

The Link Magazine

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

It is very tempting to play “leapfrog” at Easter! By which I mean, that we can easily jump from the excitement of Palm Sunday to the Joy of Easter and miss out everything that happens in between those two Sundays. If we do that both those special Sundays can lose their meaning and significance for us.

Jesus' “Palm Sunday” entrance into Jerusalem was not a Sunday School trip to the seaside for a bit of pleasure and relaxation. Jesus entered Jerusalem to confront the powers that were there with his vision of God's Peace and Kingdom. Jesus came to turn the tables, of our lives and worship, upside down. The days that followed the cleansing of the Temple show Jesus in painful controversy with the authorities of his day. It all comes to an unexpected end with the intimate fellowship with his disciples when Jesus shares the Passover Meal, and then dies painfully through the long lingering hours of crucifixion. These events show us the challenge and costliness of following Jesus in Christian Faith. No wonder we want to “leapfrog” over it.

Our Easter Faith doesn't celebrate the revival of an old order but the beginning of something new. As Colin Morris once put it: ‘The New isn't born out of the old but out of the death of the old’. In Mark's Gospel the women run away terrified from the tomb. New Life can be very scary! Easter Faith isn't a one-day wonder, but a journey of walking with the Risen Christ as God's New Life replaces our failure and mistakes with the realities of God's Kingdom here on earth.

So what needs to die for you, and what needs space to come to new birth?

Peace and Love

Robert

WORSHIP IN APRIL**LIDGETT PARK**

1st April	8.00 am	<i>Roundhay Park</i>	<i>Sunrise Service</i>
(Easter)	10.30 am	Revd Pat Creamer	<i>Holy Communion</i>
8th April	10.30 am	Mr John Clay	
15th April	10.30 am	Revd Dr Daniel Mwailu	
	6.30 pm	Oakwood Church	<i>United Service</i>
22nd April	10.30 am	Revd Melvyn Kelly	
29th April	10.30 am	Revd Andrew Atkins	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	6.00 pm	<i>St Andrews Church</i>	<i>Ecumenical Service</i>

THORNER

1st April (Easter)	9.00 am	Revd Robert Creamer	<i>Holy Communion</i>
8th April	9.30 am	Revd Dr Daniel Mwailu	<i>Holy Communion</i>
15th April	9.30 am	Mr Tom Alexander	
	6.30 pm	<i>Oakwood Church</i>	<i>United Service</i>
22nd April	9.30 am	Mr John Clay	
29th April	9.30 am	Mrs Ann Johnson	

PRAYER FOR CHANGE

Published also in the magazines of our partner churches, St Andrew's and St Edmund's.

In the north transept of Iona Abbey hangs a painting "The Crucifixion" by R. Le Maistre, portraying Christ as he cries out "It is finished". He has faithfully completed his task on earth, but our tasks remain. We must proclaim Christ's victory, take up our cross and follow Christ into the world, as we greet the resurrection day. Christ is risen indeed and goes before us into the world.



May God's goodness be yours.

May you be an isle in the sea, a hill on the shore, a star in the darkness, a staff to the weak. And may the love Christ Jesus gave fill every heart. **Amen.** (A traditional Celtic prayer)

GENERAL CHURCH MEETING

LADIES' GROUP REPORT

The Ladies' Group meets on alternate Thursdays in the Community Hall. We are a group of between 25 and 35 ladies, mainly from Lidgett Park, joined by some friends from St. Andrew's Church.

This year, we have enjoyed a wide variety of speakers, who have inspired, informed and entertained us. When topics were likely to interest a wider audience, we have opened our meetings to all.

We have had a variety of social evenings and our two trips out for lunch, in January and June were well attended and enjoyed.

Our Carol Service was, as usual, supported by many members of the Church and raised £350 for the Children's Heart Surgery Unit of the LGI. We are always happy to welcome new members and look forward to another successful year to come.

Marion Colbeck, President

DRAMA GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

In May 2017 we put on four short plays which were great fun to do. Irving Theaker our writer in residence then wrote a new Murder Mystery "A Cuckoo In The Nest " with which we went on tour during the Autumn. An extra performance of this play took place this past weekend and as a result of publicising the play to churches in the wider circuit , we will be touring again in Autumn 2018. We have recently completed our annual pantomime "Dick Whittington" which was seen by approximately 250 people ,most of whom were not members of the Church but came from the local area. We are looking forward to the next few months.

Carol Russell

CHURCH WALKING GROUP

In all weathers the faithful band of 10 or so has tramped the moors and dales every month enjoying good company, nature's beauty and soggy sandwiches. However, there is now an increasing move to replacing the latter with a good pub lunch. ***All Welcome.***

THE THURSDAY HOUSE GROUP

We have met about every two weeks, although recently the day of the week has varied between Monday and Thursday to avoid clashing with other events. The day is published well beforehand in the pew sheet and via a group email to interested people. We meet at 7.45 pm at Shadwell Methodist Church.

This year we have been using books from a series entitled Little Books of Guidance by well-known theologians on topics such as “Why does God allow suffering?” and “How do I pray?”. The books usually lead to a wide-ranging discussion around the subject. We have also been studying the Old Testament looking at the context in terms of history and geography, the origin of the texts and, more recently, we have had several sessions looking at the prophets.

All are welcome.

Stan Pearson

THE LINK

Mainly for reasons of cost we now print this in house. We feel it is important to keep the magazine free of charge and it is enjoying an increasing circulation around the community and the circuit. It is an important form of outreach, telling the community about the life of our church and what we stand for. I believe we have managed to maintain the quality as well as introduce some colour pages, but feedback on this would be welcome. I am aware that some find the print in the magazine too small and I will try and increase the font size, although this will reduce the amount of material we can include in each issue. Any thoughts on the magazine and its content would be welcome.

Stan Pearson, Editor

REPORT FROM WORSHIP CONSULTATION 2018

For some years there has been concern over the attendance at 8am communion during Lent, midnight communion on Christmas Eve and evening services. As a result the decision has been taken to end all these services. We shall continue to have the evening ecumenical service once a month, which will come to Lidgett Park every 3 months. There will also be the occasional circuit service.

We appointed a “Time for God” volunteer for our 3 churches and Adrian Brown came to work with young people in September. He works at Lidgett Park on Monday mornings in Playcentre, in the afternoon he joins Candystripe and on Thursday mornings he works in Mums and Toddlers. All 3 groups have

appreciated all that Adrian does. He has helped to build up the relationships between the church and the groups using our buildings. Adrian will be leaving us in August but I hope we shall be able to build on the foundations he has laid, with confidence, knowing how warmly we have been received.

Val led us in making felt angels this year. This project has also built up relationships with the group leaders, the parents and the children using our premises. Many have been involved in making the angels but only a few saw how much they were welcomed and appreciated by all who came to collect them. We are encouraged to make more this year.

A few of us went to "The Story of Light" in November at Chapel Allerton. This was led by Nick Blundell, who has been leading the West Yorkshire District Evangelism Initiative. We were all so enthused by Nick that we have invited him to lead our worship and our thinking on Sunday July 8th. We hope that this will give our church a new impetus and enthusiasm for mission so that we can build on the foundations of Adrian's work and Val's angels. Nick helped us to think about what we already do well and how we can build on that. A group will be meeting to prepare for this visit and anyone who would like to join this group would be welcome. Please have a word with Patricia Davies. Part of our preparation will involve prayer so please look out for prayer ideas in the link or on the notices.

There has been a study group at St. Andrew's during Lent, which those who attended found very helpful

We have been very grateful for the many Supernumerary Ministers and Local Preachers, who have led our worship during Daniel's absence.

Patricia Davies

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday March 2nd saw us host the annual Women's World Day of Prayer service. Because of the weather only two of the five services which should have been held in North Leeds went ahead.....in Roundhay we're made of tough stuff! 26 women and 4 men attended. Grateful thanks to all those taking part in the service who really put themselves out to get there. Especial thanks to Val Faint, David Wilks, and Patricia Davies, all of whom went beyond the call of duty. And not forgetting several people from all the churches who rushed to my aid when I keeled over just before the final paragraph.....more damage to my dignity than to anything else!

Pat Nolan

OPEN WELCOME PROJECT

The General Church Meeting in May 2017 agreed that the Church Project for 2017/18 would be one to open up the entrance to the Church from Lidgett Place and make that entrance of the church more welcoming. We have called the project "OPEN WELCOME" and we are very grateful for all the support we have received.

Because the Church is a listed building the negotiations about what we can do have been protracted. We have just reached agreement with the Methodist Church Conservation Officer about what we can do and these are to go to the Methodist Church Listed Buildings Advisory Committee on 16 or 17 April 2018 for formal approval. Only then can we complete the design of the scheme and finalise the overall price.

We have also made an application to the Leeds North and East Circuit Mission Fund for financial support towards the cost of the scheme of up to £30,000. We will not know how much (if any) financial support we will receive from the fund until the end of March.

At the time of writing this, the Church Project Fund for "OPEN WELCOME" has raised more than £10,000. We will not know how much more we need until we have an accurate price for the scheme, how much we are offered from the Circuit Mission Fund and whether there are any other sources of funding available.

The Church Project for each year is agreed at the General Church Meeting in May so we would normally agree the Church Project for 2018/19 at the General Church Meeting to be held on 6 May 2018. When we agreed the 2017/18 project we noted that it might have to be a two year project to raise sufficient money. Church Council at its recent meeting agreed that we should ask church members to start to think about the next Church Project now so that proposals can be discussed at the General Church Meeting. It may be that we cannot start a new project until 2019 if we need to continue fund raising for "OPEN WELCOME" or that we support "OPEN WELCOME" and another project on some shared basis as we have done in previous years. We are unlikely to know how much more we will need to raise at the May Church meeting. The Church Council will have to make the decision

when the financial position is clear.

If you have a proposal for the next project (whenever it starts) that you would like discussed at the General Church meeting then it would help in the discussion if you could set out details of the project in writing and let Stan Pearson (Editor of the LINK) have them by 15 April 2018 for inclusion in the May edition of the LINK. Those attending the General Church Meeting would have had the opportunity to read and think about any proposed project before the meeting.

Graham Saunders

Oasis Relief Zambia

Water...

Education...

Health ...

Hope...



Bringing Water to a

community is

Life-saving

Bringing education to a

community is

Life-changing

Bringing hope to a community

is

Everything



- **We never use donated monies for administrative costs**
- **We pay our own travel expenses**
- **We visit our projects on a yearly basis**
- **We take money with us and know exactly how much everything costs**
- **We deal directly with people on the ground whom we trust**
- **We empower communities to make their own decisions, instilling self-worth and confidence**
- **We pay locals to work for us, and encourage community ownership of all projects**



Over the last couple of years you have supported me so generously in my efforts to raise money for this small independent charity contributing a large proportion of going on £4000.. This charity is so, so well worth supporting, both for its own integral purpose, but also for the staggering amount of effort and personal funds, Maureen and Bernie and one or two others put into it, ensuring that *every last penny* given is actually taken to Zambia and spent on giving water, education and hope to the people it serves. Although I have put this forward previously as a church project, I am doing so again in prayerful faith that you will feel able to adopt it for next year's project.

Mary Patchett



THORNER NEWSLETTER

Our next Coffee morning at Thorner won't take place until Saturday June 23rd, 10-12 noon in the TMC Social centre. It will be in aid of Home and Overseas Methodist Missions, so please support this event if you can and make a note in your diaries now. Our usual bacon butties will be served. A BIG thank you to all who came from Lidgett Park and Oakwood church to support our March coffee morning, it was wonderful to see you all !

Our Lent Group, which took place on Monday mornings throughout Lent here in Thorner, was very well attended this year as last. We had people from the Methodist church (including a Lidgett member), the Church of England, the Roman Catholic church and also a Quaker at every session. We've had around ten or more people each week and all have thought the York course, called 'On the Third Day' to be worthwhile and thought provoking.

Spring is here at last; we see the sign of new life all around us as we celebrate Eastertide once again. It never ceases to amaze me, when contemplating Christ's Passion, just what God did for us on the Cross on that first Good Friday. Our God came to earth, to live our life and to die our death so that we, who believe in Him, may live eternally. A promise that we can read for ourselves (John 3:16).

After Good Friday came Easter Day! This is our Faith' let us never be afraid to declare it. Alleluia, He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! A Happy and Blessed Eastertide to you all from everyone here at Thorner Methodist Church!

Ann Johnson

Thorner Methodists' Senior Steward

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THOUGHTS TO PONDER

It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity. Albert Einstein

Egotist: a person more interested in himself than in me. *Ambrose Bierce*

BOOK REVIEW

Mr Golightly's Holiday by Sally Vickers

This is a book which is in turn thought provoking, amusing and tragic. It explores the relationships between life and death, loss and fulfilment and sin and redemption. I need to be careful about how much I reveal since much of the pleasure in the reading comes from the unexpected twists and turns in the plot. However, it is clear from early on that Mr Golightly is God, who has decided to take a break from his normal duties and spend some time with the people of a small village on Dartmoor called Great Calne. Ostensibly, the purpose of the break is to give him time and space to write a sequel to his great work, but he never gets round to this mainly because the people of Calne take up too much of his time and energy. The book finishes with a conversation between Mr Golightly and his rival, who we take to be Satan and who turns out to have some wise and interesting insights.

A central theme of the book is the way in which the villagers' lives adapt and change under Mr Golightly's influence and personality. But there is also the more challenging idea that the villagers also change Mr Golightly. It is the idea that God can learn from his creation, in this case the lives and personalities of the villagers. A created work is something distinct from its creator and it takes on a life of its own and this raises the question as to whether the creator would do the same again or, perhaps, approach things differently next time. As the book puts it '*no author has the last word on his own work. Once in the world it is the world's for the taking, — or the mistaking. —there is a great deal of hazard in human affairs*'.

The philosopher Hegel postulated that God might learn from creation and so be changed. The non-conformist preacher, Leslie Weatherhead in his book *The Will of God* addresses the question as to whether everything that happens in this world is God's will and concludes that it isn't. In the Bible we also have the idea that God can be made to change his mind (see, for example, Abraham arguing with God in Genesis 18) and that God can regret the way his creation has turned out (Genesis 6: 5-7). It is an idea that has fascinated thinkers down the ages especially when trying to come to terms with the way in which evil and suffering seem to be part of the created order.

The book is a good read, entertaining as well as thought provoking. I leave you with a quote on the subject of love, which I found very challenging '*..to love another means in some sense to put oneself in their person; and for that to be possible there must first be the extinction of the self*'.

Stan Pearson

WHAT DID LUTHER EVER DO FOR US? – A series reflecting on the influence of Martin Luther on Methodism by John Summerwill

6. Hymns and Psalms



'Methodism was born in song', says the Introduction to *The Methodist Hymn Book* (1933): and still we love congregational singing. The same could be said of the Protestant Reformation, for one of Luther's greatest gifts to the Church was to encourage hymn-singing, himself writing and publishing both hymns and tunes. Yet he was not the first to do so within the Reformation. A couple of decades earlier, in 1501, the Bohemian Brethren (also known as the Moravians) published their first hymn book, containing 89 hymns. In Catholic churches priests or choirs sang plainsong hymns in Latin: in the Moravian Church everyone could join in singing 'modern' hymns in their native German.

Whether Luther got the idea from the Moravians, I do not know. What he did was essentially the same and for the same reasons. Making worship accessible by using the vernacular, and encouraging full participation by everyone, gave real meaning to that phrase 'the priesthood of all believers.'

Luther included among his many talents and accomplishments a gift for writing verse and for composing and performing music. The foundations were laid in his schooldays at Eisenach, where the curriculum included four hours a week of music. He sang with a pleasant tenor voice in the St George's Church Choir and played both the lute and the flute. As a monk he became proficient in singing the plainsong hymns, psalms and liturgy. He drew on that inheritance and developed

it to make it accessible to others without his training, for he loved music and thought of it as a great gift of God to be used in God's service.

'Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits ... We marvel when we hear music in which one voice sings a simple melody, while three, four, or five other voices play and trip lustily around the voice that sings its simple melody and adorn this simple melody wonderfully with artistic musical effects, thus reminding us of a heavenly dance, where all meet in a spirit of friendliness, caress and embrace.

A person who gives this some thought and yet does not regard music as a marvellous creation of God, must be a clodhopper indeed and does not deserve to be called a human being; he should be permitted to hear nothing but the braying of asses and the grunting of hogs.'

Foreword to Georg Rhau's Collection *Symphoniae iucundae*, 1538

Luther himself wrote 42 hymns on a wide range of themes. There were hymns for all of the major seasons and festivals of the church year; for communion, baptisms and funerals; settings of the creed, commandments, Lord's Prayer and liturgical passages like the *Sanctus*; several psalms. They express a confession of faith rather than personal feelings, and are written in plain, simple language with regular metrical form to make them easy to sing. Wherever his basis was an existing text he expanded and transformed it rather than write a mere paraphrase in verse. He published the first of them within four years of the start of the Reformation and added more later in conjunction with the poet and composer Johann Walter. The tunes came from many sources: adaptations of Gregorian chants, Latin Office hymns, German religious folksongs, secular folk tunes and original tunes modelled in the character of German folk tunes. They were immediately popular and were widely sung in homes and secular gatherings as well as in church services. Out of them there developed that most characteristic of Lutheran musical styles, the harmonised chorale, which Johann Sebastian Bach would later perfect so sublimely.

Luther was not only a hymn composer himself: he encouraged a hymn revolution.

'I also wish that we had as many songs as possible in the vernacular which the people could sing during mass, immediately after the gradual and also after the Sanctus and Agnus Dei. For who doubts that originally all the people sang these which now only the choir sings or responds to while the bishop is consecrating? ... But poets are wanting among us, or not yet known, who could compose evangelical and spiritual songs, as Paul calls them (Col. 3:16), worthy to be used in the church of God ... I mention this to encourage any German poets to compose evangelical hymns for us.

Preface to Formulae Missae (1523)

Following Luther's lead, hundreds of hymn texts were translated into German or written anew. Nearly 100 hymnals were produced by the time of his death in 1546.

None of this would have been possible, of course, without the movable type printing press invented by Gutenberg in the previous century. Wittenburg had several printing houses by the time Luther needed them for his many books, including his German Bible and the hymn collections. Luther knew and exploited to the full the power of the printed word; so, later, did John Wesley.

As Methodists we are indebted to Luther for giving us one of the most treasured elements in our worship. Yet it was not directly from Luther that it came. The English Reformation, following Calvin, was reluctant to allow any congregational singing other than psalms or metrical psalms, which dominated throughout the 16th and 17th centuries. It was the Congregationalist Isaac Watts who first broke away from a slavish paraphrasing of psalms to making 'David sing like Christian' by using biblical texts as a jumping off point for more imaginative writing. The Wesleys admired Watts' work; Susanna used to sing his hymns with her children in the kitchen at Epworth. John was hugely impressed by the hymns of the Moravian missionaries with whom he shared a voyage to Georgia and translated and published 33 of them soon after his arrival there (having learnt German during the journey, partly from the hymns themselves!). When in 1738 Charles then John had their conversion experiences and wanted to sing about them, the pattern was there for them already. Charles wrote original hymns: John edited hymns and collected melodies (like Luther, he was a flautist). Both published often, and John compiled the definitive collection of 1780, *Hymns for the Use of the People Called Methodists*. (Curiously, John's hymns were all written before his conversion, Charles's afterwards.) Like Luther the Wesleys were happy to use secular tunes and to let the popularity of hymn singing be the means by which the gospel message could be fixed in people's hearts and minds. 'Whoever sings prays twice', as St Augustine said. We remember better words that we sing, and their significance for us grows as we sing them vigorously with others. When a hymn allows us to put thoughts and feelings into words better than we could ourselves devise, and a good tune carries it, the hymn becomes a prayer, a blessing, a means of grace.

Many of Luther's hymns are still in use in Lutheran churches. They were almost unknown in England until a romantic interest in antiquity in the 19th century led to a fashion for translations of poems from olden days. We in Methodism now know only these:

A safe stronghold our God is still (Psalm 46), translated by Thomas Carlyle, and sung to Luther's own tune Ein Feste Burg (HP 661 StF 623)

Out of the depths I cry to thee (Psalm 130), translated by the brilliant Unitarian champion of women's education Catherine Winkworth (who deserves an article all to herself), and sung to the fine Victorian chorale-like tune St Martin (HP429 StF 433)

Luther's lovely Christmas hymn in *Hymns and Psalms* (100) *From heaven above to earth I come* to his tune Von Himmel Hoch has, alas, dropped out of use.

The old *Methodist Hymnbook* also had Luther's fine Easter hymn *Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands* set to his tune *Christ Lag in Todebanden* (MHB 210).

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands
 For our offences given;
 But now at God's right hand he stands,
 And brings us life from heaven:
 Wherefore let us joyful be,
 And sing to God right thankfully
 Loud songs of Hallelujah!
 Hallelujah!

Next time: Holiness

Céliú
for Chernobyl

WITH LIVE BAND,
 'CAPTAIN BULLHEAD'

DANCING

SATURDAY 28th April 2018
6.30pm - 9.30PM

Tea, coffee & soft drinks available.

at **Bar**

QUEEN'S HALL, IMMACULATE HEART,
 294 HARROGATE ROAD, LEEDS, LS17 6LE

Entry Free but donations requested

32 years after the Chernobyl disaster, many people are still badly affected by radiation. This is a fund-raiser to pay for therapeutic holidays in Leeds for some of the children arranged by the Chernobyl Childrens' Project (Leeds).

<https://ccpleeds.wordpress.com>

CHERNOBYL
 CHILDREN'S PROJECT
 LEEDS

WEEPING WILLOWS – A MEDITATION

Look carefully at a weeping willow. How well it is named. The branches and leaves fall towards the ground, like someone bent over and in tears. When we cry we often bend over in this way. We are too weary to remain upright, too upset to attempt to show an uncaring face to our friends. We are past the point of putting on a show to our fellows. Our tears flow as a release, falling to the ground like the branches of the weeping willow.

The weeping willow forms a perfect shelter for those who would weep. You can sit beneath a sturdy oak and find little solace. But sit against the trunk of a weeping willow and you are surrounded by numerous hands – all soft, caressing, gently moving in the breeze. Unlike Jesus' crown of thorns, you are wearing a crown of green fingers which seem to be massaging away your tension, wiping away your tears, and letting you know that you are loved. The weeping willow seems to understand your sorrow, because it is sharing in it.

And we can be like weeping willows for one another. Are you seeking solace? Then, if possible, find someone who has also known tears and come through their painful experience. And, with their help, you will be enabled to come through yours, strengthened again and once more in control.

Probably there will come a time when a friend will gather beneath your hanging branches. Your tears will not have been wasted. They will ease the pain of that friend who has come to you for help. And this, in turn, will help that friend to become a weeping willow for somebody else in the future. In this way we seed one another, even when that seed is through our tears.

Who has been a weeping willow for us, giving shelter and solace in **our** time of sorrow and need? Have we been prepared to be a weeping willow for someone in **their** time of pain?

Gerry Leake

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Well-timed silence has more eloquence than speech.

Martin Farquhar Tupper

No one can earn a million dollars honestly.

William Jennings Bryan

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

There have been many arguments advanced over the years designed to explain the decline in church attendance in this country, which has now become so marked that it is said to be the case that the majority of the population do not have Christian belief. In this brief note I am not going to add much of any value to such debate as there is taking place about why this has happened, but I do draw attention to what may be a minor reason for this decline.

Something like thirty-five years ago, I was late going to Lidgett Park Methodist Church. This was because I only decided to attend at the very last moment. I had a very heavy university teaching load at the time, and the written work had to be handed back every Monday. So, I often used the weekends to do the marking, and with the rest of the family out of the way at church I had the necessary peace and quiet to do at least some of this work. That particular Sunday, though, I came to feel that I was not in the mood to do this work in a spirit of fairness. So, I decided to go to church after all, swiftly changed, and off I went. Noting that I looked smarter than usual, which would not be difficult, one of my neighbours, a much older man, called out to me as I passed his house, asking me where I was going. When I told him, he expressed regret that he was no longer a churchgoer, and he said to me something I thought interesting. This was that when he was much younger going to church had been a form of entertainment, and he seemed to imply a much needed form of entertainment.

Since the era that he must have had in mind, of course, Hollywood conquered the world, and, latterly, watching television has become more or less universal, and, of course, football attracts a form of fanaticism that represents a form of irreligious belief, often – at least in my opinion – bordering on madness. Against this competition, religion cannot hope to compete as a form of entertainment, but in what way did it ever have that role, always assuming that it did.

Without suggesting that I could do any better, or even as well, I have never found sermons, for instance, providing much in the way of entertainment. They can provide food for thought, as, indeed, do some of the other familiar features of church services. What, though, about the hymns? In my very distant youth, I well remember my Welsh grandfather going around a lot of the time singing hymns much in the way that later generations sang Sinatra standards or, more recently, pop music. I have to add that singing hymns did not do much to make my Welsh grandfather a better human being. When my family was bombed out for the second time in Bristol, he seemed to take a delight in travelling to that city to tell us that we could not take refuge in the large house that he had in a Monmouthshire coal mining village which, unlike

Bristol, the Luftwaffe would certainly ignore. So much for the working class socialist solidarity that he affected to believe in. That what he sang plainly meant nothing to types like him did not and does not necessarily mean that it meant nothing to others. Moreover, as a form of entertainment it did not have to mean anything anyway to the superficial beyond the opportunity to have a good sing song. There is another level, though. After all, many of the hymns have marvelous and inspiring words to go with magnificent tunes and especially at Lidgett Park Methodist Church where we have probably the best organist In England playing for us singing such hymns is an experience that many find inspiring.

GEOFFREY K. FRY

THY KINDOM COME

Thy Kingdom Come is a simple invitation to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for friends and family to come to faith. Now in its third year, participation has grown every year.

This year's *Thy Kingdom Come* is from 10th -20th May, and we, as the Yorkshire West Methodist District, have been asked to host a 'beacon' event. On Sunday 20th May we are taking over the John Charles Arena (aka South Leeds Stadium). The plan is to gather by 1.30pm, enjoy a couple of hours of activity and entertainment, before a time of worship at 3.30pm, with National Vice President Gill Baker as speaker and Stuart Townend as worship leader. The event will be ending by 6.00pm. There is more information on the Thy Kingdom Come website on: www.thykingdomcome.global

Tickets for the event are free and further details will be updated on our website: www.yorkshirewestmethodist.org.uk/news-events/events, but for now I ask you to pledge to pray for those ten days, and book the date for the Pentecost Party.

Rev Nick Blundell, District Mission Enabling Officer

SOME THOUGHTS ON BEAUTY

Nothing in human life, least of all religion, is ever right until it is beautiful.
Harry Emerson Fosdick

The hours when the mind is absorbed by beauty are the only hours when we really live.
Richard Jefferies

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY ROUNDHAY

Extracts from a sermon preached at Churches Together in Roundhay annual Covenant Service, by Revd Bridget Hawkins, 28th January 2018.

I believe that the Dementia Friendly Roundhay project, about which I've been invited to speak today, is about transformation and change in our local community and beyond.

Literature from 2018's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity states:

"God's mission in the world is a call to us all, to unite in ending injustice; both that which casts a shadow from the past and current forms of injustice such as poverty, trafficking and discrimination." Sadly, in today's world, people living with dementia still experience discrimination and injustice.

The Dementia Friendly Roundhay Project is being led by my colleague Maria Florez of Leeds Older People's Forum and myself, together with a task group of representatives from community agencies involved in healthcare and social well-being, and our local churches, with strong support from Lidgett Lane Community Centre. The focus of our work and ministry is threefold:

Ensuring that people living with dementia are always heard about what they want to see in their community, because no one knows a condition better than the person who lives it.

Making as many "Dementia Friends" as possible. This involves participating in a 45 minute interactive session which helps us understand what it's like to live with dementia. Becoming a Dementia Friend is the single most transformative action any of us can take, to help those living with dementia to live as well as possible.

Encouraging local businesses and organisations to become more dementia-friendly, through staff becoming Dementia Friends and improving signage in their premises.

In our Bible reading from Genesis we heard " So God created humankind in his image" (1:27), which we interpret as there being spiritual likeness between God and humanity, or alternatively, human beings are put into the world as a sign of God, to make God present (Ellen Van Wolde; *Stories of the Beginning*). If we profess that God is love, then either interpretation calls us to make Divine love a present reality in today's world, through love for God and our neighbour, including our neighbour living with dementia.

Maria wisely says “And this is where you can join in. This campaign is not just ours, it’s yours! Dementia does not discriminate against race, class, or faith. Yes, perhaps we’re working for ‘strangers’ to have an excellent quality of life after diagnosis; where they remain seen as a person and not a burden, where they keep contributing their amazing knowledge, skills and experiences to help us be a better community. But who knows if soon all this effort will benefit *you*, or a member of *your family*.”

We hope that understanding more about what you can do, will inspire you to take action. Experience shows that no action is ever too little or too big, to raise awareness about dementia, and support someone living with the condition.” Amen to that!

Revd Bridget Hawkins & Maria Florez

Find out more....

Twitter: @DFRoundhay Facebook: Dementia Friendly Roundhay

Become a Dementia Friend https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site_search/results/?q=How+do+I+become+dementia+Friend%3F&startNum=1

Listen to a personal story of being diagnosed with dementia:

[kevin synman - Yahoo Video Search Results](#)

Dementia Awareness Week 2018 is 21st-27th May; if you have an idea for an event during the week or would like to offer help, contact one of us:

bridget_hawkins_bfc@hotmail.com maria@opforum.org.uk

WHY?

Why do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on our driveways and put useless junk in our garage?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why is abbreviated such a long word?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

Why do supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people buy cigarettes at the front?

Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?

With thanks to Gipton Methodist Church.

WALLS

*I have been looking through copies of the Link from 1981-1983 and it has been fascinating to be reminded what was happening in Lidgett at that time. I thought people would be interested in the following by **Barbara Massey**. Ed.*

“It’s laughable, isn’t it?”, came an English voice from the crowd. I hoped our hosts hadn’t heard, but I could understand what he meant. “Never laughable, for the people of Berlin”, I replied. We were standing on one of the viewing points, looking over The Wall towards the Brandenburg Gate. Some East German workers were obviously preparing alterations to the defence system: they were being photographed by West German soldiers, who in turn were being snapped by their East German counterparts. Laughable?

The Wall is omnipresent in West Berlin. About ten feet high, in the city centre it winds around previous electoral boundaries, striking out like a reef into the western sector, only to withdraw in an apparently meaningless way some yards further on. A main road peters out into wasteland, and a couple of hundred yards further on it reappears. If your child falls into water in one part of the canal he is beyond the boundary; on a piece of spare land if he ventures among the bushes following his dog he may well be shot at or taken and held for ransom. Children learn early in West Berlin. Parts of the wall are covered by graffiti. One message reads “When I die I will go to heaven, because I live in hell.” Who has risked his life to scrawl this on the wall?

We went for a tour of the lovely countryside to the west of the sector, along the fresh green woodland and lakes. A three-hour boat trip ran alongside the border for most of its way, marked by buoys in the water and by The Wall at the far edge - lit up for its whole length, and with watch towers every hundred metres or so. A regular bit of ‘aggro’ by the West Berliners is to sail as close as possible to the line of buoys, to the annoyance of the East German patrol boats. Every year, even now, scores of East Berliners escape to the West, and every year hundreds more obtain their freedom by being “bought” by the West German authorities - a committee sits regularly to assess who shall be purchased. Only those over 65 may return of their own free will.

“How could they allow it to happen?” cried Sigrid. “Why didn’t they tear it down as it was going up, with their bare hands if necessary?” Relatives and friends were lost to each other overnight. (Imagine suddenly a line being drawn down Harrogate Road, straight through the heart of Leeds, allowing no further contact with those on the other side.) We all build walls; The Wall in Berlin, road blocks in Belfast, barricades in our own hearts. Why don’t we tear them all down as they are going up, before they have a chance to be strengthened and made impregnable?

And, of course, since this was written we have the wall dividing Palestinians from Israelis in the Holy Land. Ed.

TEARFUND IN MOZAMBIQUE

I heard a talk on the charity below given at our Probus Club by a Methodist Local Preacher from Whetherby and I think it may be of general interest. I include it not for consideration as a church project for this year but one to think about for 2019 - 2020. Ed.

Tearfund is a UK based Christian charity who work in over 40 countries, committed to providing relief to those living in poverty. They have been involved in the fight against HIV-AIDS, Malaria and other health issues, and are frequently active in disaster relief and food programmes, and are members of the DEC – the UK Disasters Emergency Committee.

Tearfund usually operate through the local church or local church-based partners. In this way they are better able to both reach and influence the poorest people. Since long-term relationships are built with their partners Tearfund are able to react very quickly indeed in, for example, disaster situations since they already have a network of caring local people in the country concerned.

However, Tearfund are also committed to getting alongside the poor and helping them to develop sustainable and fulfilling lifestyles without over-reliance on western agencies. In Africa, Tearfund developed a process of how the church can reach out to the community around it. This was introduced in Uganda and is now being used in several other countries, including Mozambique. The process is known as Umoja, which means togetherness.

The process is tailored to local cultures, but essentially consists of training pastors, facilitators, and interested members in development. The first stage is Bible Study. This is so important because it emphasises hope and reliance on God. Simple Development ideas are linked to the Bible studies. The next stage is for the church to meet with their local community leaders and to discuss and agree the key issues facing all the community. The church and the local leaders then begin to create change.

This might lead to for example: the creation of groups who generate income by making and selling simple items like brooms or flip flops; or growing vegetables using undeveloped land with government blessing to provide food with the surplus providing income; or savings groups who pool their resources; or the establishment of adult literacy classes; support for schoolbooks for children – these are not free in Mozambique; or support for



those affected by the HIV-Aids epidemic especially orphans and vulnerable children.

Volunteers are not difficult to find as many small communities in Mozambique, even those with mixed religions, already look out for their neighbours. The picture above shows a group of women volunteers from the local church and village who provide support every day for up to 80 orphan and vulnerable children in their community.

A specific case: in Sussendenga, a small village in central Mozambique, the pump at the local well had been broken for several years, and no-one had spares to fix it. Consequently women had to make a round trip of almost 3km each day to get water. The church and community identified the cost of several spares packs, and how to repair the pump. The church members provided a tiny amount of cash out of their pockets, collected over several months at worship, until there was sufficient money to buy the spares. The picture below shows Pastor Faro from the church at Sussendenga at the new well. The timber stakes around the pump were erected to prevent animals from getting too close to the new pump.



Alan Lyness Bell

FRACKING IN YORKSHIRE

Come along to a talk and discussion on fracking by our local MP, Fabian Hamilton, and the Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Rebecca Long-Bailey. There will be plenty of time for questions and debate. All are welcome.

Where: St Andrews URC Church Hall, Devonshire Crescent, LS8 1DS.
(Entrance to hall is through carpark behind the church)

When: 15th April at 3pm to 4.45pm

Organised by the Roundhay Environmental Action Project (REAP), St Edmunds Green Group and Green Sparks

For further information email info@reap-leeds.org.uk

FROM OUR DRAMA CRITIC

For several years I have wished that my grandchildren could come to the Lidgett pantomime but the logistics of coming from the wilds of Gloucestershire precluded it. This year they made it. It was their first ever panto and they were completely enthralled, as were the other children in the audience, most of whom were under ten.



The pantomime had everything; a witty script, appalling jokes, "how do you make a jacket last? Put on the trousers first", excellent scenery which even moved to depict the sea, colourful costumes and plenty of audience

participation. The music was a treat with lots of songs which the audience could sing. As usual there were parts for children, numerous rats marshalled by King Rat, fairies and the talented Cat who transformed Dick's fortunes. All the parts were very ably played. The alderman pontificated, the skivvy skivvied, the sultan exulted, the pilferers entertained, the cook ordered, Dick and Alice ended up happy ever after. There was even icecream in the interval. Mercifully no buckets of pop corn.

The whole production was played with gusto and evident enjoyment! The children's verdict? "It was very funny and I liked the cat best" Isabella 7.

"It was hilarious and I do wish I could be in it. I liked the robbers best" 9.

For many years now the Drama Group has entertained the wider community as well as Lidgett. There are regular attenders. The Group has contributed substantially to Church project funds. Of greater importance however, the Group has brought local people into the church building, given them a warm welcome and a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Thank you Drama Group.



HEATHER FRY

THOUGHT TO PONDER

A doctor can bury his mistakes but an architect can only advise his clients to plant vines.

Frank Lloyd Wright (Architect)

LIDGETT PARK LADIES' GROUP

We are a group of ladies who meet in the Community Hall on alternate Thursday evenings at 7.45 pm. We usually have a Speaker, refreshments, and plenty of chat! We are a really friendly group and would welcome new Members. There is a small charge of £3 to cover Speakers' charges. The programme for April is as follows:-

5th April. Noel Moroney is coming again. This time his talk will be on "**Skipton Castle**".

19th April Jan Rippin will be telling us about her Father in her talk entitled "**Christian, Footballer, Soldier**". And about his connection to the window in the Church.

A quick reminder about the meeting in early May - we hope to have St. Matthews' Handbell Choir with us on the 3rd.

Lynne and Anne

Thorner MC Fund Raising Events Programme for 2018

Sat Jun 23 rd	10-12noon	Home and Overseas Missions
Sat Sept 15 th	10-12noon	St Gemma's
Sat Nov 17 th	10-12noon	MHA/AFC (50/50)

SHADWELL METHODIST CHURCH *Cafe Morning 10.00 am - 12.30 pm*

Dates and specialties as follows :

17th April	Baked Potatoes
15th May	Toasties
19th June	Bacon Butties
17th July	Toasties

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THE TEA COSY + DEMENTIA CAFÉ

An opportunity for people with dementia and their carers to meet for lunch and have a sing-along. Open the first Wednesday of every month, 11am - 1.30pm, Lidgett Lane Community Centre, LS17 6QP. Tea and coffee, homemade sandwiches and cakes, support for carers and Singing for the Brain. £2.50 per person including lunch. Call Susie Broome on 0113 266 6476 if you require any further information.

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