

JULY 2017

The Wave....

... Waveney Valley Ecumenical Partnership



Minister's letter

At the time of writing this the schools will shortly break up and we are in the middle of a summer heatwave – who knows what it will be like when you read this!

In the gospels we read how Jesus commissioned the disciples, taking them through periods of doubt while their gained confidence in their God given gifts. For me there is a parallel with what we grow - strength and health in plants is not easy. Many gardeners will no doubt agree that you have to work on a garden to get it to a high standard, and some would argue that you need to have a gift to do this, others would say that it is the hours of hard work that have to be put in that make the difference. Whatever we think I suspect that the truth lies somewhere between the two.

As the seasons change so does the strategy for how we treat our gardens. You wouldn't spend the amount of time we are spending now on watering when we have the autumn rains would you? We have to adjust depending on the prevailing weather conditions and the types of plants that we have growing. Jesus tried to get us to understand, that faith is something that we have to work on. We cannot and must not become complacent. If we do, we can as Jesus says, 'let the evil one in'. Everything we say, and everything we do should be modelled on Christ. The question, 'what would Jesus do?' is very relevant to how we live our lives. We need to grow in our faith and flourish – so how are we going to nurture one another?



Jacquie

Methodist Lay Workers day out 2017.

Last December I was asked to arrange a visit to the Agricultural shows by the Lay Workers in the East Anglia District Methodist Church. This I thought would be very difficult to manage, with possibly between 20 - 30 people, so I offered to arrange some farm visits to give an insight into farming practices in this area.

June 13th was the day when we visited 5 farms, one with automatic computerised cow milking, the other 4 farms have diversified from the normal farming practices as we have known them over the years.

One has an educational building for school groups to visit and be introduced to what the farm does, which crops are grown, and keeps a suckler herd, plus doing contract work. Another farm has a pig breeding and fattening unit and the diversification is a kitchen making pork pies, sausage rolls and cakes, which are sold all over the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk.

Farm 4 has holiday lodges and a large marquee which can be used for weddings or conferences. They also welcome groups who can bring their tents and use the kitchen facilities and games room which are on site.

Last visit was to a farm where the land is now farmed under contract. The granary has been converted into a single bed unit, and two other buildings converted into fisherman's cottages with the fishing lake just behind the cottages. These are all holiday lets. The grain store is now a Nursery for 0 to 5 years old children. The former chicken shed is now living accommodation for the farmer and the house provides a home for his son and family.

The day proved to be an enlightening experience for those who came. There should be some pictures in the next District Magazine 'The Grapevine'.

George Frost.

Agricultural Chaplain, East Anglia District Methodist Church.

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remember

8th July – 3pm - **Strawberry tea** Pulham Market Saturday cost £5-50p
Contact Julia Thacker a.s.a.p 01379 676447 to book.

2/3rd September – London Road Church Harleston – week-end of celebrations to mark the formation of the united Harleston church and the 10th anniversary of the Waveney Valley Ecumenical Partnership - more details next month but put the dates in your diary NOW

