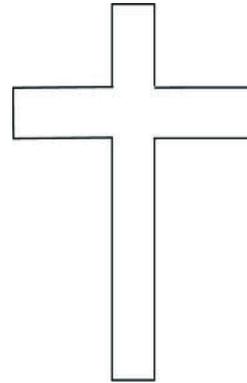




KEMPSTON METHODISTS NEWSLETTER



Minister: Rev Matt Fugill
Tel: 01234 851987

www.kempstoneastmethodist.org.uk

20 January 2013

Dear Friends,

They say that life is like a journey ... well, I guess it depends on the journey. Today I have been visiting my mother in Ilford. The journey down there was very smooth – traffic, yes, but not too much, and a gloriously sunny morning with the trees and the whole countryside glistening white with frost – beautiful! How many of us have lives that are like that all the time? No, not one of us! But let us appreciate and give thanks for the times in our lives which are sunny and uncomplicated, when relationships are sweet, job is secure, finances are sound, when we are aware of the hand of God on our lives. Perhaps the memory of those times and experiences can help to sustain us in tougher times.

I suspect that the lives of most of us are more like my journey home. I started by filling up with petrol. I had a narrow shave a few weeks ago, when the fuel gauge was on 'Empty', and I have learnt my lesson! We all need fuel for the journey of life – as Christians if we do not 'fill up' on worship, fellowship, prayer and Bible study we will soon grind to a halt in our Christian lives.

I left at one of the busiest times of day – the afternoon rush hour, aptly named! The first hurdle is the enormous roundabout at the beginning of the M11. At that time of day timidity will not get you round that roundabout safely, but at the same time you must be aware of your fellow road-users, and drive not only with single-mindedness but also with consideration. In life we need to have the courage of our convictions, but also be gentle with and sensitive to each other, our fellow-travellers.





There was a lot of traffic, so progress was not as fast as I would have liked – after all, I needed to get home to write this letter! I had Classic FM for company, and in the traffic news there was a report of a lane closure on the M25, but no indication of how long the hold-up might be. Should I choose an alternative route? There might be delays there as well. I opted for the M25. We soon slowed down, and eventually ground to a halt for a while. The overhead gantries, which often proffer out-of-date information, were blank. The electronic speed limit signs were cheerfully telling us to keep to 40 mph while we were stationary. And this hold-up seemed a long way from the location mentioned on the radio. Confusion! Resignation! Patience! As so often happens, I never did find out why this particular hold-up had occurred, and the lane closure, when we came to it, was a bit of a non-event. Reliable, accurate, relevant information would have been nice, but, well, a traffic jam just has to be endured, doesn't it? On the other hand, for our faith journey, reliable, accurate and relevant information is vital, just as a chart and compass were for seafarers. When I was doing my Local Preacher training, the course introduced us to the 4 pillars of faith: Experience, Reason, Scripture and Tradition. Different branches of the Church have different emphases, but all 4 are valuable in giving us light for our journey, amid the confusing voices that compete for our attention.

I began to get hungry, so I did stop for refreshment on the way. We do need to seek refreshment on our faith journey too – we cannot do without nourishment for body, mind and spirit.

I got home in the end, over 3 hours after setting out, and the journey sparked the reflections you have just read. I trust that your journey of faith, this year and beyond, will be a good one.

Every blessing Cheryl Benfield

The following names were in the prayer book recently at East:

Ted and Win Roberts, Phyl Plaskitt, Peter Whymark

Please continue to pray for these people and situations.

Ted and Win Roberts would like to thank all our friends for their prayers, flowers, cards and visits (particularly Rev Matt who visited Ted at Addenbrookes 2 days into treatment). We miss you all and will be back again amongst you when Ted has learned to walk again.





Cleaners wanted

As we do not have a caretaker at East, our premises are cleaned by volunteers who each look after different parts of the premises. For a number of years the Beginners and Fellowship Rooms have been cleaned by Win and Ted Roberts but due to their current poor health they are no longer able to help. We are therefore looking for one or two people who would be willing to take on this role. The cleaning needs to be done on a regular basis once each week and should easily be done within an hour. Please consider this request carefully and if you feel you could help, please speak to me. Michael Stevenson

Kempston East Wesley Guild

On Tuesday 22nd January Mr Peter Holden who worked for the RSPB for more than 40 years will be talking to us and showing many pictures about Garden Wildlife and this talk promises to be extremely interesting. You are welcome to join us.

Rev David Winwood is leading a Holiday Pilgrimage Adventure to Jordan and Mount Sinai in May. If you are interested in this holiday, details can be found on the notice board at Kempston East.

The **Kempston East church quiz** is under new management this year! Will the questions be easier or harder? You'll have to come along to find out! Teams of four, £5 per team. Saturday 26th January 7pm in the New School Hall. Refreshments provided. Rosemary Simms

Kempston East are having a taster session for an ALPHA COURSE on Wednesday 23 January at 7.30 pm in the New School Hall where you can find out more before you commit to it. There will be a DVD, and a couple of testimonies. The course will run over 10 sessions plus an afternoon & evening and begin properly on the 30 January. The Alpha Course is for anybody wishing to find out about the Christian faith. We are a warm, friendly bunch where everybody is made to feel welcome and no question is too big or too small. For more information or to book your place please give Matt a ring on 01234 851987 or drop us an email: secretary@kempstoneastmethodist.org.uk

Woollen blankets for the orphans in Tanzania. Following the visit of Barbara Cox to the Guild last week, I am knitting squares to make blankets and will shortly run out of wool. If you have any odd balls of wool, any ply, I will do my best to get them knitted up and sent out to Tanzania. Thank you. Marion Hext





We welcome you to our churches today.
Please join us for a cup of tea or coffee after
the service.

The Prayer Team will be in the west porch
after the morning service at East - please
drop in if you would like someone to pray
with you.

Sunday 20 January

- 10.30 am Morning Worship at East: Mr John Ayers
10.30 am Morning Worship at West: Rev Matt Fugill (Covenant)
6.30 pm Christian Unity Service at Russell Park Baptist Church

Monday 21 January

- 12.30 pm Christian Unity Service at Bunyan Meeting, Bedford

Tuesday 22 January

- 12.30 pm Christian Unity Service at Bedford Hospital Chapel
1.30 pm Little Angels and Knit & Natter at West
2.30 pm Tuesday Fellowship at Ladyslaude Court
7.30 pm Wesley Guild at East: Mr Peter Holden - RSPB

Wednesday 23 January

- 12.30 pm Christian Unity Service at St Andrews, Kimbolton Rd.
2.30 - 4.00 pm Tea and Chat at East
6.00, 6.30, 7.15, 7.45 pm Girls Brigade at West
7.30 pm ALPHA COURSE taster evening at East (see note inside)
7.30 pm Hidden Talents Craft Club at East (Old School Hall this month)
8.00 pm Bible Study Group

Thursday 24 January

- 12.30 pm Christian Unity Service at Friends Mtg Ho, Lansdowne Rd
6.30 pm Anchor Boys and Junior BB at East

Friday 25 January

- 9.30 - 11.30 am Parents and Toddlers at East
12.30 pm Christian Unity Service at Miracle Ch of God, Alexandra Rd.
7.00 pm Boys Brigade Company Section at East
7.30 pm Choir practice at East

Saturday 26 January

- 7.30 pm Kempston East Quiz Evening

Sunday 27 January

- 10.30 am Morning Worship at East: Rev Matt Fugill
10.30 am Morning Worship at West: Mr Geoff Talbot

Items for the February magazine (published next Sunday) to be
given to Peter Tipping TODAY (01234 852101)

