

# Burton Rd Methodist Church, Lincoln



[www.burtonroadmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.burtonroadmethodistchurch.org.uk)

Burton Rd Methodist Church is committed to bringing people to Christ through Gods Word and the power of the Holy Spirit

- Accepting people as they are
- Worshipping together as a family
- Welcoming and loving everyone
- Serving the community around us

Welcome to our worship

Large print service books and sheets are available at the door

**Minister** – Rev Stephen Brown,

1 Ancaster Ave, Lincoln, LN2 4AY Tel: 01522 525064

**Church and Community Development Worker** – Mr Peter Reast

Tel: 01522 822981 Email: [ccworker@lincolnmethodist.org.uk](mailto:ccworker@lincolnmethodist.org.uk)

Should you require help which you think we may be able to provide, but feel unable to approach anyone whilst here, do contact Stephen or Peter

**Welcome to our visitors today**

**Sunday 16th September 2007**

**Harvest Festival & All Age Worship to include the Reception into Membership of Rob and Jenny**

**10.30am** Rev Stephen & Mrs Mary Brown

On Duty Angela MargaretD Pauline

Refreshments served after the service when donations for Junior Mission for All will be invited

**Sunday 23rd September 2007**

**Service and Junior Church**

**10.30pm** Mr David Sheehan

On Duty Jim SarahB Pauline Elizabeth

SarahE Denise

**Today's Harvest gifts will be shared locally and with the Community Larder**

## **PRAYER MATTERS!**

**For this week particularly, please pray...**

...for Rob and Jenny as they are welcomed into membership, among us. We pray for their boys too, and pray that we may be a blessing to them all, as they are to us.

... for Dawn, and for Glen (back in hospital); and for the medical team as they decide how to help him.

... with thanksgiving for the commitment of the Methodist Church to award Lincoln Street Pastors a grant of £8,000 per year, for the next five years, and prayer for more pray-ers.

... for Ralph and Adele Ward following the deaths of Adele's Father and Sister in recent weeks.

... for David, Jim, Pauline, and Elizabeth as they prepare worship for next week.

**AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE IN NICARAGUA WITH TEAR FUND.....**Devastating Hurricane Felix has destroyed thousands of homes and killed thirty eight people in Nicaragua. TF partners are responding to communities who need shelter and the many that have had to move their homes to a safe place while storms and heavy rain continue. PLEASE PRAY for the safety of people living in the affected regions and for our partners in Nicaragua as they work with communities to tackle the effects of the hurricane. PRAY that mudslides and flooding will be minimal, and that work being done to further protect these communities will be effective.

Please pass information and prayers to Angela for our next notices by Wednesday.

Tel. 01522 822981 or Email [angela.reast@ntlworld.com](mailto:angela.reast@ntlworld.com)

**Copies of PeterP's news of Conference are available on the notice board**

## The Week Ahead

Day	Time	Event	Venue
Sunday	10.30am 7.00pm	Harvest service & refreshments Quest-ians	Church Lounge
Monday	9.00am Evening 6.30pm	School Gators 16 <sup>th</sup> Lincoln Scouts Prayer Meeting	Lounge Hall Church
Tuesday	Evening 7.30pm	16 <sup>th</sup> Lincoln Cubs and Beavers Housegroup	Hall & Lounge See Joan or Pauline
Wednesday	1.30pm 2.30pm	Good News Van Collection Wednesday Afternoon Fellowship	Hall Lounge
Thursday	7.30pm 7.45pm	Poacher Morris Housegroup	Hall Peter & Angelas
Friday	6.00pm	Special Agents	Church
Saturday	9.00am 9.30am	Dance school Faithwalkers	Hall & Lounge see below
Sunday	10.30am	Service and Junior Church	Church and rooms

**Thank you** to Maureen Joan John Joy and Wendy for arranging a lovely Harvest Supper. The evening was really appreciated.

**Wednesday Afternoon Fellowship** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2.30pm in the Lounge – Summer highlights shared by members.

**Maranatha Meeting** Monday 1st October, 7.00 for 7.30pm, Bailgate Methodist Church in the Lounge.

**Circuit Newsletter is available** Please return to the notice board when you have read it.

**Quest-ians** (aimed at 14-18 yr olds) in the Lounge from 7.00 -9.00pm. TODAY.

**Management Team meeting** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 10.30am in the Vestry.

**'LIVE'**, Youth Event, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 07 at New Life Church. Doors open 6.15 for 6.30pm, the evening ends around 8.00pm.

**Dedication and commissioning of Lincoln Street Pastors** Friday 5th October, 8pm at Bailgate Methodist Church. We are invited to support the Street Pastors who will move out into the City for the first time after this service.

**Godly play** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30-9.30pm at Saxilby Methodist Church, especially interesting for Children and Youth workers and Parents.

**Dawn and Glen** thank us for our support and help over these last few weeks, and ask that we continue to uphold them in prayer.(2)

**We want to share news** Please let the duty Steward (ask who at the door) know if you have news to share which would be encouraging for us all to hear before our service. Also, remember the prayer note book is on the table at the back of church for us to write our concerns and blessings in before the service to be included in our worship by our preacher.(2)

**Our offering** during July was £1072.01 and during August £959.09, through the bank and offering plate. This will be used to maintain the life of the Church and our work in and for our community.(2)

**FAITHWALKERS Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007. Kirton in Lindsey, Scotton & Nelthorpe Circular.** Departure from Burton Road Methodist Church at 9.30am. Walk length 7 miles/11km, Walk time 4hrs including lunch. Over gently undulating ground with a very good tea room at the windmill on the outskirts of the village, which also sells organic milk, bread and flour. Please always follow the countryside code, bring a packed lunch and wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Children must be accompanied by an appropriate adult. Everyone taking part in these activities does so at their own risk and insurance is the individual's responsibility. Contact: Mark Ln 806784 or Email [faithwalkers@burtonroadmethodist.org.uk](mailto:faithwalkers@burtonroadmethodist.org.uk)

**Circuit Meeting** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at Reepham Methodist Church, 7.00 for 7.30pm.

**Sadly** the Nettleham Good News Library Van will no longer be operating. It will come to Burton Rd Methodist Church on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September to collect any books we have borrowed. Could you please bring back books on that day between 1.45pm and 2.30pm? Thank you, Jim and Pauline.

**Grapevine was special again.** 27 of us (including friends) camped and welcomed those of you and more family & friends who visited. Special thanks to Sarah and Andi Evans who arranged the marquee and scout & guide camping equipment (including electric light bulbs), making it a home from home – except the carpet was grass and the walls wobbled in the breeze! Our shared 'eating and between-session-times' were fun and relaxing with a constant flow of drinks, games and chatter, but they were also good times for deep talking, searching and healing. All of us benefited from the groups aimed at our various ages and we appreciated the international speakers. Two afternoons included songwriters introducing their songs, it was good to hear the songs performed and why they were written. All the worship bands in the various venues were enjoyed. Some good new songs were picked up. This was the first year our oldest young people went to the 'late, late' slots to return to yawning parents, but we also had a baby visiting us to remind us of 'the old days'. Probably the loudest and longest laugh the grownups had was when it was our turn to clean some portable loos and showers, reminding ourselves to 'always look on the bright side of life'. No firm plans for next year, but we're already talking about it, so if you'd like to join us or to know more about it ask the Hicks, Evans, Holt & Reast families by March 08 as that's when decisions will be made. It gets progressively more expensive month by month if we book after April. **Congratulations** to the Grapevine Burton Rd Methodist Church Under 11s football team (the Burton Rd Tigers) who won the Cup. Thomas and his friend Darrel, Abigail, & Sarah with Luke and Timothy Elgar played a good match and won on penalties. The Burton Rd Lions B including Sam, Ashley, William, Sean, Steph and 2 friends from another church (11-18yrs) and Lions A including Bethany and her friend Sophie, Joshua, Mark and Andrew Elgar and his girlfriend Sophie (11-18 yrs) made it through to the quarterfinals. Well done all, and their Coach's Garth and Geoff Elgar with the enthusiastic Supporters club!(2)

**Causeway Prospects service** TODAY, 3.00pm, at Fiskerton Village Hall.

## **Methodist Conference 2007, Blackpool, by Pete Pillinger**

Grateful for our prayers Pete now shares some of his thoughts and news of this years Conference.

**With the ultimate objective of 'discerning the will of God'** I sometimes wonder why more time is not given to prayer. For a long time I have had a vision of people - ordinary Methodists - arriving by the coach load to pray for what is going on in the Conference hall. We may not all have the gifts to speak in debate or the time to attend all of Conference but all of us have a direct line to God. What a signal it would be if we needed more space for the pray-ers than for the Conference debates!! But enough of dreaming, what about the Conference?

**The agenda** is on the internet at: <http://www.methodistconference.org.uk/index.htm>

**It was the most inspiring Conference of any of the 8 I have attended** over the last 26 years. The Worship was good and we were not riven by debates such as those on sexuality.

As always we have elected a President and Vice President designate and Martyn Atkins and Ruby Beech were duly installed. If you have broadband internet access you can listen to their addresses on the Methodist Conference radio website - along with all the other debates.

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=openogod.webradio>

The President's Speech is half way down the list. Martyn Atkins' address was inspiring and during Conference his choice of material, hymns and songs and the leading of music by the worship group, Wellspring, was superb. We were truly led into God's presence. Martyn called us to be a mission movement for the 21st century. Ruby Beech was also clear and called us to consider the Biblical roots of standing up for the oppressed. She spoke of the anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade and went on to identify oppression of women and homosexuals. I hope you will pray for both Ruby and Martyn during their year in office. President designate for 2008/9 is Revd Stephen Poxon, chair of the North Lancashire district and Secretary of the Missionary Society (yes it does still exist). Vice President designate is Mr David S Walton. I am struck by the quality of the people God has given us these last few years. Over the last five we have had a consistent thread to the messages of our Presidents. From Neil Richardson's call to refocus on God through Will Morrey's call to us to listen to God, Tom Stuckey's call for radical fresh ways of being church, Graham Carter's call to serious discipleship and now to Martyn's continuation of God's guidance - for all this I am grateful to God.

### **Issues and Debates:**

**Bishops** The recommendation to Conference from Faith and Order Committee regarding 'What sort of Bishops' was that we should not proceed further on this matter at present. The feedback from the consultation process showed an overwhelming lack of interest on the matter. An impression was given that 'if people had understood what we were saying they would have voted differently'. To which one speaker asked 'What part of 'NO' do you not understand!'. The report of the Joint Implementation Commission (JIC) on the Covenant raised the issue of Bishops as one to be dealt with and they have a final report back next year - so Bishops will not go away, but at least they are firmly asleep at present. I'm encouraged that there seems to be less enthusiasm among younger ministers than among older ones. This goes, I think, with a greater confidence in God's future for us.

**Restructuring the Connexional Team** Conference approved the proposals for restructuring the Connexional Team and those of you who read the Methodist Recorder will have seen advertisements for the next General Secretary and for the Connexional Secretaries. Conference reaffirmed that it is the President who is the Leader of the church (not the General Secretary) but we have still agreed to look for a new General Secretary who will be in post from September 2008. Please pray for those involved in the appointments process and for God to prompt the right person to apply. Conference did agree that at least one of the Connexional Secretaries would have knowledge and experience of evangelism. We might hope (and pray) that all the secretaries of our church would be enthusiastic for evangelism.

**World Church** There was some debate about the future of the World Church Office. There is still significant pressure for the ending of the Funds for World and Home mission and to have a single Methodist Church Fund. Conference has consistently refused to agree to this. In this reorganisation, as in previous ones, the British Conference has largely ignored the fact that the Methodist Missionary Society is a joint body representing both the British and Irish Conferences. We have made proposals for reorganising based on perceived needs of the British Church - and in the process have made monies from World Church sources available for some limited uses in Britain. It was probably the saddest moment of Conference 2007 when Winston Graham, a real 'gentle man' and a representative of the Irish Conference, rose to tell the British Conference that the Irish Conference is having to consider going it alone in its future World Church work. There have been conversations since, but the failure of the British Methodist Church to understand

its relationships with the Irish Methodist Church is a sad one indeed. We must pray that one of the secretaries to be appointed this autumn has significant World Church experience.

**Restructuring Conference** Once again Conference has agreed to reduce its size. 28% of Conference is ex officio of one sort or another; Chairs of District (34), Conference Officers, Conference Elected representatives etc. This year Conference agreed to reduce the number elected by Conference itself from 18 to 9, each serving for three years. Conference also agreed that it should be 50% ordained and 50% lay. Because most of the ex officio' people are ordained this means that ministers from the districts will find it harder to get to Conference. I leave you to decide if this is a good thing or not! Making sure half of Conference is lay highlights the difficulties of a Conference meeting in school term time. All teachers are excluded from going to Conference as are many others who cannot afford to take a week off work. It makes me ask if in the 20th century there is a better way of discerning God's will? Perhaps we could hold debates on the web? Could we make referenda a normal part of our church life? What other ways could we improve the ways we listen to God?

**Ordinations** As is our practice those who have tested a call to ministry (Presbyters and Deacons), who have completed their training and proven their ministry in a probationary period, were presented to Conference to be accepted into 'full connexion' on the Sunday and were ordained. The Reception into full connexion is always for me an inspiring and moving occasion. It must encourage us that God is still calling men and women of all ages and from all sorts of backgrounds into the ministry of His church. I am encouraged that so many are enthusiasts for God.

**Charity Law** While not under the control of Conference a report was given on the changes in charity law and its implications for Methodist Churches. Under the Charities Act 2006 the category of 'excepted charities' under which we have worked until now is ending. In the Methodist year 2007/8 churches and circuits with an income of over £100,000 will have to register as charities in their own right - about 280 circuits and 360 local churches. There are transitional arrangements for churches with income of less than this but eventually every church will be registered as a separate charity and make its own returns to the charity commission. Each will have to show that there is some public benefit to gain charitable status. This decision of the British Parliament recognises the trust status of every Methodist Church, something which was blurred under the last Methodist Church Act. I think we should be pleased about this in spite of the additional work which will be required at local level. The new Charity law recognises that when a local trust is set up, that trust is primary. The implication would seem to be that the Custodian Trustees in Manchester are custodians of each local trust, not some mega trust for the denomination.

**A new Hymn Book** Conference agreed to produce both a 'rolling resource' probably based on the Internet and a new printed hymn book. The fact that the Methodist Publishing House has been making a loss (£0.8 million last year) may be entirely unconnected. If each copy costs £8 and we have a church of 250,000 members, and if churches buy new hymn books for half our membership it will cost our churches over a million pounds to equip themselves with this new book. Is this really the best use of our resources? Could a million pounds not be better spent on employing evangelists either in Britain or around the world?

**Fresh Expressions of Church** Conference received a short report on the development of Fresh Expressions of Church. I'm biased, having written this (and the book which goes with it), but it was encouraging that the Fresh Expressions fringe meeting was one of the largest and that when the Conference split into four 'forums' a third of Conference decided to go to the Fresh expressions one. There is a genuine enthusiasm for mission-shaped expressions of church among the Methodist people. The book 'Changing Church for a Changing World' is suitable for personal reading or group study. [Peter may still have some copies, or be able to tell you where to get it from]it is also available from local Christian bookshops or from the Publishing House for £4.95 or for £3.50 for ten or more copies. According to Howard Mellor it is one of the best things to come from Fresh Expressions, and Graham Horsley, Connexional Church Planting and Evangelism Strategy Secretary said 'Its very good.'

**Stationing Committee** We look likely to have around 45 less new or transferring ministers than are retiring or moving out each year for the next five or six years at least. The total reduction over the period is from 1876 ministers this year to 1675 in 2011/12. The Stationing committee report states that 'the Connexion will continue to struggle to station presbyters and deacons in 'conventional' appointments whilst at the same time attempting to provide ministers for new, imaginative and innovative work in 'Fresh expressions' opportunities and other developments.' We continue to be short of ministers but have to make room for new work. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest sends us labourers.

The harvest is ready,  
Pete Pillinger(1)