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*Please try to avoid contacting Sam and Susannah on Mondays,  
as this is their day off*

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**Treasurer:** Mr Fergus McLellan

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## **Deacons**

	<b>Date of Retirement</b>
Sandy Nizol	2018
Penny Tong	2019
Bernard Clampton OBE	2020
Janet Eastwood	2022

We warmly invite you to worship with us each  
Sunday at 10.30am

(Junior Church and Creche available)

Other services are shown on the back page of this newsletter  
and you will be made most welcome at all of these also

Dear Church,

What a fantastic summer we've had!

I am staggered by all that has been happening through July & August with our usual activities and special summer events too. I know we usually get a good number of holiday makers joining us but it seems, at least to me, that there have been more than usual.

It may be that I'm understanding ministry in a holiday area more with each year that we're here, but it certainly is exciting and challenging to remember new names & faces whilst also trying to remember those that are, as I've been calling them, repeat offenders!

I've also been delighted to see new people join us that live in the area, if you're one of those people and reading this letter, it's great to have you with us!

As I've been reflecting on our enjoyable summer ministry, I have realised that I have not always been following wider news from our country and abroad. In part this has been a welcome break, as we are often too aware of what is happening everywhere else and forget to enjoy what is right in front of us. However, after the terrorist attack in Barcelona (last night as I type this letter) I am reminded that although we live in such a beautiful and comparatively peaceful place here, we also live in a community and world that desperately needs the reconciling work of Christ.

One of the questions I often receive on this subject is, 'What can we do about these tragedies when we live so far away?' My initial answer is that we should pray because God can do what we can't, but we also need to partner with those who can help on the ground level.

At Union we partner with a number of Christian charities and throughout our Sunday services in September we'll be hearing more about the three main Christian charities we support. I hope it will strengthen our partnership with them in both prayer and provision.

May we see Christ's Spirit transform our community and wider world as we pray and partner together,

Rev. Sam

THANK YOU

Our thanks to everyone for their help and support at Jean's funeral. Also for the prayers, cards and phone calls.

Reg, Mandy and Samantha

Shirley Kelsall would like to thank all who sent lovely birthday cards, messages and bringing me the Newsletters for 30<sup>th</sup> July and flowers.



### **Change to the Directory**

New address for Mr & Mrs R Davies:

5 Abbs Close Flats, Lincoln Square  
Hunstanton  
PE36 6DN  
Tel 01485 779746

Please remove the entry for:

Mrs Enid Headon



### **Mark and Louise Bish are celebrating their Silver Wedding Anniversary.**

We would like to invite all our friends from Union Church to tea and cakes on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September from 2pm to 5pm at 31 Crescent Road, Hunstanton.

All welcome, please come and celebrate this special occasion with us.

## **STROLLERS**

Strollers June Walk from Wells to Stiffkey On Monday the 19th June the Strollers congregated at the Hunstanton Bus Station to catch the bus to Wells. The intention was to then catch a bus from Wells to Stiffkey, walk back to Wells, have lunch and then catch the bus back to Hunstanton. This did happen eventually although we were kept waiting for our first connection in Wells slightly longer than expected! It did come eventually, much to our relief! We were joined by a very nice gentleman from Yorkshire who was on holiday in the area. Apart from him there were 10 of us on the walk. Rosemary also brought one of her friends. The walk was approximately 4 miles and was very pleasant but hot and slightly challenging for some!

We had lovely views over the marshes and enjoyed the wildlife, including little egrets and geese.

We were rewarded for our efforts with a fish and chip lunch!

Jean Holland



## Time Out

After twenty five years, Time Out has finally run its course and there will be no more meetings on the last Thursday of the month. Originally started as a group for women to cover outings, talks, craft, walks and social evenings', over the years it has been open to all and covered a range of presentations including 'the Queen's mole catcher' to slide shows and information on many social issues and members own experiences. Many thanks to all who have supported us in the past. We give thanks to our Lord for the friendships made and the fellowship shared.

Monica Richardson and Jan Groom

Make some moments for yourself each day;  
Some hour, some minutes you can call your own;  
To free your mind of worries, of daily cares,  
To set your heart at ease;  
To be alone.  
And you will find yourself  
Refreshed  
Renewed  
Revitalised  
In all you think and do.

Karen Rene

## **STUDYING THE WORD**

Our look at the book of Colossians is due to start again in September - but a few tweaks have been made to the format.

Meetings will still be at 52 Clarence Road but will start at 7.30pm instead of 7 and instead of being on the last 2 Fridays in the month will be fortnightly, starting on Friday 1st September, then the 15th and so on.

Finally there is the excitement of a shared leadership with Andrew Holland joining Mark Bish.

Knowing just how much we gained from these studies - and shared between us - we can eagerly look forward to what is to come.

## **SPRING HARVEST**

There can be few in the church that are unaware that several of us went to Spring Harvest this year - and came back full of just what a wonderful week it was.

One of the great highs was a look at a passage from John's Gospel - chapter 17. This was lead by a first rate Bible teacher. They were in depth but at a level we could all understand and learn from. These studies were spread over 3 days and were recorded onto DVDs.

This October these DVDs are going to be shown as part of the Tuesday Evening Bible Study. If you would like to be part of this then you will be very welcome. Please read the Sunday

service notice sheets to see just when the studies will commence and then speak to Janet (Brown) or Fergus.

**BOOK REVIEW** by Mark Bish

This is a review of a book that I have read recently and views expressed are my own and not those of Union Church or the newsletter editor.

This month's book is '**Cross Roads**' and is written by **Wm Paul Young**.

**Outline:** Anthony Spencer, Tony to his friends, was a hard bitten and ruthless multi-millionaire businessman with many secrets many of which are locked in a secret hideaway. He was paranoid that someone was after them but in fact he had developed a brain tumour and after he was found in a coma, near to death, experienced an out-of-body encounter like no other. He finds himself in a surreal world that reflects the mess he's made of his life, a 'living' landscape that mirrors dimensions of his earthly life, from the beautiful to the corrupt. He meets various characters he assumes are projections of his own subconscious, while travelling through the 'wasteland' of his life and pleads for a second chance. He is sent back to earth with a one-off chance to change the whole course of events. Before his illness he had set things in motion that he needs to undo – and now seeing through others' eyes, he realises the challenges they face, too. How do you decide between putting right your wrongs, and the opportunity to do something truly amazing for someone else?

**Comment:** After really enjoying **Young's** book '**The Shack**',

I was looking forward to reading '**Cross Roads**' and I was not disappointed. I was a bit worried that the story line would be similar to '**The Shack**' but although we meet the God-head in various characters as in the previous book, the actual story line is very different. It is a most enjoyable read and has enough twists in the plot to keep me reading and I found it hard to put down. The main character, Tony, comes across as a believable person and at first there seem to be no redeeming features in him. He is self-centred and brutal in his treatment of family and friends and you do not cross Tony without getting hurt. Through the book we see Tony being guided through some difficult situations that he has to 'put right'. Some of the other characters that we meet are loveable and you can really sympathise with. The ending is not what I was expecting and I enjoyed the book even more for that. '**Cross Roads**' is a well written, easy to read book and I would recommend it as a good read for a wet afternoon.

**The Author: Wm Paul Young** was born in Canada but raised by his missionary parents among a stone age tribe in the highlands of New Guinea. He lives in the US Pacific Northwest with his family. He has six children and six grandchildren (so far). This is his second book.

**'Cross Roads':** is published by Hodder and the ISBN is 9781444745993.



## **AUTUMN FAIR - SAT. 21<sup>st</sup> OCT 10am-1.30pm**

We will again be running the Upstairs Café, serving refreshments including mouth watering bacon butties. From 10am to 12 noon we will be able to listen to live gentle listening music performed by David Young (Saxophonist & Clarinettist).

In the Downstairs Hall there will be a sale of Cakes, Jams & Preserves, Gifts, a Christian Book Stall, Crafts, Jewellery, Toiletries, Scarves, Hats, Bags & Accessories, Books, DVDs, CDs, Homeware and Christmas Decorations and Gifts.

If you have any items to donate to the sale, they can be given in at Church or dropped off at my house (47 Northgate – Tel. 532309). Please only donate items that can be carried away and are not too heavy. We cannot accept electrical goods.

As the Fair is an opportunity to welcome visitors to our Church, we need enough volunteers to staff the Café and the Downstairs sale so that we have time to spend with any who want to chat and find out more about what God is doing at Union. If you would like to be part of the team and could help on this day, please see me anytime from now on, as knowing how many helpers we have helps a lot in planning the staffing of the Fair.

Of course, you can also help by just coming and enjoying the Café's refreshments and browsing for bargains in the Downstairs hall. It is also a good opportunity to invite friends to come along too.

Handmade crafts, hats, scarves & accessories etc. can be donated as well as homemade jams & preserves. I am making jam from a bumper crop of fruit at present and am in need of more jam jars if anyone has any spare.

So, put the date in your diary and come and enjoy the day.

Janet Brown

## **SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE**

E.A.C.H [East Anglian's Children's Hospices] is the charity for this month. We have had EACH on our list for several years, being a local hospice for children, the nearest one at Quidenham is a haven for those children who are in need, and their families also.

Thanks for supporters like our congregation. They were able to care for nearly 1,000 children last year. Without this help they would not be able to manage the invaluable services they provide.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September they stage the King's Lynn Colour Dash at The Walks. You can find out more at [www.each.org.uk/events](http://www.each.org.uk/events) or [facebook.com/EACHhospices](https://facebook.com/EACHhospices).

Monica Richardson

Open your eyes  
Open your heart  
Give just a little  
You will get such a lot  
Let the sunshine in  
Even when there is rain  
The warmth of your heart  
Will warm someone else's  
Two hands are better than one  
One opened heart  
Will welcome two warm hands  
Open your heart  
Love is not just romance  
Love is... loving who you are  
To love life  
To love to give

## **Squawk, Quarrel, Curiosity!**

I was out on Monday (15<sup>th</sup>) on my usual drive around seeking things to share. As usual I was on the inland back roads after my weekly shop in Lynn. By using the inland roads I dodged the heavy coastal traffic. It was a quiet drive as far as birds were concerned. There were 2 Red Kites and several Buzzards, quite a few Grey Partridge and only 2 Red legged Partridge. The occasional Yellow Hammer popped along the hedges and 2 Swifts flew over. I stopped in a field gate alongside a tree and bush field boundary, for a latish lunch. It seemed all quite until I picked up a fluttering bird down the boundary. It was a Jay and as I watched it several more appeared, possibly a family party! They were in and out of the hedge, popping down into the scrub alongside the cut wheat field! They kept me amused for a good 20 minutes. As I watched them I began to think of names for a group of Jays, hence the title of the piece. When I got home I went on line to check for other more usual names and found Band, Scold, Party and Cast, however I am afraid I prefer my choices! What do you think?

On the flower front there are still plenty to see but one or two of the best verges have been given short back and sides for no apparent reason and the Great Knapweed and Scabious have gone in some of my favourite spots.

The grain harvest is progressing in spite of the dodgy weather and I decided that approximately 6/8<sup>th</sup> has been gathered in and at last the fields around my home are cut, I just need the straw to be baled and then my solar panels can be cleaned

and serviced. You will have noticed just how much dust is sent up from combines and balers and that can affect the panels!

I have seen another couple of Swifts in the last few days so I still get the blessing of their fantastic scimitar wings and aerial grace! Mind you it's a long time until next year and May/ June when they will re-appear.

Having mentioned names for a group of Jays reminds me that with Swifts it is a screeching party as they race up and down the streets in their communal flights, however once out of breeding season I suspect they can be pretty quiet and even fairly solitary as they pursue their endless flights until they land at their nest sites again next year.

As the year moves on and the Swifts leave my next pleasure will be to see the constellation of Orion appearing above the eastern horizon after its sojourn south of the equator. Okay I am easily pleased but honestly the natural things I see give me so much pleasure and the signs of the year moving on also is so re-assuring.

Have you noticed the Seals hauled out on the sand banks towards the mouth of the Wash? The low tides around the August full moon gave them a great space to spend daydreaming! Other mammals seen in the last few days are the odd Hare seeking shelter from cleared cornfields, a Rabbit, and speeding across the road a Stoat. Oh boy can they run! If you blink at the wrong moment it is so easy to miss seeing them! There are also signs of Hedgehog around the garden as they leave their black elongated droppings. Have any of you seen many Bats? What with the lack of moths and lack of bat

sightings I find it very dispiriting and wonder if they will build up numbers again in the next few years? Moths actually pollinate many of our food plants and flowers and I am certainly missing seeing the Silver Y Moth which is one of our day flyers and comes in from the continent along with Painted Lady Butterflies, they too are in short supply around here this year.

That's enough gloom and doom on the bright side we will hopefully soon see winter migrants appearing along with good numbers of summer birds leaving. It has been an odd year for breeding birds but I have had at least 4 lots of Blackbirds and three lots of House Sparrows nesting and raising young. At least one Sparrow Hawk family in the area has raised a successful youngster, it now inhabits my garden on several days a week and keeps my bird food bill in easy to pay for proportions! It has been the same the last few years! Not the identical bird but a 'chased off the family patch' youngster finding some easier hunting. Last year it was a male and this year a female.

Praise the LORD for the still infinite variety of His world and creation, have a good September watching the nature around you. God Bless

Jo

## **SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**THE SPONSORED BIKE/WALK/DRIVE** for The Norfolk Churches Trust will be held on Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. 9am-5pm.

If you would like to take part, please see me for a sponsorship form and details of how to visit as many churches in the time frame as possible. Money raised assists local churches in repair, preservation work and general running costs.

We plan to open Union for participants to sign in and provide refreshments for them. If anyone can volunteer to do a shift to cover the time, please see me.

**HARVEST DISPLAY** – As the Church will be open for the above, it will also be an opportunity for people to drop off Harvest produce between 9am – 5pm. (The Flower Team can also receive produce on Fri. 8<sup>th</sup> Sept morning as they set up).

**VISITORS** - With the Church open and passers-by maybe wondering what is going on, visitors will be welcome to come in and see the Harvest display, view the Church, talk to Union folk, pray or ask for prayer or have a chat over a tea or coffee.

## **SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**HARVEST SUNDAY** – 10.30am will be led by Rev. David Simpson (URC). Please stay after the service to help take the Harvest produce downstairs if you are able



## **HARVEST SUPPER**

On Monday 11th September the church will be holding its annual social gathering celebrating harvest. It's the evening when we all come together to share in a faith supper - where we all bring a plate of food and then sit down and eat together.

More than that however all the produce that's been given to decorate the church for our Harvest service is brought to the supper and then auctioned with the proceeds going to support the overseas charities we're involved with.

It's a real fun evening. Daft amounts are sometimes bid for the most ordinary of items - last year we managed to raise over £400 - which we know will be used to aid people far more needy than we are.

Do come along. Be prepared to have fun and be prepared to generously to support our work overseas.

## **HOPE NOW**

On the 3rd September, as part of a series of services on Overseas Mission, we shall be welcoming our friends Jon and Ali Budgell . Besides being former members of this church Jon is the Chief Executive of a charity called Hope Now - the charity that brings Zozulenka to the church.

Hope Now is based in Southampton and its work is mainly involved in the Ukraine. It works with many in the deprived areas in the country - mostly in Western Ukraine - supporting orphans, bringing the love of Jesus to prisoners, to the elderly, supporting refugees and in planting churches.

## **Join Us For Lunch**

A two course lunch is planned for after the Sunday service. It is totally free but donations in support of Hope Now are requested. There is a notice on the board in church. To help the lunch organisers please add you name to this.

You are most warmly invited to the lunch where you will find Jon and Ali will be delighted to chat.



## **DO YOU GET STUCK WITH FINDING THE RIGHT PRAYERS TO PRAY?**

If so you are probably part of the majority who get stuck at times!

I have just picked up from my collection of books on prayer 'Praying the Scriptures'. It is by an American the late Judson Cornwall. In it he gives the advice to go back to Gods word, to relearn all that He has promised. He has promised He will always be with us! So pick up your Bibles and start searching for what He has to say. I am not going to give you long lists, if you find the promises yourselves they will mean more and you will remember them. The main word of advice is start with the Psalms if you are stuck.

Once you are realising that God is talking to you it will help you to chat back to Him. That is what He wants; remember how He used to talk with Adam and Eve before the fall.

Try it and see how you grow in your relationship.

If you have a heavy heart for someone look in the Psalms and tell God what you see there and ask Him to ease your heavy heart and touch your friend in the way that He knows is the best for them. We can so easily give God a list of how He should treat illness or heart ache. He is the great healer and heals in the way that is best for the person or situation.

If you have a computer check up on Doxologies. There is a good list of these prayers. Here are one or two of my favourites

Eph 3 20-21 it starts 'now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think'

Jude 24-25 'Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling---'

2 John 3 'Grace, mercy and peace be with us----'

Any of these apply to each one of us so if you are praying for someone you can insert his or her name in the blessing.

Above all read your old and new testaments and remember words like those in Zephaniah 3 17 The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with His love and he will rejoice over you with singing.

So settle down and listen for God singing to you and feel His delight and love.

## WORD FOR TODAY

### When your faith feels shaky. Part 2

*'Reach out....stop doubting and believe.'* (John 20:25-27)

New Christians aren't the only ones who struggle with doubt; sometimes seasoned believers do too. One Christian author calls them 'doubt storms', turbulent days when the enemy's too big, the task too great, the future too bleak and the answers too few. Thomas said, 'Unless I put my finger where the nails were...I will not believe...' Jesus said, 'Reach out your hand...stop doubting and believe.' Thomas asks the question we all ask when we are struggling, 'If God is so good, why do I feel so bad? If His message is so clear, why am I confused? If He is in control, why do good people wrestle with gut-wrenching problems?' You would rather be a cynic than a hypocrite, so you pray with one eye open and wonder...about starving children...the power of prayer....the depth of grace....Christians in cancer wards....and who are you to ask such questions anyway.

Elizabeth Elliot said, 'True faith only goes into operation when there are no answers.' God says, *'My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways'*. (Isaiah 55:8) The truth is, God doesn't think like us. He sees the big picture and works towards a specific end. In a conversation with His disciples Jesus said, *'I have many more things to say...but they are too much for you now'* (John 16:12) When you find yourself doubting and questioning God, pray: 'Lord believing isn't easy when I'm hurt and confused, and You are silent. Like Thomas, I want proof that You love me. Help me see beyond my desire for peace and comfort, beyond my doubts and unanswered questions, and grasp the truth of Your unfailing love and grace.'

This excerpt was taken from the free devotional, The United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) Word for Today, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF. For more information please speak to Jan Groom.

UCB LISTEN.....UCB WATCH.....UCB READ

UCB.CO.UK

## CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

3	10.30am	Mr Jon Budgell – Communion. Followed by Lunch in aid of Hope Now
10	10.30am	Revd David Simpson – Harvest Bring and Share Lunch
17	10.30am 3.30pm	Revd Sam Abramian Baptism in the sea
24	10.30am	Revd Sam Abramian

### REGULAR MEETINGS

Sunday	10.30am	Family Worship
Tuesday	9.00 – 10.00am 5.30pm 7.30pm	Prayer meeting in church Guides [Not 6 <sup>th</sup> ] Bible Study
Wednesday	10.00 – 12 noon 4.20pm 6.00pm	Community Cafe Rainbows Brownies
Thursday	9.30 – 11.30am	Little Lights Baby & Toddler Group
Friday	10.30am	Friday Morning Fellowship [Not 1 <sup>st</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> ]

### DIARY

4	10.30am	Union Strollers
7	10.30am 1.30pm 7.00pm	Service at Gorselands Service at Driftwood Deacons' Meeting
8	2.00pm 7.30pm	Service at Lincoln Lodge – Union Studying the Word
9		Sponsored Bike/Walk/Drive
11	9.30am 6.00pm	The Earl Greys meet at Poppyfields <b>Harvest Supper</b>
12	10.00am 10.30am	Arts & Crafts Group Service at Norfolk Lodge - Union
14	7.00pm	<b>Fellowship Meeting</b>
19	4.00pm	Service at Nightingale Lodge – The Way
20	2.15pm	Service at The Close, Snettisham - Union
22	7.30pm	Studying the Word
26	10.00am	Arts & Crafts Group
28	7.30pm	Time Out – Final Meeting

**Copy deadline for October 2017 – September 20 2017**