

Minister: Vacancy
Diaconate Lead: Mrs Janet Eastwood
Secretary: Mrs Dawn Davies
Treasurer: Mrs Eve Eates

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Deacons

Date of Retirement

Dawn Davies	2025
Janet Eastwood	2025
Dawn Patterson	2025
Tony Ralph	2027
Eve Eates	2027

Everyone is welcome at
UNION CHURCH
An evangelical family church
serving God and the community

Season of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness. (John Keats).

Keats' poem To Autumn is truly beautiful and conjures up a scene of bucolic perfection which may or may not have been a truthful reflection of the life of a farm worker when he wrote it in 1819. Nevertheless, there is an immediate recognition that he is describing our countryside come the Autumn no matter the year!

As I write this in mid-September, we are enjoying one final burst of Summer and as John Keats put it:
"And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells."

But no matter the warm temperature, it is Autumn and for the farmers it's time to harvest. All summer in the field behind our house we watched the barley sprout green and mature and ripen until it turned into a field of gold. In the dying days of Summer the harvesters cut it down and took the grain leaving behind huge round bales of straw which would in turn be used for fodder and bedding for the pigs that also share the surrounding fields.

And for a few weeks the field lay fallow but not barren as the birds, the deer and the hares and rabbits feasted on the seed that was left behind during the harvest.

But now it has been ploughed and a new crop has been planted. The weather conditions and the soil are perfect for the seeds and a haze of green is already showing. But this season it will be a different crop to suit the time of the year.

Jesus often used agriculture to illustrate the Kingdom of God...we are the sheep and He is the Good Shepherd but we are also called to be ready to bring in the harvest.

"And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest." Luke 10:2 ESV

Here at Union Church, we have seen over the years since lock-down, on Sundays a small gathering of worshippers which has steadily grown and matured. What began as a “green haze” is beginning to grow upwards and outwards as our numbers increase but more importantly, God is building up our spiritual readiness so that we can go out into His harvest. Part of that preparation is the gathering together of the churches in Hunstanton and I’m tempted to take the harvest analogy a little further: when I watch the drivers of the combines working in the field and how they have to work in such close proximity with the tractor drivers pulling the trailer which catches the grain, I am reminded that as Christians we have different skills, different gifts but when we work together under the direction of the Holy Spirit we can gather His harvest which is plentiful.

So where are the “fields” waiting to be harvested? In Union Church we have the Men’s Breakfast, Alpha, the groups that use the church hall, the special services such as Easter and Christmas to name a few but there are also the conversations that we have with our neighbours, our work colleagues, in the surgery waiting room, the queue at the bus stop. We live in uncertain times and when our faith in God clothes us in His peace, we behave differently, we think differently, we act differently; and from our difference to how the world behaves, thinks, acts so opportunities arise for sowing the seeds of salvation. As Peter the Apostle said:
“.....worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.” 1 Peter 3:15 NLT

Bless all of you in Christ our Saviour, may you have good conversations and do read To Autumn!

Dawn Patterson.



Harvest

These are the items that the Hunstanton FoodBank need. We are only asking for donations of tinned and dried goods please. A gentle reminder that items should be well within their use-by date please.

Pasta
Biscuits
Crisps

Tinned Sweetcorn
Tinned Fruit
Tinned meat/stews
Tinned potatoes
Tinned vegetables
Tinned custard

Microwave rice
Packets of savoury rice
Long Life Milk
Breakfast cereal



We welcome the following Preachers to our services in October:

- 6th David Crispin - Communion
- 13th Mark Bish - Harvest and Parade service
- 20th Joella Nash
- 27th Russell Wate

Full details of services can be found on the notice board



Thank you to the following for donating and arranging flowers during October:

- 6th Heather Williams
- 13th Kay Drewell
- 20th Alison Ralph
- 27th Daphne Johnson



Dear God,
Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy.
Joyce

From Children's Letter to God

Dates for your diary:

*Friday October 11 Hunstanton
Church Together
Faith Meal -
Methodist Church*

*Saturday/Sunday
 October 12/13 Guides and
Brownies
Sleepover in the
hall*

*Sunday October 13 Harvest & Parade
Service*

*Monday October 14 Harvest Supper &
Quiz - 6:00pm*

*Sunday November 10 Remembrance
Service - 10:00am*

*Saturday December 14 Hunstanton
Concert Band.
Concert at Union
for Union -
2:00pm*

Sunday December 15 Christmas lunch





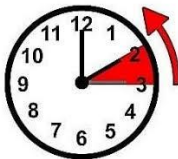
DONATIONS FOR SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

At the September Fellowship meeting it was agreed that in future the chosen charity would not be changed each month but kept for three months. **Nelson's Journey** will continue as the charity for September, October and November.

**Nelson's
Journey**

Since 1997, Nelson's Journey has been supporting children and young people in Norfolk with their bereavement needs, helping them to understand and cope with their feelings.

Although tea and coffee after the service is free, do contribute to the charity if you are able to.



BST ends on **Sunday October 27th**. Remember to turn your clocks back by one hour. You'll be very early for church if you forget!



The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday October 26** at 9:00am. There will be a list on the notice board approximately two weeks beforehand for those men wishing to enjoy a full English breakfast.

The speaker will be Malcolm Pearson MBE



To those in our Fellowship who celebrate their birthdays in October. We hope you enjoy your day whatever is planned.

2nd

Gill Brown

5th

Pam Smith

WORD FOR TODAY

When you're not certain, trust God

'We walk by faith, not by sight.'

2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV

Close your eyes and try walking without sight, and you will get an idea of what it means to walk by faith. Faith in what? The unchanging character of God, goodness of God, love of God, and truth that He always has your best interests at heart. With God, information is given on a need-to-know basis. And God determines who needs to know what and when.

Here is an example of this: the early church needs to decide if God is calling them to include Gentiles. After much prayer, they send out this letter: 'It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...' (Acts 15:28 NIV). Really? *Seemed* good? The future of the entire human race is at stake, and the best you can do is 'it *seemed*...'? Yet the church leaders were quite comfortable sending out this letter. Apparently, God's will for His people was that they should not be told precisely what His will was, or at least not all the details. Presumably, He knew they would grow more if they had to think and discuss and hash it out rather than get a memo. Evidently, they didn't require certainty. They were happy to settle for heartfelt obedience. When Paul says we 'walk' by faith, he is referring to the slowest form of transportation known to man. He is also referring to a process that happens one step at a time. God has the satellite view; He sees your entire journey from beginning to end and plans each step. And He says, 'Do what I have given you to do, and when you have done it, I will show you what I want you to do next.'

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



THE NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST BIKE RIDE

Our grateful thanks to Marilyn, Tony and Elseo who raised money by sponsorship for the Bike Ride. They went by bike, car, and ran respectively. Most of the sponsorship money has been collected, and the total amount will be reported in the November Newsletter.

It should be noted that Marilyn and Tony are part of our Fellowship by association, so we are even more grateful that they undertook the ride to raise money for Union. And Elseo? A first, as we've never had anybody run before. Well done, and thank you.



NewsLetter DEADLine

The deadline for the
November 2024 issue is,

October 20th

but items can be submitted at any
time.