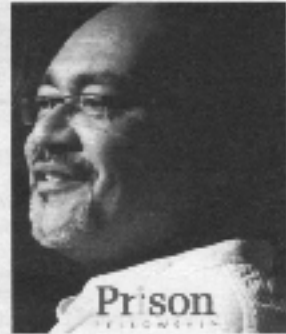
**THURSDAY**  
**21st February**

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and happy conversation.

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Rolf Burnie - 01548 560380  
Lindsay Ellis - 01752 994571

**Saturday**  
**2nd February**



Congratulations to  
Richard and Laura  
Clooke on the safe  
arrival of Freddie  
on November 29th  
All well.

## ELBURTON METHODIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

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.

## CELEBRATE IN SONG (advance) 150 Years

Back by popular request, Plymouth Area Police Choir will help to celebrate our 150th Anniversary. On March 15th at 7.30pm, the choir will be in concert at Elburton Methodist Church. Over the years, many groups have helped in raising funds for charities supported by the church, and the choir is no exception, having visited on many occasions. This time proceeds will be donated to Mission in Britain, a charity dedicated to helping the poor and needy. Tickets, priced seven pounds, may be obtained from Jenny Weymouth, the hard working representative of the charity at the church.



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# *Prayer Page*

10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 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. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. We 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. We pray that our young people will make meaningful contributions to build a world where everyone, of any ethnicity, culture or religion, can live free of racial injustice. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Merciful God, we ask you to fill our hearts with your love and to maintain justice. Give us the grace to rise above our weaknesses, and keep us faithful to the Gospel of your Son Jesus. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. We remember the sick in our communities... Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. We remember all the dead, that they may have a place at the banquet of eternal life, and that perpetual light may shine upon them. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. God our Father, we offer to you these prayers, and the work of our hands, and the love of our hearts, that in all things your will may be done. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. AMEN

*CBTI*

God and Father of all, who made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the earth: deepen our understanding of peoples of other races, languages and customs than our own.

Teach us to view them in the light of your own all-embracing love and creative purpose; and give us a vision of the true brotherhood of mankind, united under one Father.

We ask this in the name of him who died that all men might be one, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Adapted*

## ELBURTON'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Well, our special anniversary year has arrived and the Steering Group has arranged some exciting celebratory events. Final details will be available as they are confirmed. Meanwhile, so that you do not miss anything here is a diary of those already arranged.

Thursday February 28<sup>th</sup> 10am to noon

**Opening of Church Cafe Hub. All welcome!**

Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> 7-30pm

**Concert by Plymouth Area Police Choir**

Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> Afternoon

**Special Anniversary service followed by tea & cakes.**

Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup> (tba)

**Art workshops in hall, flower celebration worship area.**

Sunday September 1<sup>st</sup> 3.00pm

**Afternoon tea in the hall,**

**“old hymns” Songs of Praise in the church.**

Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm

**Church party and Harvest Supper.**

Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> 7.00pm

**Power Point presentation of history of the church**

and other events

December (DTBA)

**Re-dedication of church and congregation.**

Other exciting projects are under way, involving Elburton School, our Uniformed Organisations and Messy Church, more details of these later. We look forward to a very happy 2019, celebrating the service of our church within the community and confirming our commitment to continue that service into the future.

Jean (on behalf of the Steering Committee)

150 years

## PRAYER BOOK

In the last issue I asked if anyone would like to write a prayer to be included in a book of prayers we intend to publish later this year. Please consider sharing the daily prayers that you say about your own life. We want the book to have lasting value for everyone. Write the words you normally use. We are not looking for clever liturgies from other books but for heart-felt prayers of your own. Include your name only if I may attribute the prayer in the book, and send it to Tony Raine or Brenda Youngs. How long? I'm reminded of "How long is a piece of string?" The answer is as long as it needs to be but half a page is about 150 words if you would like a guide. Another question is "By when?" I suppose that depends on how quickly they come in but April is the special month and it would be lovely to have it done by then.

The next question is "What do we call the book?" Any ideas for a title?



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## **Don't judge a book by its cover - Christine Fitz**

Recently a dear friend and the longest serving volunteer at the centre where I work (Plymouth Foodbank) died. Christine could be a little forthright; speaking her mind was something she was often known to do. She was often clumsy, her shopping trolley had scuff marks all over it. Her social skills were sometimes lacking, she frequently interrupted conversations abruptly. With all these human flaws, her hospital room was always full of visitors, even the nurses commented to me that they had never known any patient to have so many visitors. So why then does this clumsy, outspoken and sometime tactless lady get so many visitors? Christine also had cerebral palsy, all of the characteristics mentioned above were as a direct result of her condition. Christine worked in a bank, she was a filing clerk and was jolly good at it.

She qualified with an MA from the Open University with a degree in Psychology, she was a steadfast and faithful friend. She worshipped at three different churches, was a part of bible study groups, was involved in social groups and had volunteered at the centre since 1996, only ever missing weeks that she was on holiday. Christine travelled all over the world as a solo traveller, even going as far as Australia and America on her own, she was fearless except for one thing. She had a real dread that one day someone would judge her by her disability and she would end up in a nursing home. It is easy to look at someone and only see what is on the outside, and this was a great fear for Christine. However, she also knew that God did not see her as disabled, but His beautiful and gifted daughter, and Christine tried all her life to live up to that love that she experienced daily.

There are a lot of people who admired Christine, who will smile at her memory and will be happy that she is now whole and healed and with her Lord. She was a reminder to us that we should not judge a book by its cover but



open the pages and find the true depth inside.

**Maria Mills MBE project manager  
Oasis Project.**



## *February Messy Church February 2nd*

February's Messy Church theme is 'Love'. Exploring the different ways to express or convey Love.

**From Julia & the Messy Team**



### **MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING**



Every month 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. Please come and join us.

### **THE BIG BREAKFAST**

41 people were served and £163 was taken (so far). The event was another success for the dedicated team who gave hours of work to the enterprise. Thank you for all you did.





## SCHOOL VISIT

150 years

I am pleased to say that we will be popping into Elburton Primary School to talk about the history of Elburton and our church. We are planning to ask the children to help celebrate our 150 birthday by visiting the church and drawing pictures of what they think Elburton looked like 150 years ago. Their work will then be displayed in the church.

It is a chance for us to meet the new Head mistress Mrs Anderson. We will be attending the school for more assemblies in the future with the cooperation of the school and St Matthews. *Tracey*

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## MWiB CIRCUIT ADVENT SERVICE



Our Circuit Advent Service was held on Tuesday 4th December and hosted by Elburton MWiB. The church looked very festive, thanks to the hard work of June and Clive Dinner in putting up and decorating the Christmas tree, the wonderful 'stable' and nativity scene in the Tony Broad Room, arranged by Dawn Merrifield and Helen Carhart, the stunning wall decorations and lights in the Crush Hall, as well as the floral arrangements and tasteful display in the foyer, courtesy of the talented 'flower team'. Margaret Passmore, our President, led the service, Mavis Clooke played the Clavinova and our Speaker was Di Smart, MWiB District President. Di spoke about the Jesse Tree, and brought and decorated a little tree with appropriate symbols. This was left in the church, so we were able to enjoy seeing it over the whole Christmas period. Following the lovely service, we retired to the Moore Hall for fellowship, mince pies and cream, stollen cake and a bottomless tea pot. The offering totalled £144.10 and was sent to our MWiB District Project, Air Ambulance in the South West. Thank you to everyone who helped make our church look so inviting.

# Oreston Methodist Church



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## **SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10.30 am**

**February 3rd**      Rev'd Simon Leigh      SACRAMENT

Due to unexpected circumstances, it has been decided to join with Elburton Church on the morning of 3rd February, so that the Revd. Simon Leigh can replace the planned preacher at Elburton, who is unfortunately unwell. Similarly, in place of their service on 17th February, Oreston congregation is invited to join with Elburton on the morning of 24th February, when Mr. Brian Gerry will be the preacher. Will Oreston Church members please contact either Ann James or Dorothy Turpitt, if they need a lift to and from either of these services. DJT.

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## **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

10.30 am on 1st March 2019

Plymstock Churches' Combined Service  
to be held at  
Plymstock Chapel  
Church Road, Plymstock  
(opp. Plymstock School's 2nd entrance)

God grant me the serenity to  
accept the people I cannot  
change, the courage to  
change the one I can, and  
the wisdom to know it's me.

author unknown.

## **CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS AT ORESTON.**

Thank you to all who attended our Celebration of Christmas on 17th December. It was a delightful afternoon, enjoyed by everyone. Grateful thanks to the Revd. Simon Leigh, Mr. Brian Gerry and the ladies of the Stitch, Knit and Natter Group, who provided the refreshments - in all a fitting start to Christmas for 2018!

The two hundred pounds collected was donated to the Motor Neurone Charity. AJ.



## **The Sew, Knit and Natter Group**

The Stitch, Knit and Natter Group enjoyed a very good term leading up to Christmas and finished on 17th December, 2018 by joining the Community for a wonderful Christmas afternoon in the Church, followed by a Christmas tea in the Hall.

Sadly we send our sincere condolences to Susan, whose brother died in Ireland a few weeks before Christmas and to Margaret Tope, whose daughter, Bridget, passed away a few weeks later. We hold them both in our thoughts and prayers. Recently, three of our Members have been in Hospital, needing surgery: Di Smart, Judith Marks and Melva Curtis - we wish each of them a speedy recovery, and hope to see them back with us soon.

We started our new term on Monday, 7th January, 2019 and are now thinking of new projects to do leading up to Easter - a change from Christmas angels! Any ideas will be welcome.

Come and join us anytime - if only for a cuppa, you will be very welcome! With very best wishes to one and all for 2019. Every blessing from Barbara Patrick.



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## **ORESTON EVENTS...**

**Oreston Parents and Toddlers 1.30pm -**

**3-15pm**

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



### **Oreston Sew 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**

The interchurch Bible Study Group now meets only once a month at Pomphlett on the 4th Friday of each month at 10am and it is led by the Rev'd Andy Day - all are welcome.

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***Sometimes, all it takes is just one prayer to change everything.***

***Some things have to be believed to be seen. ~ Ralph Hodgson***

***When I told the people of Northern Ireland that I was an atheist, a woman in the audience stood up and said, 'Yes, but is it the God of the Catholics or the God of the Protestants in whom you don't believe? ~ Quentin Crisp***

***People who want to share their religious views with you, almost never want you to share yours with them. ~ Dave Barry***



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# POMPHLETT METHODIST CHURCH



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PREACHERS AT POMPHLETT ON SUNDAYS AT 9.30 AM

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February 3rd	Rev'd Colin Roberts	
February 10th	Rev'd Andrew Day	SACRAMENT
February 17th	To be announced	
February 24th	Mrs Alfreda Rogers	

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## **HOW OTHERS SEE US**

*Heaven goes by favour. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in. ~ Mark Twain*

*Most people would like to be delivered from temptation but would like it to keep in touch. ~ Robert Orben*

*I'd rather live my whole life assuming there is a God, only to find out that there isn't, than to live my whole life assuming there isn't a God, only to find out there is. ~ Peter Barry*

*You talk to God, you're religious. God talks to you, you're psychotic. ~ Doris Egan*

*I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ. ~ Mahatma Ghandi*

*Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile. ~ Billy Sunday*

*A real Christian is a person who can give his pet parrot to the town gossip. ~ Billy Graham*

*The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people. ~ G. K. Chesterton*

## SING Plymouth Community Choir



Once again we were treated to the wonderful sound of singing from Sing Plymouth Community Choir. All at Pomphlett Church want to thank the Sing Plymouth Community Choir for a

wonderful sound, especially on a cold and dark Christmas time evening. We look forward to Christmas 2019.



**Friday**  
**February 22nd @ 10 am**

We start with a cuppa, chat. Bible Study and prayers led by our Minister  
Rev'd Andrew Day



**Dates In February**

11th & 25th  
All starting  
at 2pm



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**Friday February 1st**  
**Buffet @ 12.15 pm**  
**Movie @ 1pm**

We have been running our Buffet and Film sessions on the first Friday of the month for about six years. However, despite offering an eat as much as you like, reasonably priced buffet and a free to watch feature film, in recent months we have struggled for numbers.

Because of this decline it has been decided that the February film of 102 Dalmatians will be the last of our Buffet and Film sessions.



We would like to thank those who have supported this venture over the years. We have enjoyed meeting you and entertaining you with a feature film on our big screen with big sound.

It just leaves us to say thank you and to wish for you a very  
**Happy and Peaceful New Year.**



**Amphlett Methodist Church**  
**Coffee Cakes Chat**  
**Saturday**  
**February 16th 2019**  
**Teas Coffees**  
**from 9 am**  
**Bacon Butties**  
**from 9.30 am**  
**Raffle**

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#### Community Carol Service 2018

For his final Christmas with us before leaving for Liskeard later this year, Rev Andy Day and his wife Sarah looked after our service with something really different.

Colouring by Carols. For each carol theme an outline was coloured in by members of the congregation. Our youngest member Casey seemed to beat the Adults in her painting and really enjoyed it. This was followed by mince pies and cream. We must say a big thanks to Sarah and Andy for a memorable 2018 Carol Service.







### Our Café Service December 23rd 2018

As Christmas Day approached we gathered in Jesus' name to give thanks for His birth. As it was a birthday celebration we sang Happy Birthday to Jesus and also to our very own Paddy Pearce, she blew the candles out and we all had a slice of Birthday cake that was made by our Senior Steward's Granddaughter Charlie. Thanks Charlie. Whilst we sang praises to God we enjoyed a cuppa and prepared ourselves for the Birth of Jesus.



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**Line Dancing**  
**TUESDAYS @ 10 AM**

Diana is happy to announce that  
 her successful Line Dance Group  
 has room for new members

**YEEE HAAA !!!!**

For full joining details  
 Contact Diana  
 on 01752 482380  
 Come along, join,  
 and learn with fun

# Gateway

The Church in a House

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*To my family at Gateway, I trust that each one of you had a good Christmas and I wish you a belated happy New Year! I have just returned from crossing the river Tamar for the second time this month and will do so again next month and once the following month to take preaching appointments. Each time I travel on the ferry my car is directed into a different lane on board. Today I was the penultimate car off the ferry into Plymouth and while waiting in that lane other vehicles travelling to Torpoint are driven on board. It reminded me of something about life. There are times when we have to wait for something to be completed before we tackle something new but at the same time other distractions come into view; and can sometimes make us change direction Hopefully for the good rather than for the bad!!*

Although the preaching plan doesn't say so, by the time you read this article we will have passed the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This is a subject close to my heart because although we are no longer a Christian country we must work more closely with our Christian brothers and sisters from other denominations so that we can present unity rather than disunity. The national press talks of the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the free churches without explaining who those churches are. We are all part of the church of Jesus Christ and as such we have a mission to bring more and more people into the fold!

I have to admit that I have not quite got into the swing of meeting with you only once a fortnight! Every blessing to each of you.

Your brother in Christ,     *David.*

*We have no birthdays in February. Julie and Roger will be leading the worship on Sunday 10 th February at 11 am.*





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## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

"I just read the second chapter of John. Can you please explain it to me?" A friend asked the curate.

"How deep do you want to go?"

"I want the true meaning, that's all."

"The trouble is, it isn't so simple. There are a number of meanings depending on how deep or superficial you want to go."

"I just want you to explain it to me. Why is it there?" the friend persisted.

"Well John is different from the other three gospels. It's written so that you can continually find new meanings in it."

"I don't understand you. How can that happen? It's been around for two millennia now. What more is there to learn?"

"Let me explain. What was Jesus' first event at the start of his ministry according to John?"

"Turning water into wine, isn't it - at the wedding? That's the one I've just read."

"Why do you think John starts off with that?"

"Because it's the first miracle that Jesus did?" the friend questioned with a hint of sarcasm, as though it was obvious.

"Is it? Nobody else mentions it at all, yet about 70 years after Jesus was crucified he comes up with a story nobody else heard before."

"So why do you think it's there?" the friend challenged.

"I think it's there to state at the beginning of John's story what Jesus is about to do. How many vessels are standing in the courtyard?"

"Six isn't it?"

"And what does 6 mean in the Bible?"

"No idea."

"What does 7 mean, then?"

"Seven? that's 'perfection' isn't it?"

"Yes. It means 'perfect, complete'. You'll find it used almost 300 times in the Bible. So now what do you think 6 means then?"

"Don't know. Does it mean imperfect, incomplete?"

"Exactly. Now can you remember what the 6 vessels were used for?"

"It said they were used for religious rituals - washing hands and feet."

"So perhaps Jesus was trying to say that he had come because their

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understanding of what God wants was imperfect, incomplete. He'd come to make it perfect."

"Are you sure that's what it means?"

"Your guess is as good as any other. How much wine did he make?"

"I can work it out. He filled all six vessels with it and each held over 150 gallons or more. That's at least 900 gallons!"

"That's about 1200 bottles worth. There would have been a lot left. What do you think the poor man did with it all?"

"I don't know. It doesn't say."

"What would you do with so much of the best wine you've ever tasted?"

"I'd keep it, drink it. Pass some to my friends."

"I bet the guy who organised the wedding did the same, but remember he was not a rich man and those large vessels would cost perhaps more than he could afford to replace. Does he keep the new stuff or drain it away so he can use the vessels to wash peoples hands."

"Keep it of course."

"So the guy would replace the religious system of the time with what Jesus had given him. Isn't that exactly what Jesus came to do?"

"I never looked at it like that before."

"When you ask God for something, do you think he holds back? Is he reputed to be miserly in what you get?"

"No, if he gives you something it's never miserly."

"That's another message in that miracle. How bountiful can he be? 1200 bottles! There's another thing. Why do you think Jesus was so short with his Mum? She knew he could do it, but he said it wasn't his time."

"Was it because he didn't want to start his ministry yet?"

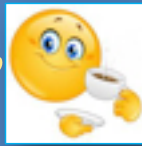
"I think you're right. It was Mary, his Mum who gave him the wake-up call. John is telling us that. Do you know John only gives us seven miracles (the perfect number again) and a lot of those are new ones not mentioned anywhere else. He calls them signs, not miracles. The sign is for us - it's telling us that Mary started him doing the work he came to do, changing the faulted understanding of the time and replacing it with a perfect understanding - if you are willing to see it, but it's hidden, you have to search for it. Think about it. We are told Jesus almost always spoke in parables - John was just doing the same. That's why you can continually find new truths in his gospel, even today. Mine the gospel and see what else you can find. It's full of such discoveries."

AR

# Opening Soon ! Elburton Methodist Church Cafe



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