

Anstey Methodist Church



The Messenger *March to May 2017*

Please retain for 3 months

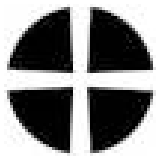


The Messenger



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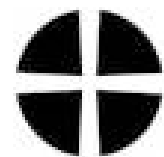


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Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

Hope, our portion.

In life, there are situations and experiences that make us lose hope.

Some are personal, others are corporate. There may be some reading this letter who are facing situations that seem hopeless.

In situations that are hopeless many have found the reminder that 'our God is a God of hope' uplifting. Hope has to do with the future. When the future looks bleak, hope is challenged.

Looking at the success our church enjoyed in years gone by, the number of colleagues who have departed from us, our dwindling numbers and other struggles consequently, we have every reason to lose hope.

However hopeless we may be, it is worth remembering that one of the many blessings found in Christ is Hope.

Hope is not something we have to earn or strive to get, it is freely given by God's Grace, "Christ in you, the hope of glory" Colossians 1:27. God's

Love and comfort shine in our darkest nights.

One of the great hymns of the Church, 'O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come' is also a message of Hope. Isaac Watts, an English writer, a Christian Leader, born in Southampton, England in 1674 wrote this hymn at a time when religious freedom was severely limited. His father was jailed twice for his religious views.

In such time of distress and hopelessness with regard to faith,

Isaac looked to Psalm 91 for comfort, and wrote a paraphrase of this hymn's words, words of Hope.

The Christian life is a life of Hope. No circumstance or experience is without Hope. Hopelessness and despair find opportunity and gain strength only when we look away from Jesus to focus on ourselves, our challenges and the glorious past.

HOPE IS OUR PORTION we should never allow it to vanish from us.
God bless you all,

Rev. Robert Kasema

Christmas Child Shoe Boxes



I cannot tell you which country your shoe box was sent to, however I do have the following information:

882,647 boxes were sent to 17 countries in Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East.

A lot of joy, fun, surprise and excitement was given to nearly one million needy children across the world.

Thank you to those who donated.

Richard

Brian Martin



On 31st January our minister, assisted by family members, conducted a warm service of thanksgiving for our friend Brian Martin.

Brian attended Anstey Primary School and Loughborough College, and in his early years sang in the choir at St. Mary's. Following National Service he and Margaret were married, Brian working for 26 years at Millington Fuel Merchants where he developed the travel business and became a director.

Brian was a committed family man, a 'people person', enjoying football and cricket.

Margaret and Brian became regular worshippers with us, their children attending our Sunday School. Through Rev. Ivan Homer inviting him to provide transport to a Billy Graham Rally in 1984, the Christian faith became central to Brian's life and a commitment to Christ, organizing Bible studies.

During the service the family expressed their gratitude for the love and support of family, friends and church as Brian experienced failing eyesight in latter years, and were assured that Brian has reached his eternal home.

We uphold Margaret and her family in our prayers as we give thanks for Brian, whom we knew as a quiet Christian gentleman. Howard

Margaret Martin Writes

I would like to convey my sincere appreciation for your prayers, kindness and support following the death of my husband Brian.

Thank you so much for your cards of sympathy, and the beautiful flowers from church. May God bless you.

Margaret and family.

Social Hour Alternate Wednesdays At 2.30pm



23rd November, and June was in the chair, leading opening devotions before welcoming our guests - the Anstey U3A choir.

Some of us were surprised to see 15 or 16 members, with Doreen as conductor and Jean Rawson accompanying.

The opening song, "The hills are alive", was re-written to be the U3A theme song, and was followed by the modern version of "The Lord's my Shepherd".

Then came "When you wish upon a star", "A spoonful of sugar", "The unbirthday song", "Superfragilistic" and "Leaning on a lamp-post".

With an eye to the time of year the choir sang "Good King Wenceslas" and "Oh Holy Night" before concluding with another version of the U3A theme song.

The choir harmonised well and the two men's voices gave a nice balance to each piece. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon - hopefully to be repeated at some future date. *Peter*

14th December and we had carols, readings and a Christmas tea.

11th January was our first meeting in the New Year and was entitled MEMORIES.

Mary was in the chair and after leading us through a short time of prayer she opened up the meeting. This gave us the chance to show the various items we had brought along which were special to us and say why.

Photos of a special holiday were talked about by Chris. Doreen told of a time when she was small in the Sunday school and she trilled through the solo she sang there. June & Peter gave us a couple of poems. Edith showed some pebbles from St. Ives in Cornwall. Alma showed her wedding photo. Richard

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brought along some beautiful embroidery done by one of his sons and finally Mary gave some thoughts on a scrapbook.

All in all it was a happy and interesting meeting and after saying the Grace together we enjoyed tea and biscuits. *Edith*

25th January Doreen led the meeting and opened with a short time of worship, after which we were very pleased to welcome our good friend Richard Keen as our speaker.

It's always good to spend time with him as his slides are always so interesting. This time he brought a mixed bag to show various holidays which he and Veronica had enjoyed over the years.

The first holiday was a trip to India to share in the 50th birthday celebrations of their son David and it was lovely for him and Veronica to share this time.

Romania was another trip to meet up with family and friends who they had got to know over the years. Some of the family members had visited Anstey several times and had shared in worship with us.

We then moved on to the Lake District and there they met up with Johnny, their other son, and his family and although it was May it was very cold. But they were all well wrapped up and their family togetherness kept them warm.

Their final visit was to Cornwall, a firm favourite with both Richard and Veronica. They soon found their favourite spot to 'pitch their caravan' and were soon off for some lovely walks. We shared a most pleasant afternoon and thank Richard and Veronica for their time. We closed the meeting by saying The Grace together and enjoying tea and biscuits. *Edith*.

8th February Peter led the opening devotions before welcoming our speaker, Rev. David Lawton. David gave his talk an interesting slant by using the theme of "Desert Island Discs".

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He spoke of some of the significant moments in his life (more cannot be said because of patient confidentiality !) and then cleverly played pieces of music linked inextricably in his mind with those momentous occasions.

Thanks David for a thoughtful and fascinating glimpse into your past life !

Peter (And thanks Peter for all those long words !!!!! **Ed.**)

FUTURE MEETINGS	
8th March	Mrs. Molly Hanger
	Leader Christine
22nd March	Rev. Novette Headley
	Daffodils. Leader June
12th April	Collective Legal Solutions
	Leader Peter
26th April	Christine-Anne S
	Leader Edith
10th May	Mr. Mick Furborough
	Leader Mary
24th May	AGM & faith tea
	Leaders Edith & Peter

Women's World Day Of Prayer



The service in our village will take place on Friday 3rd March 2017 at the parish church commencing at 7.30pm.

The theme for the service is "Am I being unfair to you?" and has been prepared by Christian women of the Philippines.

A warm welcome is extended to ALL who wish to come along to this service. **Winnie**

Monthly Prayer Meeting



This takes place on the 1st Saturday of the month.

Meeting place is the Methodist Church vestry.

65th Wedding Anniversary



On March 22nd June & Norman Daniels will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. We wish them every happiness.

Martin Luther

500th anniversary of the Reformation triggered by Martin Luther.

Somewhere around October 1517 an obscure German monk wrote a set of academic theses. Martin Luther was concerned about the Roman Catholic Church. He pointed to corruption and laziness in many of the key officials of the church. His main objection was the selling of indulgencies, a ticket to salvation. It meant the parish priest did very little, just scared the folk with talk of a vengeful God, and raked in the money that was spent to redeem their souls.

This thesis should have been a discussion document, but Luther sent it to publishers. It was translated from Latin into German, so many, many people read it. Luther became a publishing phenomenon. At the same time he was locked in a growing dispute with the Church.

He had to defend himself before the Holy roman Emperor. He publicly questioned the Church's authority to decide doctrine. What martin Luther wanted was for the church to say the words of scripture are the test as to whether you are right or wrong. But they were using their authority.

To be continued

'All We Can' Helps Widows In Cameroon



Gladys, a destitute widow from Cameroon, has had her life changed thanks to All We Can, the Methodist relief and development fund.

After her husband died she did not know how she would survive but was helped to develop a small pig-rearing enterprise. Gladys now faces a brighter future. "Whenever I am feeling low I just go and see them (the pigs) and straightaway I feel hopeful again," she said.

About a year ago Gladys was identified as one of the neediest people in her village and so was urged to join a group that would change things

for her. She was given training, advice and encouragement and also met others in similar circumstances. She was given the confidence that even as a single mother she could cope.

So with her youngest son, Otto, she started her pig-rearing enterprise. She has gone from strength to strength and the woman who had once

considered suicide now looks forward to a much brighter future: "I am so grateful for all that they have done. I had known suffering for a very long time.

This came as a big relief for me. Things have really changed – I see a future that is far different from what I was seeing before."

All We Can envelope donations: November - £143, January - £127.50

Next collection: Sunday 26th March **Richard**

Lent Course

This will be held at the home of Ian Dutton 140 Cropston Road.

The theme is the Beatitudes. The first date is March 9th.

For Your Diary

3rd March	7.30pm	Women's Day of Prayer. See page 7.
16th March	2.00pm	Church Council meeting.
25th March	7.00pm	Loughborough Ladies Choir.
22nd April	9.30am	Spring Fair.
13th May	7.30pm	Nicholas Martin organ concert.
11th July	7.00pm	Charity coffee evening.
15th August	2.30pm	Ways & Means meeting.
22nd September		Harvest lunch.
11th November	9.30am	Autumn Fair.

Prayers For The Village



3rd March	Bradgate Rd. Petifor Cl. Long Cl. Ruskin Fields. The Old Tannery.
12th March	The Green. Greens Farm Close. Elm Ct.
19th March	Balladine Rd.
26th March	Netherfield Rd. Holgate Cl.
2nd April	Link Rd 1-63,64-133,195-243
9th April	Link Rd 245 to end. Anstige Av. Wolfe End. Dale Cl.
16th April	Hazlehead Rd. Birkdale Rd.
23rd April	Gorse Hill. Gynsil Cl. The Pastures. Cawrey Cl. Mill Farm. Choyce Cl. Argyle Av.
30th April	Church La. Mary's Court.
7th May	The Nook, shops, businesses and flats.
14th May	Christian Aid week.
21st May	Leicester Rd. Ned Ludd Cl.
28th May	Members of our congregation living outside Anstey.

Sunday Services

5th March	10.30am	6.15pm
Preachers	Mrs. M Freeman	Rev. N Headley
Stewards	Carol	Gordon
Door stewards	Doreen	
Flowers	Mrs. C Bird *	
Music	Vince	Richard
12th March		
Preachers	Rev. R Kasema (HC)	Rev. D Lawton
Stewards	Christine/Claire	Richard
Door stewards	Edith	
Flowers	Mrs. M Taylor *	
Music	Gordon	Gordon
19th March		
Preachers	Miss J Patti	Local arrangements
Stewards	Doreen	Gordon
Door stewards	Christine	
Flowers	Mr. & Mrs. D Spencer *	
Music	Vince	Carol

Sunday Services

26th March Mothering Sunday	10.30am	6.15pm
Preachers	Mr. S Crossley	Rev. R Kasema
Stewards	Gordon	Richard
Door stewards	Mary Mason	
Flowers	To be arranged	
Music	Ralph	Ralph
2nd April Passion Sunday		
Preachers	Mrs. E Cobley	Rev. N Headley
Stewards	Doreen	Christine
Door stewards	Dennis	
Flowers	Mrs. G Redstone	
Music	Vince	Richard
9th April Palm Sunday		
Preachers	United service. St. Mary's	Mrs. P Furborough
Stewards		Richard
Door stewards		
Flowers	To be arranged	
Music		Gordon

Sunday Services

16th April Easter Sunday	10.30am	6.15pm
Preachers	Mr. G Tatler	Rev. R Kasema (HC)
Stewards	Carol	Carol
Door stewards	Steve	
Flowers	To be arranged	
Music	Vince	Gordon
23rd April		
Preachers	Mr. A Jobling	Rev. D Lawton
Stewards	Doreen	Christine
Door stewards	Barry	
Flowers	Mr. & Mrs. G Tatler	
Music	Ralph	Ralph
30th April		
Preachers	Mrs. M Draycott	Mrs. M Freeman
Stewards	Doreen	Richard
Door stewards	Mary Mason	
Flowers	MR. & Mrs. J Gray *	
Music	Vince	Carol


Sunday Services

7th May	10.30am	6.15pm
Preachers	Mrs. C Thomson	Circuit service at Ratby. 4.00pm
Stewards	Christine	
Door stewards	Dennis	
Flowers	Mr. & Mrs. R Keen *	
Music	Vince	
14th May		
Preachers	Rev. R Kasema (HC)	United at Glenfield
Stewards	Gordon	
Door stewards	Christine	
Flowers	Mrs. A Holt *	
Music	Vince	
21st May		
Preachers	Mrs. G Hollyman	Local arrangements
Stewards	Doreen	Peter
Door stewards	Edith	
Flowers	To be arranged	
Music	Vince	Gordon

Sunday Services

28th May		
Preachers	Mr. G Clarke	United at Glenfield (HC)
Stewards	Richard	
Door stewards	Doreen	
Flowers	To be arranged	
Music	Ralph	

Our Services This Quarter

Communion stewards		
	12th March	Claire
	16th April	Claire
	14th May	Brian

A busy quarter for **special Sundays**. We have Mothering Sunday, Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday - united service in the Parish church - Easter Sunday, a circuit service at Ratby (4.00pm) when Gill Hollyman will be commissioned as an accredited Local Preacher, 2 evening local arrangements - any offers ? -, 2 united services at Glenfield - one of which will include Communion - and 3 Communion services in our church.

We also need 4, yes, **4 offers of transport for preachers**, on the mornings of 5th March, 19th March, 21st May, and in the evening of 30th April. If you are able to help with any of these please contact Gordon as soon as possible.

If you read through the service details you will see that there are several Sundays when the **Communion table flowers** are still to be arranged. If you are able to help on any of these Sundays please contact Edith or Winnie.

Weekly Activities In Our Church

Monday	2.00pm	Banner group Tel 2363974
Monday	7.30pm	Anstey wives (alternate weeks) Tel 2362201
Tuesday	8.00pm	Jigsaw group (alternate months) Tel Kerry Sharpe 07979607099
Wednesday	2.30pm	Social Hour (alternate weeks Sept/ May) Edith Tel 2363517 or Peter 2879816
Saturday	9.30-11.30am	Coffee morning
Sunday	10.30am 6.15pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship

ENTRIES FOR CHURCH NOTICES

**Please submit by Tuesday evening
Doreen Smith 2103029**

GENERAL CHURCH ENQUIRIES

**Also Messenger articles and events
Gordon Tatler (Senior Steward) 2364842**

STOP PRESS The next issue of The Messenger will be for the quarter June to August. Items for this issue will be required **NO LATER THAN Sunday 21st May**
PREFERABLY EARLIER.

Contributions should be handed or sent to the editor, Gordon Tatler.

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