

*Welcome To*  
*UPWELL METHODIST CHURCH*

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS  
22<sup>nd</sup> ~ 24<sup>th</sup> September 2006



- Official Opening Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Flower Festival
- Exhibition
- Entertainment
- Sunday Lunch
- Songs Of Praise

Town Street  
Upwell  
Wisbech Cambs  
[www.geocities.com/upwellmethodistchurch](http://www.geocities.com/upwellmethodistchurch)

Price £2.00

## *SCHEDULE OF EVENTS*



Flower Festival & Gardens open all weekend  
Commemorative mugs, jugs and dishes will be on sale all weekend

### **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

- 2.00 p.m. Official Opening by Rev Ann Bossingham, involving Puddleducks & Upwell Primary School Children
- 6.00 p.m. Girls' Brigade and Junior Church Disco



### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

- 10.00 a.m. Stalls
- 12.00 – 1.30 p.m. Light lunches
- From 3.00 p.m. Exhibition to be opened by Rev Graham Thompson, Chair of the District. Exhibition will include archive film and photographs. Reunion of friends of the church past and present.
- 5.00 p.m. Buffet tea
- 6.30 p.m. Keith Skipper (well known personality from Radio Norfolk) & Friends entertain us with "All Preachers Great & Small".



### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

- 10.30 a.m. Service of Celebration led by Rev Jack Lucas
- 12.30 p.m. Sunday lunch
- 6.30 p.m. Songs of Praise to include singing items by the Masson family



*God has given us a book full of stories  
Which was made for his people of old.  
It begins with the tale of a garden  
And ends with the city of gold*

This little children's hymn which was written over a hundred years ago, was a favourite in years gone by. It doesn't appear in the current hymn books, but was in the old Methodist hymn book; the one which was probably used for longer than any other in Upwell Methodist Church. The hymn speaks of the Bible; and in the Bible, we can read of God's dealings with his people, and of their attempts to be obedient to his call upon their lives. In the New Testament, we read the story of the growing church, peopled by the well-known, but also by those unknown to us, all striving to work together in the task of building God's kingdom.

Here, we have another book of stories. They are not as old as those in the Bible, but like them, they tell of God's dealings with his people. The names of some of those connected with these stories may be lost; but we continue to value their faith and faithfulness, because it is through their discipleship that the church at Upwell has grown into what it is today.

The stories here are from those who have served in this church in a variety of ways. Some of these people are lay, and others are ordained, but all exercise a ministry of one kind or another. Because ministers and congregation members are all human, they all make mistakes, and have times of sorrow, as well as experiencing great joy. What is important is that minister and people should seek to discover God's purpose as they all travel on together, forgiving the mistakes, comforting one another in the sorrows, and sharing in the joy.

This booklet gives a few snapshots of the journey. May they encourage you as you continue to travel with God.

Rev Ann Bossingham

## *BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH*



Birdbeck House does not figure in the local history books, and appears to take its name from the field in which it was built, and where its lovely gardens have been maintained. The story of the house itself is chiefly that of its best known owner, the late Mr William Welchman, who was a solicitor in Wisbech. He was considered by many to be the village 'squire', and during the 60 years that he lived in the house, he became well known as a generous benefactor to deserving causes in Upwell and Wisbech. It was he who gave the garden its glory. He was at one time in partnership with the first owner of Birdbeck House, the late Mr W.L. Ollard.

When Mr Welchman died in 1936, Birdbeck House and its gardens and land were bought by Ald. W. Hunter-Rowe, of Upwell. In purchasing the property, he had in mind the need for a new Methodist Chapel, the New Road premises being old, small and unsuitable with only limited Sunday School accommodation.

A staunch Methodist, he presented the Birdbeck House property to the Methodist trustees, and it was proposed to erect on the site premises comprising a church to seat 200, a school hall, separate primary department and vestry, together with kitchen and cloakroom accommodation.

Designed to stand in this excellent position in the village, the project was estimated to cost £6,000. Plans were drawn up by a Spalding firm and an appeal displaying a drawing of the future church was sent out, asking for donations.

Just when everything was ready for Birdbeck House to be pulled down, war broke out and the project was postponed. It was not long before the house was inhabited again. During the war, the house was requisitioned by the Rural Council, and several families lived in it together, with as many as 34 people at a time using it as a home.

At Christmas 1952, the house was handed back to the trustees and demolition began in June 1953. The original plans for the chapel had to be modified in the light of price increases and the different materials available after the war.

*Jennifer Millard*

With thanks to Ann Frusher for help with information, her father Mr Gray was Mr Welchman's chauffeur.



Photograph Showing Birdbeck House



Photograph Taken At The Opening In 1956

THE NEW METHODIST CHURCH & SUNDAY SCHOOL, BIRDBECK SITE, UPWELL

## STONELAYING CEREMONY

On SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30th, 1954, at 3 p.m.

A  
**PUBLIC MEETING**

will be held in the  
**METHODIST CHURCH, NEW ROAD, UPWELL**  
at 6.30 p.m.

Chairman: ALD. A. S. RICKWOOD, M.B.E., J.P.

Supported by Rev. B. W. AMEY and Rev. J. L. BICKLEY

Speaker: Rev. ALAN ROUGHLEY, East Anglia District Chairman of the Methodist Church

*After the Stonelaying Ceremony, tea will be served in the Upwell Secondary Modern School*

We appeal for your interest and support in the building of a new Methodist Church and suite of school premises at Upwell.

The project will unite in one centre, the two existing Methodist Societies now worshipping in separate buildings. New premises have become a necessity.

The New Road Church is over one hundred years old. Its school accommodation is far too small for a growing Sunday School of over one hundred scholars, and altogether unsuitable for the work of a progressive school.

The Town Street Church is also inconvenient, with just the one building without school accommodation, vestries or class-rooms.

In March, 1936 the Birdbeck House property was presented to the trustees and it is an excellent site.

One who shared the dream of new premises and worked hard for its realization was the late Mrs. Grace Hunter Rowe. She did not live to see the new church erected, but she laid the foundation in the truest sense, leaving nearly £15,000 for the purpose. It was not her wish that this should be known as a memorial church—far from it—but in the hearts of those who knew her and knowing her loved her dearly, this church will always be associated with her name. Greatly encouraged the workers go forward. Further financial help comes through the kindness of Ald. W. E. H. Rowe, who has most generously offered to subscribe £2 for each £1 raised.



NEW METHODIST CHURCH AND SCHOOL, UPWELL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

In October 1954 the stonelaying took place and the dearest dream of the late Mrs Grace Hunter-Rowe began to take shape. Though she did not live to see its completion, she laid the foundation in the truest sense leaving approximately £15,000 for the purpose. Further help came from the late Mr Walter Hunter-Rowe, for every pound raised by the people of the church he gave a donation of £2.00. He would collect villagers from bus stops in his famous Bentley and take them to Wisbech, the bus fare would be put in a box on his dashboard thereby raising more money for our church to be built.

Thus rose this building of golden facing bricks which with their roofing tiles gave a warm mature effect, blending with the delightful surroundings. A flash of modernity was given by the main entrance with its airy glass fronted vestibule with large glass doors.

Inside the lofty church, with a seating capacity for 200, the walls are light and finished with exquisite plasterwork. The seating accommodation, pulpit and communion table are of solid oak in a light finish, while the furnishings around the communion area and organ chamber are of cherry wood.

A wide corridor leads to the ministers and choir vestries and to the main hall seating about 156. This hall has a platform at one end and a modern serving hatch leading to a well equipped kitchen.

Adjoining is the small room for about 60 primary scholars having huge windows on three sides with French windows leading directly to the lawns. Hence on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September the church was ready to be opened.

The late Mrs Lily Hunter-Rowe unlocked the door with the words "I now declare the Church open to the glory of Almighty God and for the joy and peace of all who enter in". So the people poured through the glass fronted vestibule and down the long wood block aisle until every pew in the building and all the additional seats taken in for the occasion were filled.

The Superintendent Minister the Rev. Russell A Potts conducted the dedication service assisted by the Rector of Upwell (Rev A W G Cope) and Rev W E Phillipson of the Manchester Chapel Department.

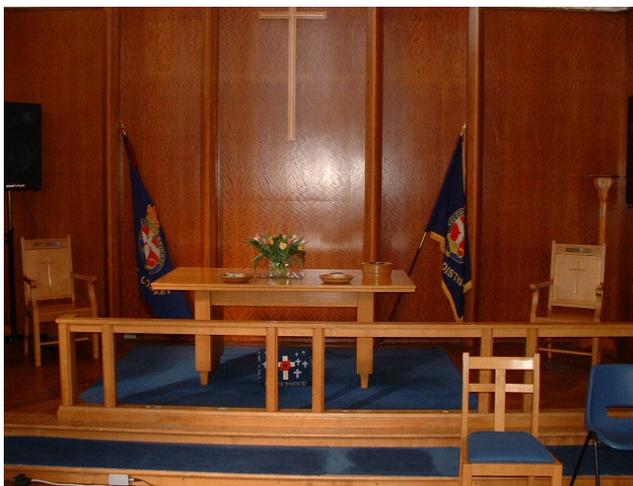
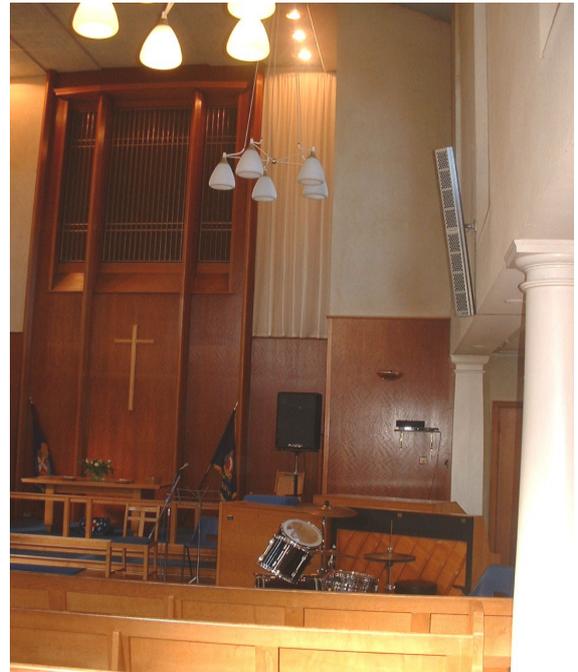
The Rev Dr W E R Sangster from Central Hall preached the opening sermon and in inspired words gave his answer to the question "What is the Church really for". The late Alderman W E Hunter-Rowe, who had done so much to see the Church completed was to have the last word of the day. He thanked all who had helped towards the project in anyway, particularly his co-treasurer the late Mr A E Morton, the late Rev J L Bickley who had done so much spade work and secretary the late Mr A J Towson, his many business friends and colleagues, the women of the Church, the architect and the builder. Thus his generosity and purposeful ambition was fulfilled.

So the years have passed, 10 ministers have been associated with the Church and amongst distinguished preachers, two Presidents have spoken to packed congregations, but many have the faithful been who have carried on the work from week to week.

Gifts of two communion chairs, vestibule table, reading desks and many other material contributions have been made to the furnishings. In more recent years gifts have included prayer books, bibles and an electronic organ from the late Mr & Mrs Bernard Scott, Mission Praise hymn books to celebrate Mr Tim Dewdney's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, a tapestry of the Last Supper given by Mrs Mary Williamson and two chairs made by Mr Trevor Vincent from a church pew.

50 years on, we fortunately still have a Sunday School although not so many in number as in 1956, over 100 scholars then, about 15 now. The Girls' Brigade still meet on Friday evenings and the Puddleducks Playgroup use the building every weekday. Our congregation has dwindled in number but our church is still alive and long may it continue to be so.

As we look on a flood-lit Church this weekend with its golden cross looking down from the top most eave, we are reminded of the late Rev J A Cook who gave his life in the service of the Upwell & Manea Circuit, it is to his memory that a cross was erected on the cherry wood background of the communion area. May we redouble our efforts to remould the spirit of the Church and may we have the added faith to go on.



## MINISTERS OF OUR CHURCH

<b>Rev A Russell Potts 1956 – 1958</b>	<b>Rev M A E Meakin 1979 - 1983</b>
<b>Rev J A Cook 1958 -1963</b>	<b>Rev D Nash 1983 - 1991</b>
<b>Rev R J Buckmaster 1963 – 1970</b>	<b>Rev M Brockway 1991 - 1996</b>
<b>Rev J Ernest Bolitho 1970 - 1977</b>	<b>Rev J Leach 1996 - 2001</b>
<b>Rev D J Thornton-Smith 1977 - 1979</b>	<b>Rev A Bossingham 2001 - Present</b>

## *MESSAGES FROM PAST MINISTERS AND THEIR WIVES*

### **MRS D COOK (Wife of Rev J A Cook ~ Minister From 1958 - 1963) (Written in 1981 for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations)**

What do I think of when reminded of Upwell Methodist Church? First a sanctuary of beauty, dignity, peace and inspiration, where it was a joy to worship with people of all ages.

Next, I recall feeling so much "at home" after only a few days, and then gradually discovering the steady faithfulness and services which sustained the fellowship and extended it to others. Those Strawberry Teas for example! Coachloads of people from dreary parts of London revelling in the generous hospitality and relaxing in the garden.

How we rejoiced in the friendship of the eager young people, always enthusiastic and responsive! It warms my heart to have news of them and their families, and how they are still serving, wherever they happen to be living.

Finally, I remember what no words can really express – the quiet understanding and support which upheld me personally in the "Valley of the Shadow". I thank God for these and many more treasures from the past, praying for renewal in this work at Upwell. In words we so often sang together, "Let's praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that's to come".

### **REV R BUCKMASTER (Minister From 1963 – 1970) (Written in 1981 for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations)**

It is a great pleasure and privilege to be able to send a few words on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Upwell Methodist Church.

My wife and I were greatly pleased when the invitation to the Superintendency came in 1963, as we had prior contacts with the circuit in years going back before the present church was erected. It was therefore a great joy to find the handsome and very useful premises completed and set in such lovely surroundings. Our stay of 7 years has left us with many happy memories.

In particular we remember "Circuit Birthday Parties", District Synods, visits of well known preachers, including Presidents of Conference, all so efficiently accommodated in the spacious premises and served by the very capable band of Upwell ladies who delighted in providing splendid hospitality.

Happy memories too, of Garden Parties, Tennis & Bowls Evenings and by no means least, being able to entertain friends from East London Churches to Strawberry Teas.

Alas there are sad memories too – of the passing of notable servants of the Kingdom who had devoted long and loyal years to the cause of Methodism in the village. Nor do we suggest that those 7 years were all milk and honey. The service of the Kingdom always involves pain and often disappointment. Youth work in particular often gave reason for a sense of strain, but looking back we are able to feel that the church in those seven years did provide a fairly efficient service of the youth of the village. Happy memories include some notable Sunday School Anniversaries, Circuit Youth Gatherings and Eisteddfods (for which the premises were so useful) and those jolly "Men's Weekends".

For us our sojourn at Upwell was a very welcome space of happy and interesting, if busy, years. After some 30 years or so working in London's Inner Belt the peace and delight of country life was a real blessing to us. We are grateful that we were called to serve in the Circuit and to live and serve at Upwell. "We pray for every blessing and success in all future church activities".

**REV J ERNEST BOLITHO (Minister From 1970 ~ 1977)**  
**(Written in 1981 for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations)**

May we send to all of you our warmest greeting and congratulations on the occasion of your 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Now that I am unable to get out very often on Sundays, I often try to imagine you all sitting in your familiar places in the pews. Scores of memories come back of unforgettable characters – too numerous to mention but all of whom had their part to play. Memories return, not only of characters, but of occasions – the Men's Concerts, and how we would ever get through them, or whether we would have enough food or seats. Then again, I remember the visits of the ladies from the East Ham Mission and whether there would be enough strawberries. In spite of our worries, there were always strawberries for tea and the ladies worked really hard providing refreshments. The Cambridgeshire Police Choir Concerts in the garden and the fact that you taught me how to play bowls!

Difficult decisions have had to be made during the past 25 years and plans for the future formulated, but throughout it all, God has been there to guide and strengthen. I still regard Upwell Church as one of the most beautiful in Methodism, and visitors have endorsed this opinion over and over again, but it is people who matter most. As you go forward into the next 25 years may God's richest blessing rest upon you all and may you see the Kingdom of God extend into Upwell.

**REV D G THORNTON-SMITH (Minister From 1977 – 1979)**  
**(Written in 1981 for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations)**

In the early days of our new church at Upwell it is obvious the setting must have been very attractive what with glorious tall trees, green lawns, tennis courts, a bowling green, a much prized rose garden and an orchard behind all that. In my time the rose garden was to disappear and the land was to be sold. The tennis courts no longer were to respond to youthful feet and the bowling woods were to cease striking one another playfully.

But then the future of the church on this spot was never rooted in rose trees and tall conifers. It was and still is rooted in the faith of committed people and the potential discipleship of the young. It is for us therefore to thank God for the young life on our premises, our Sunday School and the interest it engenders and the Girl's Brigade, joint with Outwell, it is a true and strong sign of the continuing ministry of the Church of Christ Jesus.

If the first twenty five years have seen some changes then we can be sure the next twenty five are bound to also. Yet through all the changing scenes of life in trouble or in joy, if we believe in the ever present activity of God's love we can finish Nahum Tate's verse by insisting "The praises of my God shall still My heart and tongue employ".

**REV M A E MEAKIN - COLLINS (Minister From 1979 – 1983)**

Twenty five years since your previous celebration is a fair stretch in the life of the church. Time in which there has been much that has changed in membership and in the life of the church. Without doubt, you must have shared in the many new ideas in the leading of worship and the conduct of our business and also in the methods of our outreach to the village. There must too have been the joy of watching the Girls' Brigade and the Sunday School children become adults and perhaps now you have their children in your care and teaching. Change always brings both joy and thanksgiving. Therefore, it is good to know that the church can look forward to continuing witness and service in the village and in the lives of the members. I notice through the Methodist Recorder that you use your gardens for the Quiet Garden Scheme, offering a place of peace and time for reflection and healing. New experiments in worship, new leadership, new friends, another generation of young people and new use of resources, all this points to life within the church and is the means of moving forward. May the coming years be happy ones for you all. I send you my greetings, congratulations and best wishes for your anniversary.

### **REV D NASH (Minister From 1983 – 1991)**

In 1983, when I was due to move to a new appointment, rather than going through the usual minister's invitation system, I had volunteered to simply be available to be sent by Conference to wherever there was a particular need or unfilled situation. That nearly got me sent to Northumberland, but instead the Stationing Committee asked me if I had ever heard of "Fenland". Having grown up in Beck Row and Mildenhall, I certainly had! That was how I came to Upwell and the Fenland Circuit and, even though every time I made preparatory visits to the Circuit, it rained, as it did on the day I moved into the Manse, it still felt like something of a homecoming. But, after a hitherto quite peripatetic life, I little thought then that I would still be in Upwell twenty-three years later, far longer than anywhere else I had ever lived.

Yet looking back over those years, I have been very happy here and still feel very much at home. The new, for me, experience of living in one place for a comparatively long time, has given me so many good memories of straightforward, kindly Fenland folk, and a sense of place too.

So congratulations to those who continue the work at Upwell Methodist Church today and for tomorrow. In a time when religion is not held in much regard by many, our Christian work and witness is not easy. It is vital that we constantly endeavour to deepen our spirituality and keep our bonds of fellowship loving and strong. So every blessing to you all.

### **REV M BROCKWAY (Minister From 1991 – 1996)**

Being the first circuit appointment, you can imagine that, as a family, we moved to The Fens with a sense of both excitement and wariness. We did, nevertheless, find the "natives" friendly and welcoming and soon settled in to what was for us "townies" a very different community.

The anticipation of an exciting ministry was based, in part, upon the vision I had in my mind on imagining the potential for such a "plant" as Upwell Methodist Church – a hub of rural Christianity, heading towards the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The mood was up-beat, there was thriving work with young people and the venue was popular within the village community, which meant no shortage of "customers" for those occasional offices of life – baptisms, marriages and funerals – enabling links to be made with many village families. Also, regular visits to the village school helped the church to reach out, even if very few showed equal eagerness to come in.

The extensive grounds had long since passed their heyday, but there was a determination to get them back into better use and some of my most vivid memories are indeed of the occasions when the grounds were used, making God's work more public – outdoor services, teas on the lawn, bonfire parties, etc.

Although my part in the ministry of Upwell Methodist Church was temporary, may those of you who continue that ministry, enable the Church to bear witness to the eternal love of God for His world and His people through Christ.

### **REV DR J LEACH (Minister From 1996 – 2001)**

As I look back on the years 1996-2001, a patchwork of memories flood back; the daffodils along the river bank in Spring; the newly opened coffee bar thronging with people after Parade Service; a row of expectant children lined up on the bridge at midnight waiting for the Church bells to welcome the new millennium.... I remember moments of great poignancy too; the funerals of friends and strangers, old and young and particularly vivid in my mind, the Midnight Communion the night after our Superintendent Minister had died.

What moves me as I look back are the small ways in which my life became woven with the lives of people in Upwell, both within and beyond the Church, and what a profound means of grace it is to be part of a community which is working out – sometimes joyfully, sometimes painfully – “what it means in daily living to believe and to adore” (F Pratt Green, H&P 653).

As Christians we are commanded to remember God. A significant anniversary like this one reminds me also that God remembers us. In the same way that faces and voices and moments are seered into my sense of self, so all the lives that Upwell Methodist Church has touched over 50 years are written on God’s hands and held together in him. I am glad to have been woven into this community in ways that have shaped me forever and I pray that you will continue to be courageous in building relationships within the Church and beyond that you might be a means of grace for one another and for generations yet to come.

### **REV A BOSSINGHAM (Minister From 2001 – Present)**

When I arrived as a minister in the Fenland Circuit in 2001, my situation was an unusual one. My husband was already a minister in Kings Lynn, so instead of living in the Manse in Upwell, I travelled from Lynn whenever necessary. This meant that I needed an office in the circuit and the minister’s vestry at Upwell was chosen for this purpose. I think, therefore, that I must have been the first minister actually to have “lived” in the church. This did have its problems. There was, for example, the memorable occasion when workmen came to replace the window with one that was double glazed and I found myself sitting in my office next to a gaping hole, whilst someone from Anglia television came to see me about another matter. But there were advantages, too. It meant that I had the chance to pop through and chat to the Mallett brothers as they decorated the hall, and to see how the installation of new loo facilities was progressing. It meant I could see the new curtain being hung to the right of the cross in the church. It meant that I could also enjoy an occasional friendly cuppa with Jan Russell, who was often there cleaning the church at the same time, and pop in to see Puddleducks and the lunch club.

But that time also meant that on occasions, I could walk into the church, savour the silence, think of those who had gone before and pray for the life and work of the church and circuit. Those travelling days were hard, but I wouldn’t have missed them, because without them I would have missed so many other things. What else can I say about Upwell? It was there that I conducted my first full-length communion service. It was there that I learned the wisdom of threading the microphone wire inside my cassock, after I managed to catch it on the communion table, not once, but twice. It was there that I had to conduct a communion service seated nearly all the time after falling out of the French window in the manse just half an hour before the service.

I could talk about the beauty of the gardens, which just recently we have begun to make more available through the Quiet Garden movement. I could talk about the new prayer room, the prayer book and the prayers for streets, all showing a growing commitment to intercession. I could talk about the laughter that seems to be a part of any gathering of Upwell folk. Whatever I might say would in the end always come back to the people; the people of Upwell Methodist Church, who are also the people of God. Thank you Upwell for everything that you are. It is a privilege to serve as your minister in this most special year.

## EUXIMOOR CONGREGATION JOINS UPWELL



It was about 18 years ago that the Methodist Chapel at Euximoor Drove had to be condemned one day in March 1987. Now what has this got to do with Upwell you may ask.

An almighty wind blew and moved a window in the side wall of the chapel that was already leaning inwards. Therefore, after inspection from Singleterry the Builder and Council Officials, the chapel was condemned. What were the sixteen members at that time going to do?

Well, we came together for Sunday service at our home, Cherry Tree Farm and there we met for House Fellowship for nine months. Our Minister at the time was Rev. David Nash who was most helpful in our discussions and together we decided it was time to move on, but where to?

Most of the members decided that Upwell Methodist Church was the main church our side of the circuit. Upwell at that time was at a low ebb, so fourteen members joined with Upwell. We received a very warm welcome, the late Bernard Scott commented at the time that Upwell were uncertain of their future until Euximoor members came along.

Now with only three ex-Euximoor members left we can truthfully say that we have over the years worked together in fellowship and witness. It's like the old hymn we sing: "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform".

*Bryan & Jan Russell*



## OUR CONGREGATION



*From Left To Right: Nora Fielder, John Willcox, May Wallis, Dorothy Young, Shirley Willcox, Caroline Stittle, Phil Willcox*



*Back Row: Zigmunds Zamockis, Bryan Russell, Jan Russell, Trevor Vincent, Tim Dewdney, Madge Cox, Diana Burling, Jane Hurst, Robin Vincent, Graham Carver*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Jennifer Millard, Mary Warren, Shirley Smith, May Forth, Kathleen Dudley, Alison Waters, Diane Vickers, Graham Mallett*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Teresa Richardson, Chelsea Bennett, Kayleigh Waters, Jill Wells, Evie Swann, Catherine Dewdney, Doreen Mallett*

*Front Row: Charlotte Waters, Zoe Vincent, Jessica Eaglen, Bethany Eaglen, Chloe Eaglen, Alice Carver, Thomas Dewdney, Hannah Dewdney, Tamsine Vickers, Rebecca Waters*

## PRESENT MEMBERS COMMENTS



Everytime I enter Upwell Methodist Church for a service, I receive the same warm welcome which I received 23 years ago when, after moving to Upwell, I entered the Church for the first time as a stranger. It has become an important part of my life here in Upwell and I value greatly the fellowship and friendship that I find here. My three children were all baptised here and my husband and I received a blessing for our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. It will always be a very special place for me.

*Jennifer Millard*

The Church means a lot to me. I came from a good Christian home and I was here at the opening. I was in the kitchen, making cups of tea: we had a very busy time! My two boys were christened here and they were in the Sunday School and were also members of the Youth Club. There are many happy memories here – the fellowship and friendship, and the many blessings I have received, including all my grandchildren and great grandchildren. I am very grateful that I am here to join in the celebrations.

*May Forth*

Having attended Upwell Methodist Church since the opening at the age of 3, I have always regarded the church as my second home. I can remember as a small child being taken round the circuit by Mrs Hunter-Rowe to sing in various chapels on a Sunday afternoon. I also remember the Sunday School Anniversaries when the congregation was so large in number that many had to stand outside in the garden and of course my new dress bought especially for the occasion. The parties that were held were great fun but my favourite of all these happy events was the ride round the villages on the horse and cart. It was Mrs Kathleen Buckmaster who asked me to become a Sunday School teacher at the age of 15 and a role within the Church that I have held for 38 years. Looking back over the years, there have been many memorable occasions but the two very special ones being my wedding to Terry in 1978, conducted by the Rev Thornton-Smith, and my son Robert's christening in 1984. I have found that throughout my life whenever I am happy, or very sad, my church is the one place where I want to be.

*Jane Hurst*

We were married at New Road Methodist Chapel, Upwell in March 1956 just before its closure. After 44 years away in Warwickshire and Leicestershire we returned to Upwell in 1997 and to the new Upwell Methodist Church where we were immediately welcomed back. In all our travels we have always felt that Upwell Methodist Church has been a special place for us and it was only after Mother died and Audley House had been empty for two or three years we felt this strong pull to "come home". Even now we wonder how and why it all happened but "God moves in a mysterious way".

*John & Shirley Willcox*

I have been connected with the church for the past 50 years. I was involved with the Sunday School, as it was then, and have also been Secretary & Treasurer over the years. I have seen many happy occasions including my daughter's christening, then her marriage, my sisters marriages, their childrens' christenings and my own grandchildrens' christenings. Over the years I have made some good friends.

*Madge Cox*

Upwell Methodist Church has always been a big part of my life as far back as I can remember. Attending Sunday School at a very young age, when Mrs Hancock and Mrs Wallis taught in the Primary Department and then going on to help my Mother and Doreen, when they taught the little ones. My marriage to Paul and then our childrens' christenings were all very happy memorable occasions in such beautiful surroundings. I always enjoy helping to organise the flower festivals that we have here at Upwell. The flowers always enhance our lovely church.

*Caroline Stittle*

Upwell Methodist Church has played a very large role in both our lives. We were both born into staunch Methodist families and attended church regularly from a very early age – Graham at Upwell, at the new church from its opening in 1956, and Doreen at Euximoor. Both our fathers were local preachers and although we had only lived 3 miles apart for the whole of our lives, it was not until one Saturday evening in the autumn of 1960 that our paths crossed at Upwell Methodist Church. The occasion was a circuit fund-raising event called a “Circuit Birthday Effort”, where everyone put a donation in an envelope and these were collected according to the month in which the donors were born. The money was then totalled to see which month had raised the most. Between the collections, entertainment was provided by representatives from each of the churches. Doreen was singing in the Euximoor choir: Graham was home from college for the weekend. The rest, as they say, is history! Our romance survived separation as we both pursued our studies at different ends of the country and whenever we were both at home together we attended worship, at either Upwell or Euximoor.

We were married at Upwell on 14 August 1965, by Rev Jack Lucas, who had left the circuit by then and was working in Sheffield, but who came back especially for the occasion. Since then we have been regular worshippers, travelling from Fridaybridge from 1965 – 1976 and from Three Holes from 1976 to the present time. Our two children, Helen and Christopher, were christened in the church in 1971 and 1974. The funeral services for our four parents were held in the church between 1976 and 2000.

In the seventies and eighties we were both heavily involved with the Junior Church, Graham as Superintendent and Doreen in the Primary Department. We have many happy memories of our years working with the children but the highlight was the production of several “Kids’ Praise” musicals, involving musicians, choir and, most importantly, lots of children, including our own. It is very gratifying to meet people who still remember enjoying taking part in those shows and also to see several members of the Junior Church of the past, worshipping regularly now as adults. We reluctantly stepped down from our posts in 1987 when the stress of teaching full-time in the week and also on Sunday became too high and we felt that it was time for someone else to take over. Since then we have been actively involved in the running of the church, Graham as steward and Doreen, more recently, as Treasurer, now that she has retired and has a bit more spare time (or at least did, until she took on the job!)

We thank God for all the past members of the church, including our parents, who gave us support and had such an influence on our lives. We praise Him too for the happy bunch of dedicated people who now make up our congregation and work so hard to make sure that Upwell Methodist Church continues to serve the community and witness for Him in the village.

*Graham and Doreen Mallett*

My first experience of Upwell Methodist Church was at the opening when, along with many other people, I was impressed by both the size of the building and the compelling preaching of Dr Sangster.

When my family moved to Upwell, I attended the Sunday School where my Mother was a teacher and I took part in its activities until I moved away to college for three years. Even then, I always felt at home when I managed to take time away from my studies.

I suppose my real commitment to the church came when I was dragged along to the Girls’ Life Brigade by Pam Johnson. I only went to keep her quiet but found myself in an item in the display the next week. Nora Fielder, a Lieutenant at the time took the trouble to see that I gained a badge that night and it was this act of caring that moved me to join. That was forty nine years ago!!

The church has always held a special place in my life, being there in times of great happiness and sadness alike. The fellowship its members extend to one another is such a joy and its wish to extend that welcome to the community around is commendable. I seem to have come full circle from the Sunday School of 1968 as now I help with the present Junior Church. I pray that God will enable me to help them find the love and Christian Fellowship here and so encourage them to commit their lives to Christ.

*Diana Burling*

The Church has always been like a second home. Though everything else in life changes, it has always been there, the one constant in my life. Also from an architectural point of view, we are so lucky to have such a magnificent building and gardens, despite all the problems this can create.

*Robin Vincent*

Moving to Upwell in July 1999, I spent a while visiting all five churches locally. Thinking that I should return to my roots, I decided to attend the nearest Church of England. I prepared to go for the 10.30am service and was delayed, finding myself attending instead the 10.45am service at Upwell Methodist Church. Eventually the penny dropped and I realised that God had other ideas for my future! I was welcomed into membership on Easter Day 2001 and became one of the family. The faith, fellowship and friendship within this loving family is something I really appreciate. It is with this in mind that I pray we move forward in the Spirit, to witness for the Lord and touch the lives of people around us in our community

*Kathleen Dudley*

I expect I am one of the few present members of this church to have attended the opening ceremony in September 1956. I remember every room in the building was packed and the sound relayed to all. I have attended worship regularly ever since. At that time I was an Officer in the Girls' Life Brigade (now Girls' Brigade) which was attached to the former New Road Chapel. Owing to the inadequate premises at New Road, it was good to have the use of our present building. In 1968, I became Captain of the Company, retiring as a Commissioned Officer in 1996. Girls' Brigade has taken me to many places and events that I would otherwise never experienced. Visits, some with participation, to such places as the Royal Albert Hall, Buckingham Palace, services in Westminster Central Hall and St Paul's Cathedral, all including girls from the Company, not to mention the many camps, national and local competitions and training.

The gardens here have always been of interest to me, and I have often helped keep them clean and tidy, hoping they would bring serenity and pleasure to others. My knowledge and interest in music found me involved in playing the organ for Sunday Worship, at first only once a month. I now play the piano, alongside other musicians, and also help with music for special events. I feel this is my contribution to the worship.

*Nora Fielder*

We (the Dewdneys) moved to Upwell in 1977 and within a few weeks had visited several churches, looking for a fellowship mad enough to take us all on! We found a very warm welcome and a busy Junior Church who were not going to let four new members slip through their fingers, so we decided to stay and become Methodists. My time with the Junior Church lasted nine years and during that time I was given teaching and encouragement both on and off stage (see the DVD). These passed on life skills are the sort of things I never seem to find the words to say **thankyou** for, but I hope the fact that 30 years on I am trying to do the same for the next generation speaks for me. I was married at Upwell (see Catherine's comments) and our children Hannah and Thomas both attend the "next generation" Junior Church. In the worship times at Upwell I find a niche in the band. I'm the shy, quiet one on the drums. This is an interest started through Methodist connections and has seen me play my drums in Yorkshire, Wales and Jersey as well as all over East Anglia. The pig shed on the Norfolk Showground, Peterborough Speedway Stadium and Old Hunstanton beach among a few of the memorable venues.

Methodist connections also found me my first two full time jobs - firstly strawberry picking for Bryan and Jan (nee Euximoor) then various posts in a guest house in a well known South coast sea-side town. During my time in that town I was encouraged not to attend the Methodist Church (I wasn't 60+ you see!) and having experienced several 'new to me' Christian fellowship groups, three years later I returned to Upwell..... I think that says it all really!!!

*Tim Dewdney*

Thomas and I were both baptised at Upwell, I was only 3 months old at the time and Thomas was 7 months when he was baptised. We were both baptised by our Grandad, the Rev. Peter Dewdney. We both wore a christening gown that has been worn by most of the children on Mums side of the family, including Mum. Mum and Dad first brought me to Upwell Methodist at the age of 1 week old and I have been attending ever since. My brother and I attend the Junior Church and enjoy getting involved in the services. Thomas' favourite song is 'Shine Jesus Shine' and mine is 'The Spirit lives to set us free'. The Junior Church does fun things, learning about what Jesus did and his teachings. I have been going to Junior Church for quite a while now and have made lots of new friends. The leaders are great and we work in groups that are about the same age. Also, on a Friday night my friends and I go to Girls Brigade, I have been going now for 6 years and really enjoy it. Our Dad plays the drums on a Sunday morning in the service and Thomas now brings his guitar and tries to join in!

*Hannah and Thomas Dewdney*

I moved to Upwell in 1981 with my family at the tender age of 9, having previously lived in Terrington St John and attending both the school and the small Methodist Chapel there in the village. I soon made friends at Upwell County Primary (as it was known then) and amongst my first friends were Helen Mallett and Rebecca Seaton who had connections with Upwell Methodist. I didn't feel I wanted to attend the Church at this time but was persuaded to come along to the Youth Club that was run on the premises by a Mr and Mrs Dewdney and friends. This was where I first met Tim and others who became long standing friends for many years. I lost contact with the Youth Club after some years as the work load increased at school. My vivid memories of 'club' are hiding in the bushes and undergrowth so Robin (who we affectionately named 'the taxman') couldn't find us for our subs; and Tim in his small shorts (fashion I think at the time) trying to teach my brother all he knew about football!

Anyway, at Rebecca Seaton's 18th birthday party Tim and I met up again after having not seen each other for many years, and it was like we had never been apart (aahhh!). Tim suggested I should join him on a Sunday morning at Upwell Methodist to meet some good people and rekindle my relationship with God. We became engaged in the October of 1991 - having been proposed to on Beachy Head in that infamous sea-side town Tim had worked in previously.

We married on 10th July 1993, the Minister in attendance being Rev. Malcolm Brockway. The day was made really special by having all our friends from the Church and neighbouring churches in attendance. The Fenland Gospel Singers sang during the service and the Church was alive with the love of God blessing Tim and I as we began our journey on the road of married life.

Hannah was born in November 1995 and Thomas came along in September 2000. We had been blessed with two beautiful children but Thomas had serious health issues at an early age and I don't think we would have been able to cope with what was thrown at us if it hadn't been for the fact that we knew that our friends at Upwell were all praying for Thomas and the rest of the family.

I have previously been the Treasurer of the Church at Upwell and a Steward, a job which I still relish doing. I also represent the Church on the committee of Puddleducks Preschool which uses our premises.

I look back and think of all the faces that are missing from our pews on a Sunday morning and thank God for allowing me to be able to call these fine men and women, friends. I know that they have all gone to join the Lord in a much better place.

I enjoy the warmth, the friendliness and the ability to experience the love of God and all that he can offer us each time I worship at Upwell. We, as a Church have had our 'ups and downs' and the problems of making sure 'ends meet' are never far from our minds, but it never seems to overshadow the fact that we are all a family at Upwell Methodist and that we'll get through it together.

*Catherine Dewdney*

My daughter Chelsea started Junior Church on the 8 February 2003 and I used to take her and pick her up. Everyone made me welcome, so then I started to stay for the service. Chelsea decided she wanted to be baptised and this happy event took place on the 20th June 2004, the service being taken by Rev Ann Bossingham.

After a while, I was asked by John Willcox if I would like to be a member. I spoke to Ann about it and started classes with three other people from St Andrews who also wanted to become members. It felt very special as it was the first time Ann had conducted a Membership Service.

It's such a nice, warm and friendly place to go on a Sunday morning as everyone makes me welcome.

Isaiah 11 v 6 "A little child will lead them"

*Teresa Richardson*

I've been to Junior Church for 3 years and 6 years to Girls' Brigade. Each time I attend, I like it more and more and the church has been like a family home ever since I started. I would like to thank the teachers of the Junior Church and leaders of the Girls' Brigade for making it fun.

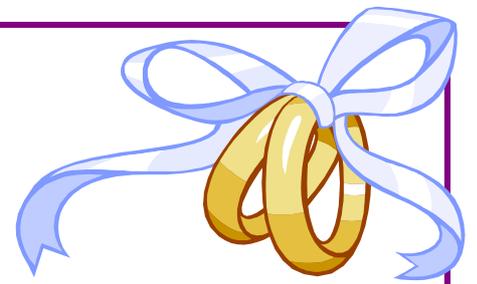
*Chelsea Bennett*



## MARRIAGES

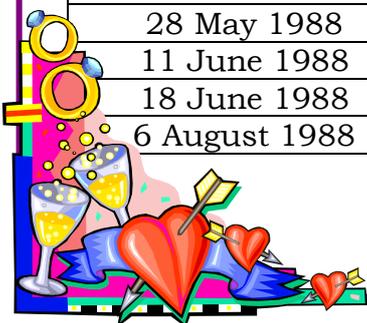
23 March 1957	Gerald Warby & Janet Irene Warren
5 August 1957	Graham Roy Chaplain & Joan Steer
8 August 1957	Francis Vernon May & Dorothy Olwyn Potts
29 March 1958	Graham William Wilson & Ann Elizabeth Peacock
4 September 1959	Thomas Davis Lister & Annie Elizabeth Bridgefoot
30 September 1959	Alec James Young & Dorothy Ann Wallis
5 November 1960	John Melton & Rosanna Elizabeth Swann
16 September 1961	Ernest John Germeney & Margaret Ann Bliss
6 January 1962	Frederick Raymond Follen & Elizabeth Ann Crampton
31 March 1962	Raymond William Lister & Pamela Joan Pettitt
11 June 1962	David Frederick John Crammer & Rosemary Elizabeth Roper
20 October 1962	John Hales Martin & Margaret Rose Hardy
22 December 1962	Roger Douglas Beacham & Patricia Morton
20 April 1963	Ernest Ronald Heath & Jean Cooper
8 August 1963	George Alwyne Brockman & Constance May Ingle
21 September 1963	Peter John Ellwood & Carol Dawn Cole
25 January 1964	Gordon James Quadling & Heather Crampton
15 August 1964	Ronald Clark & Josephine Edna Sawyer
5 December 1964	Keith Dobb & Elizabeth Biggs
31 March 1965	Anthony Arthur Basker & Pearl Marlene Hardy
10 July 1965	Leslie George Craske & Susan Mary Cole
14 August 1965	Graham James Mallett & Doreen Hicks
25 August 1965	John Payne & Judith Ann Clingo
18 December 1965	John Edward Morton & Susan Elizabeth Secker
11 April 1966	Michael Frederick Johnson & Elizabeth Ann Godfrey
12 April 1966	Clive Lawrence Davies & Beryl Margaret Forth
19 October 1966	David Cox & Pamela Ann Johnson
10 December 1966	Geoffrey Bernard Beckett & Margaret Jacqueline Ford
25 March 1967	Keith William Lynn & Jillian Eileen Florence Elizabeth George
5 August 1967	Geoffrey Albert Mallett & Margaret Irene Lemon
26 August 1967	Eric William Baldry & Jacqueline Doreen Margaret Curson
22 September 1967	William James Tawn & Beryl Steer
30 September 1967	Gresham George Poole & Christine Ann Forth
24 February 1968	Robert William Fair & Sylvia Mary Warren
15 June 1968	John Edward Bassett & Christine Dorothy Young
2 September 1968	Peter Ernest Johnson & Christine Helen Rose
21 September 1968	Malcolm William Hicks & Ann Chamberlain
14 December 1968	David Alfred Scott & Jean Mary Miles
30 August 1969	Richard Alan Howlett & Margaret Janet Sawer
3 September 1969	Bernard Michael John Mullarkey & June Bell
12 September 1970	Leslie Norman Abbott & Pauline Frost

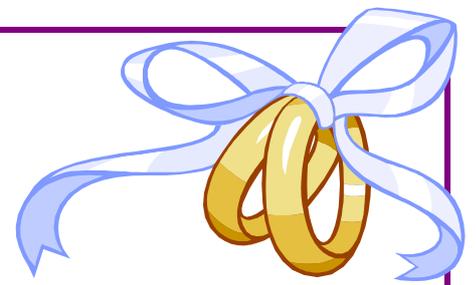




## MARRIAGES

24 July 1971	Brian Leonard Farrow & Sheila Ann Cole
14 August 1971	Terence Leslie Swinhoe & Elaine Hicks
20 March 1972	Gerald Warby & Sylvia Jean Clatsworthy
20 May 1972	Barry Evans & Marion Steer
22 July 1972	Stewart John Rogers & Margaret Ann Copeman
24 February 1973	William Sidney Wright & Ann Cubberley
15 September 1973	Patrick John Mallett & Rosemary Height
16 March 1974	Keith Green & Geraldine Ann Young
2 August 1975	Charles Claxton & Janice Christine Trower
9 April 1977	John William David Sweet & Angela Mary Butcher
17 September 1977	Michael Dennis Drew & Ann Elizabeth Lunn
29 October 1977	Clive Richard Dennis & Wendy Ann Neale
26 November 1977	Malcolm John Plaice & Sylvia Anne Gooch
27 May 1978	Andrew Edward Davis & Christine Margaret McCourt
12 August 1978	Terence Roy Hurst & Mary Jane Williamson
21 January 1979	Stuart Robert Wright & Penelope Jane Morton
16 June 1979	Stephen John Turner & Janice Titmarsh
12 January 1980	William Frank Crook & Deborah Ann Young
29 November 1980	Paul Morris Carter & Jayne Belinda Young
9 May 1981	Robin John Wood & Shirley Ann Young
3 October 1981	David Chapman & Amanda Elizabeth Wilson
4 September 1982	Trevor Graham Smith & Linda Jane Cowling
17 July 1983	Stephen John Goodson & Jacqueline Atwell
4 February 1984	Malcolm Young & Joanne Olivia Kaylor
7 April 1984	Peter Alan Smith & Rita Smith
5 May 1984	Graeme Charles Waterman & Lisa Lorraine Shepherd
7 July 1984	Paul Anthony Stittle & Caroline Cox
1 September 1984	Gary Atwell & Melanie Ann Halls
15 September 1984	Mark Timothy Young & Jayne Patricia Cochrane
19 December 1984	Anthony James Brown & Debra Carol Belcher
17 August 1985	Kevin John Davis & Marian Natasha Ransome
24 May 1986	Philip James Shipp & Jane Elizabeth Wilson
26 July 1986	Neil Robert Drewery & Jill Mary Chapman
27 September 1986	Wayne John Sutton & Jane Anne Follen
14 February 1987	Adrian Graham Clingo & Beverley May Wilson
15 August 1987	Geoffrey William Lowe & Susan Ann Cuss
10 October 1987	Christopher David Drew & Lisa Neale
28 May 1988	Nicholas Richard Anderson & Kim Johnson
11 June 1988	Dean Peacock & Wendy Hall
18 June 1988	John Pears & Mandy Elizabeth Follen
6 August 1988	Ralph Young & Lorna Jane Ware





## MARRIAGES

20 August 1988	Martin Woolner & Rita Rosaline Simpson
18 February 1989	Kevin Paul Dewey & Mandy Margaret Almond
15 April 1989	Nigel Frank Barrow & Lisa Ablett
1 July 1989	Stephen James Cullen & Tina Pauline Parkes
15 August 1989	Andrew Jackson & Rachel Helen Dewdney
19 August 1989	Paul Edward Calvert & Pauline Annette Smith
2 September 1989	Robin William Vincent & Linda Ann Moden
7 April 1990	Anthony John Hancock & Deborah Priestley
21 April 1990	John Divers Crossley & Anna Marie Kerridge
28 April 1990	Peter Hubbard & Julie Ann Mason
2 June 1990	Graham Keith Flitt & Melanie Elizabeth Telford
9 June 1990	Phillip James Edward Bunn & Irene Esme Janice Hallam
18 August 1990	Stephen Waite & Deborah Marie Nobbs
22 September 1990	Martin Douglas Pitcher & Laura Navradý
22 September 1990	Richard Victor Button & Jaine Ann Rouse
30 March 1991	Anthony Percy Johnson & Susan Elizabeth Peel
3 August 1991	Graham Leslie Esgate & Trudy Jane Bell
14 September 1991	George Robert Gilbey & Barbara Todd
28 September 1991	Ashley James Maile & Rachel Floyd
28 September 1991	Robert Gerald Johnson & Susan Ann Burton
30 May 1992	David Simon Priestley & Beverley Rose Archer
22 August 1992	Darryl James Chapman & Julie Elizabeth Hammond
19 September 1992	Philip Peter Ward & Jill Frusher
3 April 1993	Barry Terence Sweryda & Margaret Rose Gowler
5 June 1993	Paul Anthony Brenchley & Tracy Johnson
10 July 1993	Timothy David Dewdney & Catherine May Shepherd
7 August 1993	Alexander Peter Thomas Stone & Helen Scott
14 August 1993	Andrew William Scott & Jo-Anne Moss
4 September 1993	Andrew Paul Youngs & Michelle Cubberley
18 June 1994	Barry Anderson & Jane Johnson
23 July 1994	Brian John Edward Smith & Lisa Victoria Oakey
17 September 1994	Michael Jackson & Alison Dent
28 October 1994	Anthony John Smith & Sarah Jane Lewis
15 April 1995	Mark Adrian Coe & Dawn April Dewsbury
20 May 1995	David Paul Wallis & Jean Margaret Clark
9 June 1995	Steven John Snowden & Cheryl Rumsey
22 July 1995	Alan Snell & Helen Mary Lister
18 May 1996	Michael John Wesley & Valerie Pauline Mason
3 August 1996	Stuart Downey & Michelle Louise Fisher
1 August 1998	Christopher Robert Clark & Yvonne Ann Kerridge
22 May 1999	Robert Stephen Nicholas & Julia Samantha Horn

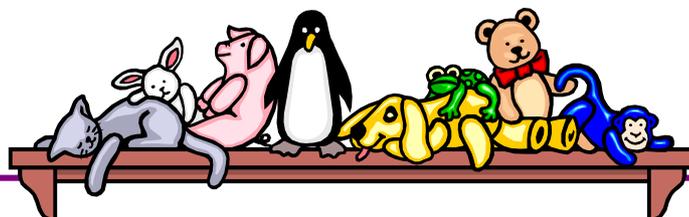




# BAPTISMS



13 September 1956	Carol May Dexter
21 October 1956	Mark Atherton Taylor
17 March 1957	Stuart Edward Pitcher
9 February 1958	Robin William Vincent
4 January 1959	Malcolm Thorpe
1 March 1959	Jane Elizabeth Wilson
15 March 1959	Jayne Belinda Young
14 June 1959	Caroline Cox
1959	Geraldine Garner
1959	Gary Neale
1959	Paul Chaplain
1960	Glen Warby
1960	Mark T Lucas
1960	Jeanette A Haycock
10 April 1960	Deborah Ann Young
30 October 1960	Linda Jane Cowling
2 April 1961	Frank Richard Green
28 June 1961	Trevor Charles Vincent
4 February 1962	Juliet Chaplain
3 December 1962	Kevin John Warby
17 June 1962	Mark Timothy Young
7 April 1963	Peter Trevor Brighty
1 September 1963	Jane Steer
15 September 1963	Adrian Graham Clingo
3 November 1963	David John Martin
1 December 1963	Mark Chaplain
9 February 1964	Adrian Lister
3 May 1964	Richard James Cowling
17 May 1964	Jane Elizabeth Green
16 August 1964	Alistair Quinton Haycock
23 August 1964	Tracey Jakings
20 September 1964	Denise Medcalf
1 November 1964	Colin Victor Ritchie
13 December 1964	Valerie Ann Plumb
14 February 1965	Andrew James Brightley
18 April 1965	Victoria Ann Waterfield
18 April 1965	Trevor Waterfield
21 November 1965	Alison Jane Secker
9 October 1966	Vanya Smith
9 October 1966	Wendy Caroline Smith
9 October 1966	Teresa Ann Smith
4 February 1968	Simon Charles Secker
4 February 1968	John William Secker
31 March 1968	Jonathan Steer
7 April 1968	Jennifer Anne Taylor
14 April 1968	Nicola Johnson
14 April 1968	Mark Charles Cox



# BAPTISMS



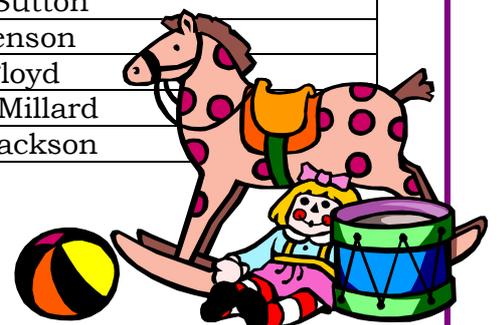
5 May 1968	Julian Charles Baldry
21 July 1968	Pamela Jane Beacham
10 November 1968	Robert John Spicer
10 November 1968	Paula Spicer
8 December 1968	Victoria Tawn
4 May 1969	Sean Andrew Bassett
4 May 1969	Susan Angela Bassett
1 June 1969	Julian Brian Green
22 June 1969	Kirsty Anne Jakings
7 September 1969	Martyn John Wilson
7 September 1969	Lisa Ablett
7 September 1969	Dean Richard Ablett
7 September 1969	Steven Ablett
7 September 1969	Robert John Ablett
7 September 1969	Michelle Cubberley
7 September 1969	Paul David Cubberley
7 September 1969	Glenn Robert Cubberley
7 September 1969	Jane Cubberley
7 September 1969	Kay Cubberley
12 October 1969	Karen Ann Poole
7 December 1969	Trudy Jane Bell
22 February 1970	Carolyn Ann Cox
29 March 1970	Jo-Anne Moss
17 May 1970	Ashley Baldry
24 May 1970	Simon Andrew Forth
5 September 1971	Rachel Johnson
20 February 1972	Helen Suzanne Mallett
9 April 1972	Sarah Elizabeth Forth
10 September 1972	Vanessa Ruth Johnson
30 September 1973	Emma Louise Baldry
16 June 1974	Christopher James Mallett
30 June 1974	Keith Richard Forth
30 June 1974	Kevin R Forth
28 September 1975	Amanda Evans
28 March 1976	Susan Elizabeth Cox
18 April 1976	Louise Green
20 June 1976	Matthew James Moden
24 October 1976	Rebecca Ann Rogers
23 January 1977	Lisa Lorraine Shepherd
23 January 1977	Dale Wilfred Shepherd
23 January 1977	Dulcie Louise Shepherd
22 May 1977	Stuart Edward Forth
7 August 1977	Neil Charles Claxton
6 August 1978	Emma Jean Mattless
4 February 1979	Jamie Paul Weston
29 April 1979	Kelly Ann Dennis
29 April 1979	Alison Jane Claxton
29 April 1979	Jonathan David Mallett



# BAPTISMS



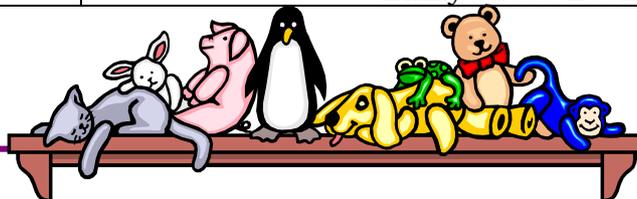
8 July 1979	Rebekah Watts
23 December 1979	Daniel Paul Calvert
12 October 1980	Jo-Ann Lesley Crook
12 October 1980	Amy Louise Cox
8 February 1981	Mary Sammons
3 May 1981	David George William Haycock
21 June 1981	Lisa Turner
4 October 1981	Leeanne Marie Green
29 November 1981	Katy Jane Dennis
29 November 1981	Mark Robert Neale
29 November 1981	Brian Michael Neale
27 December 1981	Barrie James Parnell
4 April 1982	Victoria Jane Haycock
9 May 1982	William Mark Crook
10 July 1983	Andrew Charles Nicholson
10 July 1983	Laura Mary Louise Nicholson
4 December 1983	Anna Lorelei Millard
4 December 1983	William James Arthur Millard
11 March 1984	Gareth James Edward Crook
1 July 1984	Kay Kirsty Parnell
29 July 1984	Kim Rosemary Dennis
29 July 1984	Robert William Hurst
6 January 1985	Danny Graeme Waterman
28 April 1985	Michael John Wood
8 December 1985	Liam Malcolm Young
23 February 1986	Carrie Anne Gooch
23 February 1986	Donna Marie Gooch
20 July 1986	Holly Marie Shepherd
30 November 1986	Matthew Thomas Ablett
22 March 1987	Adam George Stittle
17 May 1987	Daren Paul Wood
14 June 1987	Robert Taylor
27 September 1987	Natalie Louise Francis
4 October 1987	Daniel Critchley
6 March 1988	Louise Jayne Young
3 April 1988	Paul William Sammons
22 May 1988	Samantha Vaughan
21 August 1988	Dominic James Brown
21 August 1988	Francesca Sarah Brown
5 March 1989	Scott Thomas Cubberley
19 March 1989	Lorna Young
11 June 1989	Alice May Stittle
15 October 1989	Jonathan William Crossley
5 November 1989	Samuel Harry Sutton
15 March 1990	Cindy Jane Henson
25 March 1990	Dayna May Floyd
1 July 1990	Tom Alexander Millard
28 October 1990	Rebecca Lucy Jackson



# BAPTISMS



9 December 1990	Jade Elizabeth Skeels
23 June 1991	Michaela Jane Smith
27 October 1991	Laura Brockway
3 May 1992	Zoe Ann Vincent
2 August 1992	Grace Elizabeth Stittle
16 August 1992	Patrick Divers Crossley
4 October 1992	Matthew James Smith
16 May 1993	Matthew Wesley George Farrow
8 August 1993	Hannah May Pears
29 September 1993	Christopher Mark Young
5 December 1993	Tammy-Marie Mary Barbara Crossley
5 December 1993	Samantha Jane Hubbard
27 March 1994	Craig Allen Gibson
27 March 1994	Gareth Edward Martin Wright
15 May 1994	Philip Brockway
7 August 1994	Stephanie Joy Jackson
30 October 1994	Dean James John Thorpe
30 October 1994	Aaron John Reid
2 April 1995	Stephanie Louise Cavell-Clarke
2 April 1995	Richard James Cavell-Clarke
13 August 1995	Connie Rose Coe
1 October 1995	Ryan Thomas Esgate
1 October 1995	Sonja Jane Cartwright
1 October 1995	Sara Emma Cartwright
1 October 1995	Stacey Joy Cartwright
1 October 1995	Kevin Drew
1 October 1995	Joshua Drew
11 February 1996	Hannah May Dewdney
7 April 1996	Amber Rose Farrow
28 July 1996	Jenna Rose Vincent
28 July 1996	Nicola Kathleen Rose Sweryda
29 September 1996	Jasmine Roxanne Stevens
29 September 1996	Celine Jade Stevens
14 September 1997	Jamie Kenneth Clark
14 September 1997	Keiran Robin Clark
19 July 1997	James Andrew Hubbard
25 April 1997	Jordan Graham Esgate
5 July 1999	Lynsey Jane Challen
3 October 1999	Catherine Lilian West
17 October 1999	Hannah Maye Giles
17 October 1999	Lincoln Peter Leslie Giles
1 April 2001	Shakira Olivia Freear
11 February 2001	Emma Louise Dewdney
22 April 2001	Thomas Michael Dewdney
9 March 2003	Erica Eva Marie Richardson
6 April 2003	Alexis Patricia Waters
20 June 2004	Chelsea Bennett
16 April 2006	Emily Grace Becker



# ORGANISATIONS WITHIN OUR CHURCH



## THE SISTERHOOD

The Sisterhood started in 1938 by Mrs Wanless, the wife of the Minister, with a membership of 35.

In September 1954 a meeting was arranged to decide what should be done at the stone laying of the New Church to be built in Town Street. It was agreed that £5 should be given for the purchase of a brick. This to be laid by Mrs W Johnson the oldest member of the Sisterhood.

In September 1956, it was agreed to purchase the following for the New Church which was then ready to be opened: A vase for the communion table, a pulpit fall, a carpet and a kneeler for the communion rail and an amount of £20 was given towards the new organ. The sum of £12-12s-0d left over was given to the building fund. The ladies cleaned the church ready for the opening on the 26 September 1956. Twelve ladies in groups of four volunteered to clean the church for 3 months until a caretaker could be appointed.

Other gifts over the years have included:

- Chairs
- 3 dozen teaspoons
- Tablecloths
- 6 dozen cups and saucers
- Organ screen
- Aisle carpet
- Pulpit carpet
- Collection plates
- New numbers for the hymn boards
- New curtains for the school hall
- Donation towards the new windows and door

Until 1976 meetings were held weekly, but due to the loss of older members and difficulty in getting speakers it is now held on a Thursday each fortnight from 2.00pm until 3.30pm. Meetings, however, are not held during the months of June, July and August. There are 17 members at present who attend on a regular basis.

The Sisterhood, an inter-age group of friendly ladies, extend a warm welcome to anyone wishing to join them for lively discussions, friendly reflection and various activities.

## THE GIRLS' BRIGADE

The Girls' Brigade Company was formed in 1942 by Miss M Mackenzie, daughter of the Rev Finlay Mackenzie, Supt. Minister of the Upwell & Manea Circuit at the time. It was registered as the 7<sup>th</sup> Wisbech Company Girls' Life Brigade and affiliated to the Upwell Primitive Methodist Chapel where the first meetings were held. These premises soon proved inadequate and unsuitable. Larger accommodation was found at Upwell Secondary Modern School then to Bethel Chapel, Outwell until the Upwell Methodist Church was opened in 1956.

1966 saw the amalgamation of the Girls' Life Brigade, The Girl Guildry and Girls' Brigade of Ireland into the organisation we now know as the Girls' Brigade. This brought a new uniform, revised rules and programme but its aim and principles remain the same. The company has met regularly without a break since 1942 with an average membership of 60 girls aged from 5 to 18. Meetings were first held on Monday evenings but are now held on Friday evenings.

The girls work towards earning one badge per year. The badge is split into 4 sections and each section has to be completed in order to gain the badge. The four sections cover subjects within the headings of Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Service. Girls can also gain Attendance Awards for regular evening attendance and Sunday attendance for regular attendance at Sunday School or Church.

Other activities enjoyed by the girls over the years include, summer camp, sleepovers, outings, fun days, national competitions, performing at the Royal Albert Hall, being on a Rose Fair float, performing plays and dances, fundraising, church parades, district events and much more.

### Meeting Times

Friday	4 yrs ~ 7 yrs	5.30pm ~ 7.00pm
	8 yrs plus	7.00pm ~ 9.00pm



Anyone wishing to join should contact our Captain, Mrs Cheryl Snowden, on 01945 430625 or 07789 223904. Alternatively, just come along to one of our meetings.



## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Before the Sunday School moved from the Primitive Methodist Church in New Road to the New Methodist Church 50 years ago, it had a large number of boys and girls on its books. So much so that the local paper showed a photograph of the passage way to the small schoolroom absolutely full of bicycles and words to the effect that the Sunday School was bulging at the seams. In those days meetings were held at 10.15 a.m. so that good use was made of the Church for various classes of children before morning service. This was an advantage as the Primary Department used the whole of the schoolroom.

When it moved to the new Church with several rooms and 2 halls, there was no longer need to start early so it adopted an 11 a.m. start joining the main church for part of the service.

In 50 years there have been several new leaders and teachers not forgetting scholars. There has also been other influences along the way and a heightening of external pressures. The change of emphasis when in the 1950's children were sometimes forced to attend and outside attractions and influences were minimal. Today with so many interests and general lack of concern for moral issues of our time, it seems we have a stronger and more unified set of young people who will stand by their convictions.

Over the years there have been quite a few Sunday School teachers including Mrs Mary Hancock, Mrs May Wallis, Mr Cecil Towson, Miss Pam Johnson, Mrs Lily Hunter-Rowe, Mrs Irene Burling, Miss Diana Burling, Mrs Kathleen Buckmaster, Miss Ann Peacock, Mrs Jill Lynn, Mr Graham Mallett, Mrs Doreen Mallett, Mrs Madge Cox, Mrs Jane Hurst, Mr Robin Vincent, Mrs Gwen Dewdney, Mrs Vivienne Thomas, Mr William Crook & Mrs Deborah Crook. At present we have 14 children in our Sunday School led by our Superintendent Diana Burling and assisted by Robin Vincent, Jane Hurst, Tim Dewdney & Alison Waters.

In 50 years, times have changed and we are ever mindful that we also have to change to keep the young people interested and wanting to attend every week. Although our numbers are not as great as in 1956 (100 then), at least we still have a Junior Church and we strive very hard to try and make Sunday mornings a pleasant environment where children not only learn but also have fun.

Sunday mornings 10.30 a.m. ~ 11.45 a.m.



## PUDDLEDUCKS PRE-SCHOOL



The Puddleducks Pre-school was first opened in the late 1970's in a room at the back of the Five Bells Public House. The Playleader at that time was Anne Frusher with Jill Moss, Sue Scott and Madeline Tombleson assisting. At that time approximately 20 children attended on a regular basis.

Puddleducks now uses Upwell Methodist Church and is open at the following times:-

Monday 9.15 am ~ 11.45 am  
Wednesday 9.15 am ~ 11.45 am & 12.30 pm ~ 3.00 pm  
Thursday 9.15 am ~ 11.45 am  
Friday 9.15 am ~ 11.45 am & 12.30 pm ~ 3.00pm

The morning sessions are for children of funding age, which means the term after they are 3 years old. The afternoon sessions are for children aged from 2 until they are funded. We also have a session at Upwell Primary School on a Tuesday for the pre-school children (children who are going to school the following September). We have 24 places for children in the morning session and 16 places in the afternoon session.

The staff at Puddleducks are:-

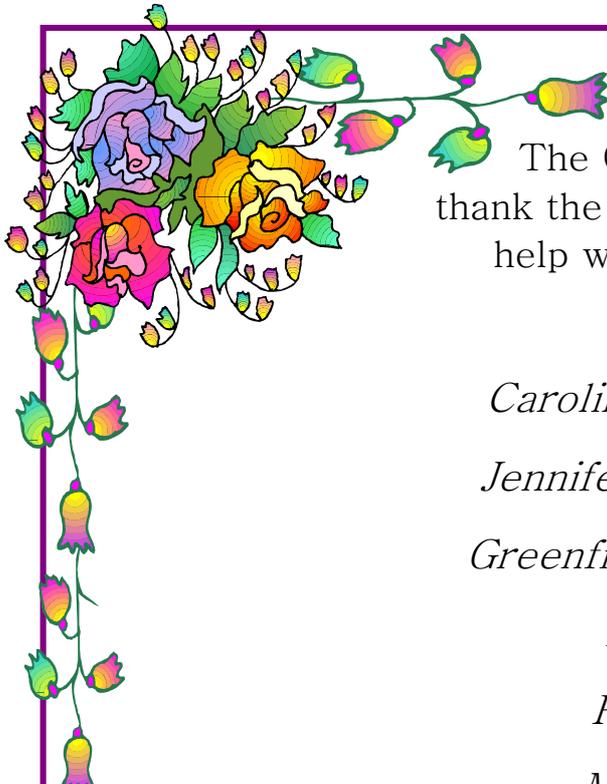
Playleader: Kathryn Coates  
Deputy: Kayleigh Haycock  
Assistants: Sue Broddle, Alyson Saunders, Leanne Cowell  
Bank Staff: Kerry Archdale

Puddleducks is run via a Committee with Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Church Reps and General Committee Members.

We follow a curriculum and have a variety of toys, indoor and outdoor quiet spaces and a computer. We have visits from the fire service, dentists and other professionals plus a monthly visit from Ann the Minister which the children greatly enjoy.

For more details, please contact Kathryn on 07749 250931 during pre-school hours.





The Church would like to  
thank the following ladies for their  
help with the flower festival

*Caroline Stittle (Organiser)*

*Jennifer Millard (Organiser)*

*Greenfingers Gardening Club*

*Angela French*

*Pauline Shepard*

*Mauvene Murphy*

*Pauline Varga*

*Phyliss Rewega*

*Rebecca Blood*

*Margaret Barnard*

*Helen Hartley*

*Mary Hartley*

*Kate West*

*Pam Hubbard*

*Mary Williamson*

*Andrea Moat*

*Marion Evans*

*Madge Cox*

*Shirley Smith*

*May Forth*

*Deanna Martin*



## OUR GARDENS



- 2.5 acres
- Memorial garden
- Rare trees
- Open to the public several times a year in association with the Quiet Garden Movement

- Extra facility for Junior Church, Girls' Brigade & Puddleducks
- Venue for summer barbecues, concerts and circuit events
- Maintained by volunteers Pat & Rosemary Mallett, John & Shirley Willcox & Nora Fielder



This booklet was produced by Jane Hurst and sponsored by



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