

# NEWSLETTER

## JULY AUG '26

### **Whose Church Is It Anyway?**

"And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." (Ephesians 1:22-23 NRSVA)

A church put up a new noticeboard outside its building. The first Sunday after it appeared, one member stood admiring it and said, "Well, now everyone will know this is our church." An elderly lady standing nearby quietly replied, "I hope they'll know it's Christ's church."

That gentle correction gets to the heart of an important question. We often talk about "our church". We love it, serve in it and care deeply about it. We have memories tied up with it and friendships that mean the world to us. There is nothing wrong with that. But there is a danger if we begin to think the church somehow belongs to us.

In Ephesians 1:22-23, Paul tells us that God "placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body." The church belongs to Christ because Christ is its head.

That truth is wonderfully liberating. If the church belongs to Christ, then

its future does not finally depend on us. We are not carrying the church on our shoulders. We are servants and stewards, called to be faithful, prayerful and obedient. The church rests in far safer hands than ours.

It is also a humbling truth. Churches can easily become attached to personalities, traditions and preferences. We may begin to think the church exists to preserve our favourite way of doing things. Yet the church was here before us and, by God's grace, it will continue after us. We are transient caretakers of something that belongs to another.

In our non-conformist tradition, we have always cherished the conviction that Christ alone is head of the church. No minister, bishop, denomination or committee can claim that place. The church must always listen afresh to its true Head and submit to his Word. The church is never ours to control; it is his to direct.

And that should fill us with hope. Christ loves his church more than we ever could. He gave himself for her. He knows her weaknesses and failings, yet he has not abandoned her. The church's future depends not on our cleverness or our plans but on his faithfulness.

So by all means say, "This is my church," if by that you mean, "This is the fellowship where I worship and serve." But never forget the deeper reality. Before it is ours in

any sense at all, it is his. The church is Christ's church. We have the privilege of belonging to it because, first of all, we belong to him.

*Revd Adam*

### **Summer Thoughts**

Here we are at mid-summer! Also not daring to think forward to the darker days of autumn or worse, winter. This comes from a modern poet about this very season. I hope it prompts your own thoughts on this time of year, and resurrects treasured memories that bring this season to life for you.

#### ***Midsummer***

The white light of summer  
glints through the windows,  
peonies fill the family room  
with fragrance,  
apples and peaches  
in a porcelain orchard bowl –

up on the loft,  
the sound of tapping  
like gentle rain,  
the cello sound of a chair  
pulled across the wooden floor.

*from "The Turning Light" by Deidra Garcia Vachal  
Published by Simulation Arts Inc. Avail on Amazon  
Hardback £15.09; Paperback £9.79; £4.47 Kindle*

I'll leave to follow it up if you're inspired to find expression for your thoughts.

Isn't that what gathering together as Christians is about? Inspiring us to explore our faith further. Reading the Bible and find where it touches our own lives. Learning a little and then how to express it as we study it together. Perhaps finding

encouragement as we share coffee.

### **Pastoral Matters**

At this time there seems to be a lull in reports of those falling sick or needing our prayers. Yet that is probably not true and I'm sure that many of you will have concerns for individuals known to yourselves, not only from our congregation, but among your family and friends.

I'm not naming names as I believe we all need each other's prayers at this time as we contemplate the future and all it holds for us.

### **Worship Leaders**

#### ***July***

- |    |                     |                |
|----|---------------------|----------------|
| 5  | Rev. John Cook H.C. | Susan Matthews |
| 12 | Peter Dawson        | Paul Davis     |
| 19 | Ann Cook            | Pamela Hewitt  |
| 26 | Allison Smith       | Phil Speirs    |

#### ***August***

- |    |   |             |
|----|---|-------------|
| 2  | Rev. Adam Earle (H.C. Joint with Trinity) |             |
| 9  | Ann Cook                                  | Phil Speirs |
| 16 | Rev. Adam Earle                           |             |
| 23 | Rev. David Keeble                         | Paul Davis  |
| 30 | Rev. John Cook                            | Paul Davis  |

### **Diary for July / Aug 2026**

#### ***July***

- |                  |       |                                      |
|------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 14:00 | Elders' Meeting                      |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 10:00 | Ips & East Advisory Meeting via Zoom |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | 10:30 | Reflections                          |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | 10:30 | Reflections                          |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | 14:00 | Quarterly Church Meeting             |

***Aug - No meetings planned.***

## **September**

2<sup>nd</sup> 14:00 Elders' Meeting  
26<sup>th</sup> 10:00 Macmillan Coffee  
Morning at Trinity.

### **Kirton Open Garden**

Tuesday open garden at Kirton chapel began on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you've never been able to attend one of these coffee mornings, perhaps this summer is the time to give it a try. A warm welcome awaits all at 10am.

### **Carnival Joy Stop- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

As part of the Felixstowe Carnival, Felixstowe Methodist Church will be opening Trinity between 10am and 4pm.

They are looking for people to assist with the following: welcoming visitors; serving teas, coffee and refreshments; children's crafts and games; conversation and hospitality; prayer and quiet space support or setting up and clearing away.

You do not need any special skills- just a friendly smile and a willingness to help. Even an hour of your time would make a huge difference. Please let Ann know if you can help. Thanks.

### **Quarterly Church Meeting –**

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2pm  
As per the letter that has been circulated, it is hoped that two FMC stewards will attend this meeting to share something of their vision for the future. Thereafter, there will be time for questions, comments and normal business.

## **URC General Assembly**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> July**

Please hold in prayer all who will attend this important gathering, as they gather to discuss denominational business. Neither of our ministers will be attending this year, so we shall await reports in subsequent "Reformed" Magazines (note the change of name deemed necessary so as not to be muddled with a certain political party), or Synod.

**Community Prayers** - Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August at FMC, Kirton chapel, starting at 14:00

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning –**

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 10:00 onwards. Books, jigsaws and items for the tombolo will all be needed. Please start collecting items now. On the day cakes will be gratefully received. Let's see if we can top last year's amazing result.

### **Christian Aid**

Enormous thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to this year's C.A. appeal. £285 was sent from the church envelopes. The coffee morning at Trinity which you supported with tasty home-bakes, cards and your presence raised a further £450. It was an excellent morning with entertainment from the talented Brawlers who had toes tapping and even some ladies dancing!

### **Now, finally, from the Editor:**

All items for the September & October edition should be with John C by: *Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September, pls.*