

## Minister's Musings February 2018

Dear Friends,

As far as church meetings and special services are concerned February is a quieter month at OMC which is probably quite a relief for those of you who are still suffering from the effects of flu, colds or sore throats. I do hope that as the days lengthen and the sun shines(??) your health improves.

Lent however begins this month on **February 14<sup>th</sup>** with a Circuit **Ash Wednesday** Communion Service at Empingham at 1030am and of course **Ecumenical house groups** and **Lent lunches** will be commencing too. Please keep your eyes on the weekly notices for further details and both sign up and join in as you can. Lent provides a particular opportunity to share together with other Christians to enrich our faith journey and I hope that you will share in that experience too. At OMC our Sunday morning services will focus on the theme '**God's good time.....and ours**' and be led by ministers and local preachers within our own church family. There will be a leaflet about this in the foyer shortly. Perhaps you might make it a good Lenten discipline to share in all of these and do remember that if you are not able to be present physically for any reason you can always catch up via a tape from the desk at the back of church!

This month though I would also ask you to cast your thoughts and prayers a little wider. To our friends at Somerby and Ryhall who will particularly miss John Weeks and Charlotte Pridmore respectively, to Lee and Guli Francis-Dehqani and Julie and Phillip Hutchinson as they move this month to ministry elsewhere and to Deborah and Gary Marsh as they arrive. Please also remember the circuit public issues group (meeting on **Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>**) and the Circuit study day on sharing faith (on **February 24<sup>th</sup>**) and do come along if you can so that together we can find fresh ways and strengthen the old ways of making the love of Christ known. Can I also ask your prayers for those at Methodist Church House in London (where as you know Charlotte and I serve as chaplains) who are facing job uncertainty and all who are exploring the call to serve the Lord in new directions.

I write this during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, reminded again that though we are many, we are one body. In various ways this month I hope we will be able to demonstrate that!

With love and prayers,

Leo