

## ***The Link Magazine***

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### **MINSTER'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

I am not very good at foreign languages, but I do know that AVEC is French for "with".

Many of the people reading this magazine will remember George Lovell, and know that a key aspect of his ministry was developing the AVEC project. This project was set up to help ministers and churches learn how to work "with" people and communities rather than "for" them; the emphasis in ministry was to be on working collaboratively rather than hierarchically.

In February, a few of us from Lidgett gathered with many other people who had been influenced by George's ministry and wisdom, for a service of Thanksgiving for George's life, that took place in the Methodist Central Hall in Westminster. Those who spoke in the service gave repeated testimony to George's wisdom, insight, grace and humility. He exercised an enabling ministry that empowered others to fulfil their calling, through his non-directive approach to consultancy.

The Lenten period can give us all the opportunity to reflect on and pray about our own Christian calling. Jesus began his ministry with that time of testing reflection in the wilderness, working out his own ways to proclaim and embody the values of the Kingdom of God. The wilderness story shows Jesus challenging the temptation to compromise his calling, by seeking his own power and glory, rather than God's Kingdom.

It is for us to work out our own pathway in discipleship. It is easy just to “drift along”, doing what we always do without any new reflection or thought. The rhythm of the Christian year gives us all an annual opportunity in Lent to face the forces that push away from “seeking first the kingdom of God”, and redirect our focus on what truly is involved in fulfilling our calling. Such enabling consultancy was a feature of George’s ministry: may we be able to reflect again on re-discovering our calling, as we journey together through Lent.

Love and peace

**Robert**

## WORSHIP IN APRIL

<b>7th April</b>	10.30 am	Mrs Susan Howdle	<i>Passion Sunday</i>
<b>14th April</b>	10.30 am	Revd Robert Creamer	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
<b>18th April</b>	07.30 pm	<i>St Edmunds Church</i>	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> <i>Holy Communion</i>
<b>19th April</b>	10.30 am	Revd Robert Creamer	<i>Good Friday</i>
<b>21st April</b>	06.00 am	<i>Sunrise Service</i> <i>Roundhay Pk</i>	<i>Easter Day</i>
	10.30 am	Revd Phil Chilvers	<i>Holy Communion</i>
<b>28th April</b>	10.30 am	Dr Stanley Pearson	
	6.00 pm	<i>St Andrews Church</i>	<i>Ecumenical Service</i>

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The annual service for the World Day of Prayer was, as ever, on the first Friday in March and this year our local one was hosted by St Andrews. Despite perfect weather in contrast to last year, a disappointingly small number (39) attended. The service, prepared by Slovenian women, had the theme of 'Come for all is now ready' and made us consider who we would invite to God's feast. Grateful thanks to all who took part and all who attended.

**Pat Nolan**

## PRAYER FOR CHANGE

*These prayers are published also in the magazines of our ecumenical partners, St Andrew's Church and St Edmund's Church.*

“Isaiah was called (Ch. 6) not to results and success, but to obedience. He is to preach to a people who will not listen, to offer healing that is not accepted, but to carry on ‘until the cities lie in ruins and without inhabitants, until the houses lie desolate and the fields are ruined and ravaged’ (v11). Who wants a ministry like that? But that is what we have been called to. Whether the occupant in the White House is sympathetic or not, whether the Church at large understands or not, our task is to continue to proclaim this truth: that God loves His creation, and has given us the task of caring for it”

***Amen***

(Ed Brown of the Lausanne Creation Care Movement)  
From Green Christian 's prayer Guide for the care of creation

### ***Lighting a candle is a prayer***

When we have gone it stays alight,  
Kindling in the hearts and minds  
Of others and the prayers  
We have already offered for them,  
For the sad, the sick, the suffering,  
And prayers of thankfulness too.

### ***Lighting a candle is a parable***

Burning itself out,  
It gives light to others.  
Christ gave himself for others.  
He calls us to give ourselves.

### ***Lighting a candle is a symbol***

Of love and hope,  
Of light and warmth.  
Our world needs them all.

*With thanks to Newbourne Church. Ed.*

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW GILBERT?

*From time to time we print in the Link details of individual members of the Church who have played a prominent part in our church life. Gilbert has written the following. Ed.*

I have been wondering for the last 5 or 6 years whether to write something about myself in the Link. My name is Gilbert Ayodele Jarrett. Gilbert after my father. I was born in Sierra Leone in West Africa just after the Second World War. Ayodele is my African name meaning 'joy in the family', for I was born shortly after my parents got married, my dad having been away during the war, so it was a joy to have him back and hence the name.

I grew up with my two sisters and three brothers. We all grew up in the family house in Freetown, the capital city. It was a truly family house in the sense that my father and his family lived upstairs, while my grandmother, my aunt and her two sons were downstairs. My aunt has lost her husband and my grandfather died before I was born. My aunt was responsible for looking after my grandma. Another aunt and her family lived next door and we all shared the same compound. This gave our grandmother total control over her grand kids and, as an ex school teacher, whatever she said or wanted us to do got done...She was a dedicated Methodist even though our grandad was Anglican, she took all her grand children with her to her church.

The house was a two-story wooden house with three bedrooms upstairs and two bedrooms downstairs plus an extension with two more rooms. The kitchen, bathroom and toilet were all outside as was common in those days, but all that has now been changed since my late dad rebuilt the house with all modern conveniences inside.

I finished my schooling in 1965 with my GCEs, which gained me admission to a technical training school where I did my City and Guild examinations in telecommunications in Freetown. In 1970 I came to the UK to continue with my studies in engineering at the

Bolton Institute of Technology. In 1973 I began my studies at Leeds Polytechnic where got my HNC in engineering. I got married to Theresa and began my family.

Owing to the 10 years war and the continued political problem in Sierra Leone we were unable to return back home. As a result, I took up employment as a production operative at a food factory in Wakefield. I was there for five years but was not very happy. I eventually got a job as lab technician at Roundhay School, and after two years moved to Horsforth school as Senior Laboratory Technician. While I was working as technician in this school I became attracted to the teaching profession and that was when I found out that I needed to have a degree to get into teaching in a high school. So in 1989 I started studying with the Open University, which was very tough, as you have to cope with a young family and work as well. I managed it and in 1995 I got my BSc. degree in science and technology. However having worked in school for nearly ten years and seeing what teachers have to put up with and having to study for another year for my PGTC I decided to give it up and continue as Science Technician. After 25years I retired in 2012.

Now what brought me to Lidgett Park Methodist Church. Prior to coming to Lidgett I stopped going to church even though I use to take my daughter to her Catholic church. So, one Saturday evening I went to see a Jamaican friend whose mother died exactly a year to the day of his father's death. He had like a wake in his house as he was traveling to Jamaica the next day. Prayers were said with lots of singing and refreshment. It was during this period that I said to myself "I don't know why I am not going to church." I must have said it a bit loud because this lady who I did know said "You should go to church you know, you were not brought up not to go to church." So, when I got home that evening I said to Theresa, "I am going to church in the morning. It has to be a Methodist Church, it has to be Local and I have to like the church. I will start with the one on Lidgett Park Road. The following day not knowing what time the service started I was late.

At the door waiting to go in was this lady who I told that I had never been there before. She said don't worry come and sit here .That lady was Dorothy Carr. Hence the reason I have always sat at the back behind Chris, Maureen and Heather, who spoke to me after the service and made me welcome.

I began attending Lidgett Park Methodist Church two years before Revd John Sadler left, which means I have been a member here now for over 23 years. During this time, I have been a longstanding member of the church choir and have served as a church steward. Since my retirement I help with the work of the property committee helping to maintain the church premises.

In addition to my church work, I have been a long-standing member of the Free Masons. I first joined in 1967 in Sierra Leone when I was 20 years old and in 2017 celebrated my 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Free Mason. During this time, I have served for two periods as Master of my Lodge. The friendship I enjoy in my masonry and my association with this church is second to none. These two organizations have given me confidence and treated me with dignity and respect, for which I would like to say a big thank you to all. Thank you.

***Gilbert***

## **WHAT'S IN THE NEWS**

Two articles came to my attention. The first is a book review in the Independent (March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019). It is a book review by Fergus Butler-Gallie in the section on Religion. The book on question is '*Angels: A Visible and Invisible History*' by Peter Stanford, Hodder and Stoughton. The interesting point is made that, according to a 2016 survey, two thirds of Britons believe that they have an angel watching over them and nearly 10% of professed atheists give credence to angels. There are many references in the Bible to angels, both in the Old Testament and the New, but they were also a feature of Greek and Roman culture and a subject for

philosophical debate and art in the Middle Ages. Stanford claims they feature in the birth of every religion. They continue to flourish in modern times, for example, the Angel of Mons in World War I. It sounds like a fascinating book and one which I will put on my suggestions for my birthday and Christmas presents.

The second article was in the Independent as well (2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 (Magazine Section)). The article by Elizabeth Dias, entitled *'It isn't a closet, it's a cage'*, deals with the subject of child abuse in the Roman Catholic Church.

*'The closet of the Roman Catholic Church hinges on an impossible contradiction. For years, church leaders have driven gay congregants away in shame and insisted that "homosexual tendencies" are "disordered". And yet, thousands of the church's priests are gay.'*

Gay men make up 30 to 40% of American Catholic clergy but some priests say the number is closer to 75%. Some have been expressly forbidden to come out or even speak about homosexuality. Most are in active ministry and could lose more than their jobs if they are outed. The church almost always controls a priest's housing, health insurance and pension. He could lose all three if his bishop finds his sexuality disqualifying, even if he is faithful to his vows of celibacy.

So, it seems we have the unhealthy situation where the recognition and needs of gay clergy within the Catholic church are suppressed. One priest in a rural diocese said the attitude reminds him of how his elementary school forced left-handed students to write with their right hand. "You can be taught to act straight in order to survive," according to this priest. Furthermore, there is the prevailing view that the fact that many priests are gay is the cause of child abuse within the church, despite the findings that studies repeatedly show there to be no connection between being gay and abusing children. And yet prominent bishops have singled out gay priests as the root of the problem.

There seems to be a fundamental issue within the Roman Catholic Church for both straight and gay clergy. The fear of sexuality and the insistence on celibacy distorts human relationships and perhaps the church needs to be addressing this rather than spending so much time on sexual orientation itself. Perhaps it is this distortion of human relationships that is the real root of the problem.

***Stan Pearson***

## **THOUGHTS FROM A HOUSE GROUP**

The Thursday house group is currently using the York Course 'Glimpses of God: hope for today's world'. At our last two sessions we have been looking at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, something we have studied before in our last course on the Psalms. There are two main images in the psalm, that of the shepherd who leads rather than drives his sheep, accompanying them on their search for food and water, and the image of God as the host who spreads a table before us.

The psalm raises lots of questions about the problem of suffering, discerning the presence of God in our lives, understanding the will of God at critical moments even if this becomes clear later as we look back on things. Fundamentally, it is a psalm about trust and a challenge to us to open up our lives to be sensitive to a God accompanies us on life's journey.

***Stan Pearson***

## **THOUGHTS TO PONDER**

God did not say, "You shall not be tempest-tossed, you shall not be weary, you shall not be discomforted." But he said, "You shall not be overcome." *Julian of Norwich*

"In peace I will lie down and sleep for you alone Lord, make me live unafraid." *Psalm 4*



## I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE (John 6: 48)

Be gentle  
 when you touch bread.  
 Let it not lie  
 uncared for, unwanted.  
 So often,  
 bread is taken for granted.

There is such beauty in bread:  
 beauty of sun and soil,  
 beauty of patient toil.  
 Wind and sun have caressed it;  
 Christ often blessed it.  
 Be gentle when you touch bread.

*I can't remember who gave me this, but thank you (Editor).*

## THE CHURCH (found in St Aidan's Church Bamburgh)

In this church:

**We meet** together to pray to God and to celebrate the sacraments.

**We care** for one another and help each other grow in faith.

**We are** ordinary people, who are concerned for and get involved in the life of the community in which we live.

**We pray** for the needs of the poor everywhere, and try to find ways of working for peace and justice for all.

**We accept** our responsibility to use our gifts and talents of the benefit of others and in caring for God's world

## QUIZ

Lidgett people like their food (as the project group know well). Here are some suggestions for desserts at our next food event. Read the clue and then write down the name of the dessert (answers on Page 16. The number of words and letters are shown in brackets.)

1. What Cameron and his school chums created (4,4)
2. Good job I can dance and speak Russian (7)
3. The collapse of a technology empire (5,7)
4. It's of no significance (5)
5. Characters in a children's TV programme (7,3,7)
6. Appropriate for December (8,7)
7. Appropriate for July and August (6,7)
8. Dame Nellie's favourite (5,5)
9. Little chewy retro sweets but rather more healthy (5,5)
10. The joy of wearing baggy kneed trousers (13,5)
11. To serve with an ace (12,3,5)
12. Let's share that piece of fruit (6,5)
13. A type of fish maybe (5)
14. Fun to eat in LA (5,7)
15. Sticky and absorbent, suggested the dormouse (7,6)
16. What our jobs provide, perhaps (5,3,6,7)
17. Something to do with eating white stuff in France (10)
18. Rhymes with the castle in Narnia (5,7)
19. No fun for the penguins, sadly. Wrong end. (5,4)
20. Is it hot or cold there? (5,6)
21. Osbert (anag) (6)
22. One of a acrobatic troupe stuck in traffic (3,4,4)

***With thanks to Lynne Hudson***

## THOUGHTS TO PONDER

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.  
*Charles Dickens*

If only we'd stop trying to be happy, we could have a pretty good time.  
*Edith Wharton*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Abraham Lincoln is the only US president ever to be granted a patent. He invented an hydraulic device for lifting ships over shoals.

A standard size lead pencil can draw a 35 mile long line or write around 50,000 words in English.

Hawaii has the only royal palace in the United States - "Iolani Palace".

Liberia is the only country with a capital city named after an American president. Monrovia is named after James Monroe.

The hummingbird is the only bird that can fly backwards.

The king of hearts is the only king without a moustache on a standard playing card.

The Congo is the only river that flows both north and south of the equator. It crosses the equator twice.

Libre - the Scales - is the only inanimate symbol in the zodiac.

Antarctica is the only continent without reptiles.

Every time you lick a stamp, you are consuming one tenth of a calorie.

***You know now, with thanks to Gipton Methodist Church. Ed.***

## THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Honesty pays, but it doesn't seem to pay enough to suit some people. *Kin Hubbard*

The habit of giving only enhances the desire to give.  
*Walt Whitman*

## LAUGHTER IS GOOD MEDICINE

Harry Secombe's visit to Pentonville Prison may have been intended to provide a little innocent escapism for the inmates, but one song didn't go down as well as he'd hoped. It was *Bless This House*, which includes the lines: *Bless these walls so firm and stout, Keeping strife and trouble out...*

When Peter Sellers was a young actor, he met a girl at a dance and asked if he might take her home. It was a beautiful evening and so he suggested that they should walk along the bridle path. The young lady's response? 'Oh, Peter, don't you think it's a little early to think of getting married?'

During a reception at Number 10 Downing Street, Mrs Mary Wilson was entertaining guests while her husband was completing some urgent paperwork upstairs. A group of the guests were discussing religion, and one of them said, 'At least we know there is one above who knows all the answers.' Having heard only the last sentence of the discussion, Mrs Wilson said brightly, 'Yes, indeed. Harold will be down in a minute.'

A man was driving his friend along a country road when a car suddenly appeared round a corner, and on the wrong side of the road. Both drivers swerved and a collision was avoided. But the woman who was driving the other car lowered her window and shouted 'Pigs!' as she went by.

Amazed at this unprovoked abuse, the man muttered, 'Women drivers', turned the corner.... and drove straight into a herd of pigs.

A vicar gave a lady in his parish a birthday present of a Bible. She asked him to write his name in it. He did so, inscribing it as a gift 'From the author'.

Printed in a local newspaper:

'We apologise for the error in last week's paper in which we stated that Mr Arnold Dogbody was a defective in the police force. This was a typographical error. We meant, of course, that Mr

Dogbody is a detective in the police farce and we are sorry for any embarrassment.

A conversation between a wife and her husband:

Wife to husband: ‘What are you going to do today, dear?’

Husband: “Nothing”.

Wife: “But you did nothing yesterday.”

Husband: “Yes, I know, but I haven’t finished yet.”

## ***Gerry Leake***

### **A LETTER FROM IRVING**

Historically the Methodist Church did fine work in combating the social evils of drunkenness, and family money misspent on drink.

Church members were expected to sign the pledge of total abstinence, which my father had to do with a cross in 1906 when he was four years old, and my mother as a young girl belonged to the Band of Hope, chanting ‘Shame the Devil, and shun the drink’ outside public houses, finishing with a chorus of ‘My drink is Water Bright, From the crystal clear.’

Even in my youth Temperance Sunday was an important event on the Methodist calendar.

But may I ask how relevant is this today? How many, if any, Members feel it’s wrong to enjoy wine or beer?

And does it still make sense to ban alcohol from Church premises?

Immaculate Heart has a bar on its premises. We take bottles of wine to drink at St Andrew’s for Drama productions, and St Edmund’s sold alcoholic drinks when we took our Murder/Mystery there. And there has been no consequential bad behaviour.

This question has arisen because this year Lidgett Park Drama Group celebrates its Golden Jubilee (Yes, some of us are that old!)

and we wanted to have a glass of wine with our meal. Which has been refused. Rules are rules.

We therefore considered moving our Jubilee Evening to either St Andrew's or St Edmund's, but came to the decision to be loyal to Lidgett Park, and forgo the wine.

May I ask, is it not time to revisit this historical ban? What do people outside the Methodist Church think of this curious ruling, which I've heard caricatured with 'No sherry in sherry trifles on the premises.'

This is not written on behalf of the Drama Group. It is a personal statement, though I know many people show sympathetic understanding of what I'm asking.

***Irving Theaker***

*Any comments? Ed.*

## **PANCAKE PARTY UPDATE**

You are absolutely amazing. Thank you all so much, both those who attended and those who didn't but so generously contributed so much nevertheless. You have donated a running total of £952.

Thank you to each and every one of you. Yet again we have raised enough for two thirds of a borehole. For those children and adults, whose lives will be transformed. They no longer have to walk miles to collect water, risk being threatened, raped or murdered, risk infections from dirty water. Children who may be able to attend school.

On behalf of each and every adult and child whose life holds more hope and promise because of your generosity and willingness to enjoy yourself - THANK YOU SO MUCH

***Mary and the Oasis Relief team***

## LIDGETT PARK LADIES' GROUP

Meeting on alternate Thursday evenings at 7.45 pm in the Community Hall. There is a small charge of £3 to cover the cost of refreshments and the Speaker's fees. We hope you will think it well worth it.

**11th April.** An OPEN meeting, everyone welcome. Mary (Patchett) will be encouraging support for "Oasis Relief Zambia".

**25th April.** Dorothy Carr will be telling of her "Early Years of Marriage 1955-1961: a Surprising Story". Sounds intriguing.

Our annual Coffee Evening will be held on the 9th May. May we remind all gardeners out there, to add a few extra seedlings and bring along the results for our Plant stall. Thank you very much.

***Lynne and Anne***

## SHADWELL METHODIST CHURCH

***Cafe Morning 10.00 am - 12.30 pm***

16th April	Easter Treats
21st May	Paninis and Toasties
18th June	Bacon Butties
16th July	Paninis and Toasties
20th August	Bacon Butties
17th September	Soups

There will also be the usual wide range of delicious home-baked cakes and scones and a variety of styles of coffee. The company is excellent so come and meet the people of Shadwell

**QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. Eton Mess
2. Pavlova
3. Apple Crumble
4. Trifle
5. Rhubarb and Custard
6. Christmas Pudding
7. Summer Pudding
8. Peach Melba
9. Fruit Salad
10. Knickerbocker Glory
11. Strawberries and Cream
12. Banana Split
13. Jelly
14. Angel Delight
15. Treacle Sponge
16. Bread and Butter Pudding
17. Blancmange
18. Creme Caramel
19. Arctic Roll
20. Baked Alaska
21. Sorbet
22. Jam Roly-Poly



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