

Seedtime & Harvest

A Circuit Newsletter for
Lowestoft and East Suffolk Methodist Circuit
June 2026

Dear all,

I thought with having just had the mission days it would be an idea to talk about mission. I couldn't attend the first one, but I thought, under the circumstances, it would be better not to be at that one.

Mission is a word that can be interpreted any number of ways, but if we ask the question: "What is our church's mission", then we can narrow it down somewhat. I think it would be better for each church to have its own mission days.

We need a context-specific mission plan. Our churches within this circuit all have their own context. We all have our own people - they are not the same in every church. We have our own challenges. Every building is different; every locality is different.

With the people, the skills, the gifts, the opportunities and the obstacles, what can we do where we are?

And, more importantly, what is God calling us to be and to do?
We can use the jargon (and sometimes we are compelled from on high to do so), but that leads to a false mission statement. We need to ask:

What are doing now?

Why are we doing it?

Is it working? (What does that mean?)

Should we stop doing something?

The answers to those questions tell us the mission we are unconsciously trying to fulfil, but is that the correct mission?

Your church's mission can only be carried out by you. "Experts" can pop in and tell you how it could be done better if you were someone else; ministers come and go; but the reality is: God has placed you here for a purpose. If you discover what that purpose is, then the future is yours.

Martin

Kessingland

A full church attended the Pentecost service .Everyone had a "flame " to add to the fire of the Spirit collage which was then displayed.

This was followed by a role play in which the cast received the gift of the spirit in flames descending on them.



During the month we have also enjoyed a quiz and supper evening, and raised funds with a plant sale. It has been good to have summer visitors worshipping with us too.

At the beginning of June, we welcomed two more new members into our church.

Each chose a hymn which is special to them for the service.

Kate chose "Dear Lord and Father of mankind"
and Sue chose "What a friend we have in Jesus".

Pam Bayliss

Knitting pattern -

The idea is to knit a Pilgrim badge to be worn at the Spring meeting of Methodist Women in Britain.!

However it would be nice to just knit some of our own to give to people at a special "Pilgrim" service in the new year.

So, you have plenty of time to knit a few!!!

If you have trouble downloading this please ask me and I will send you a copy of the pattern.

Happy Knitting!

Pam

Methodist Heritage

You will need: scraps of double knitting wool, knitting needles (3mm), safety pin

Pattern:

Cast on 41 and work in the flat.

1. Row 1: [k1, p3] x 9, turn/ [k3, p1] x 7, k3, turn/

[p3, k1] x 6, p3, turn/ [k3, p1] x 5, k3, turn/

[p3, k1] x 4, p3, turn/ [k3, p1] x 3, k3, turn/

[p3, k1] x 7 (41)

2. Row 2: [p1, k2togtbl, k1] x 10, p1 (31)

3. Row 3: [k1, p2] x 8, turn/ [k2, p1] x 5, k2, turn/

[p2, k1] x 4, p2, turn/ [k2, p1] x 3, k2, turn/

[p2, k1] x 2, p2, turn/ k2, p1, k2, turn/

[p2, k1] x 6 (31)

4. Row 4: [p1, k2togtbl] x 10, p1 (21)

5. Row 5: [k1, p1] x 9, turn/ [k1, p1] x 7, k1, turn/

[p1, k1] x 5, p1, turn/ [k1, p1] x 3, k1, turn/

[p1, k1] x 7 (21)

6. Row 6: cast off 4, [k1, p1] x 8 (17)

7. Row 7: cast off 4, k2tog x 6 (7)

8. Row 8: p –

9. Row 9: k1, k2tog x 3 (4)

10. Row 10: p –

B k2tog-tbl means knit two stitches together through the back loops Once you have finished, just tie off and secure the ends and fix a safety pin to the back so that it can be pinned on as a scallop shell badge.



Hungate

As reported in the last edition of Seedtime and Harvest the Church Garden has continued to look very attractive throughout Spring and is now resplendent in it's Summer colour ready for the Beccles Open Gardens weekend. This will



have happened by the time you read this and we hope lots of visitors will have appreciated our very special little garden as well as the cakes and drinks which were on offer.

This is another opportunity which we take to be involved in the life of the town.

During Holy Week we hosted the Meditations which were prepared and led by the members of the town churches which are part of Churches Together in Beccles. This was a new venture very well and was much appreciated involved in leading and those who reflect on the events of the week. there was a united service at St followed by a Walk of Witness Market to Exchange Square for a worship when Martin spoke to all around.



which worked by the many folk came along to On Good Friday Michael's Church through the short time of who had gathered

Church activities are continuing to provide opportunities for meeting together and offer pastoral support to those involved. The monthly Lunch Club is very popular. Coffee and Chat is a drop in place for visitors to the town as well as being a place for folk who need someone to talk with, and a hot drink and nibble as part of the support given by the Food Bank.

We look forward to the Church Anniversary at the beginning of July when we will be just one year short of celebrating 50 years of the coming together of the Methodist and United Reformed Churches in Beccles.

We're challenged by the future, have much to be thankful for and look forward in hope and give thanks for all we are able to be and do now.

Brenda Sigsworth

Trinity .

Springtime at Trinity has seen us undertake various projects to enhance our worship space, from temporary displays to planning for making the church more eco-friendly in the future. We have continued to welcome some new faces to our services and other groups. Some are with us fleetingly, whilst others are becoming regulars.

Eastertime was a lovely mix of our traditional services and some new features. On Palm Sunday the service, led by Mrs. Julie Warren, was enjoyed by nearly 60 people. It began outside with everyone being able to greet Dave the donkey on their way in. The congregation received palm crosses, sang lots of traditional Palm Sunday hymns, watched a video recounting the Palm Sunday story and the children made palm branches, which they waved as they processed round the church during the final hymn.

During Holy Week, four thought-provoking, short Reflections were held, led by Rev. R. Soanes, Mrs. L. Lawrance-Martin, Rev. R. Searles and some sacred music performed by Lowestoft Choral.

On Easter Sunday the traditional Communion Service was led by Rev. Clive Sutcliffe. The crafting for Wellbeing group had produced a collaborative display, featuring a cross made up of paper mosaic pieces attached by people from several groups that meet at Trinity and members of the Sunday congregation. This was hung on the pulpit.

The following week, we were delighted to welcome the Chair of the East Anglia Methodist District, Rev. Helen Hollands, to lead her first service at Trinity.

The service for Pentecost, led by Mrs. J. Warren, included giving thanks for the work of all the unsung heroes who keep Trinity going, the dedication of a new Pentecost Banner, created by members of the Crafting for Wellbeing Group, a video explaining Pentecost and the children showing their artistic interpretation of the coming of the Holy Spirit. The birthday of the church was celebrated with everyone letting off party poppers and a confetti canon at the end of the service. (It didn't take too long for the hoover to deal with the residue afterwards).

Sending blessings to everyone and wishing you an enjoyable summer.

S. Reynolds





Corton

Hi everyone and greetings from Corton Methodist Church. We currently find ourselves at a significant point in the life of our little church, which is now a little over 150 years old. As some of you may know, following a recent surveyor's report, it has become clear that our building urgently requires a new roof and remedial work to sort out the damp problems. This is a major undertaking for a small church such as ours, and while it brings understandable concerns, it also presents an opportunity to secure our place in the community of Corton for years to come.

We are currently in the process of obtaining quotes from contractors so that we can fully understand the scale and cost of the work ahead. Although the financial implications are, not-surprisingly, considerable, and we are a small group of worshippers, we are determined to keep Corton Methodist Church open and active. We know our building is more than just bricks and mortar (and roof tiles!), it has always been a place of worship, fellowship and service in our village, and we are committed to retaining our building for the future.

Currently we are exploring a range of funding opportunities. Applications are being made to charitable trusts and grant-giving bodies, and we are working closely with the Circuit to identify ways to support this significant project. While there is no doubt that this is a worrying time for our church, and one that already brings with it a great deal of work and some anxiety, nevertheless we face it with hope. We trust that, with God's help and guidance, we will rise to the challenge and ensure that Corton continues to serve the community for another 150 years and beyond.

Alongside these practical concerns, we remain committed to our mission. Members of our church recently attended the Circuit mission workshop at Trinity Church, where it was both encouraging and inspiring to work alongside members from other churches as well as the two facilitators, Jenna and Seb. The workshop gave us valuable insights into how we can strengthen and develop our mission, as well as how we can support one another across the Circuit.

This focus on mission feels particularly important as we look ahead to the coming year, when Martin will be moving on. We are of course sad to hear that he will be leaving the Circuit, but grateful for his ministry and we look forward to playing our part in supporting the Circuit as it works to appoint a new Superintendent Minister.

Life at Corton continues in many positive ways. Our monthly coffee mornings are well-attended and provide a warm and welcoming space for people to gather, chat and build connections. We are also exploring the possibility of developing a new "Men's Shed"-style group, an initiative that we hope will offer opportunities for mutual support within our local community.

While the months ahead may be challenging, we move forward with faith, determination and a strong sense of purpose. We thank the Circuit for its ongoing support and prayers, and we remain confident that, together, we can secure a hopeful and lasting future for Corton.

Warren Low