

The Link Magazine

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April 2020

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MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

I am writing these words at the end of a day of contrasts. Early this morning, I set out on my journey in the cold and fog, as I made my way, cautiously, to my destination. Late this afternoon, I

journeyed back along the same route in sparkling, warm sunshine, glad to experience the early signs of Spring. In many ways March and April can be months of surprising contrasts. During March our journey through Lent and Passiontide continued, but the glory of Easter will burst into new life as we travel through month of April.

A friend was recounting her visit up Farnhill Pinnacle, near where I used to live, highlighting a walk up through the woods. With the pinnacle in sight, my friend had been particularly struck by the final stage of her journey. On one side of the path there was an expanse of grey-black burnt moorland. On the opposite side there was a blaze of colour: the yellow of the gorse and the purples of the heather.

Perhaps this contrast could be illustrative of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The barren, lifeless expanse evokes a sense of the suffering of Jesus upon the cross. The yellow and purple carpet of plants cries out about the joy of the day when God raised Jesus from the dead.

As my friend noted, the path clearly separated the two different sights. What her eyes took in depended upon the way she was

facing. She could angle herself so that she could see either only one side of the path or the other, or so that she saw a combination of the two views.

We encounter many contrasting experiences in life. Some are extremely traumatic and sad. At such times all can appear dark and desolate. The message of Good Friday is that God, through Jesus, has entered into that kind of experience and continues to share in the pain and suffering of individuals within his world. Other occasions are full of joy and celebration, of life and colour. These are echoes of the wonder of Easter Day, when Jesus, through his resurrection and the power of love, overcame evil and all that seeks to destroy life. God shares with us in these moments of great pleasure when we are glad to be alive. However, perhaps generally, we live between the lows and the highs and the scenery appears to be a blend of bad and good. In those times too, God walks with us as our companion and offers help along the way.

Obviously, I do not know how life feels for you at present, more like a Good Friday, or an Easter Day, or somewhere in-between. However, like the apostle Paul, I trust that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God. So, this Holy Week and Easter, I hope and pray that you will know something of God's loving presence, however bad or good life seems to be.

Every blessing,

Tanya

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good. ***Samuel Johnson***

It is hard to believe that a man is telling the truth when you know that you would lie if you were in his place. ***H L Mencken***

Magnificent promises are always to be suspected.

WORSHIP IN APRIL

LIDGETT PARK

05 April	8.00 am	Revd Tanya Short	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	10.30 am	Mrs Patricia Davies	
09 April	7.30 pm	Revd Tanya Short	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> <i>Holy Communion E</i>
10 April	9.45 am	Revd Tanya Short	<i>Good Friday</i>
	11.45 am	<i>Walk of Witness</i>	<i>Roundhay Park</i>
12 April	6.00 am	<i>Sunrise Service</i>	<i>Easter Day</i>
	10.45 am	Revd Tanya Short	<i>Holy Communion</i>
19 April	10.30 am	Revd Melvin Kelly	
26 April	10.30 am	Revd Tanya Short	<i>General Church Meeting</i>
	4.00 pm	<i>Christ Church</i>	<i>Circuit Service</i>
	6.30 pm	<i>St Edmunds Church</i>	<i>Ecumenical</i>

SHADWELL

05 April	9.30 am	Revd Tanya Short	
12 April	9.30 am	Revd Tanya Short	<i>Holy Communion</i>
19 April	9.30 am	Revd Tanya Short	
26 April	9.30 am	Mrs Ann Johnson	
	4.00 pm	<i>Christ Church</i>	<i>Circuit Service</i>

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer service this year took place at St. Andrews church on the evening of Friday March 6th. It was prepared by women of Zimbabwe and was a timely reminder of how much harder everyday life is in countries other than the privileged West. About 55 people attended, with good representation from all three churches. Next year the service will return to Lidgett, and will come from Vanuatu. Prepare to be asked to take part!

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.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. (Psalm 24.1).

Creator God,

We know so much but have learned so little.

Our knowledge grows at an ever-increasing rate,

But our understanding remains poor.

We are but a part of your creation and not its centre,

And yet we act as if only we matter.

Help us to understand that

Only when we love our neighbour as ourselves,

Put selfishness aside,

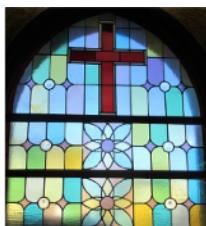
And recognise how much we depend on the rest of creation,

Can we flourish and fulfil our destiny

As part of your kingdom of love and justice on earth.

Amen

SHADWELL METHODIST CHURCH



We do seem to be living in “interesting times” as this goes to press. Hopefully it will still be possible to go ahead with our cafes and Easter celebrations next month. We have planned for a Coffee Morning on 4th April, then our regular Café Morning, featuring food with a connection to

Easter, on the 21st. Catering is easier with the addition of our new microwave, generously made possible by a recent grant from the Parish Council. And an appeal on Facebook means we now have a full-size fridge – thank you to all the people who offered. Worth mentioning that our hygiene practices follow the guidelines from the Methodist Church and the Government with regard to coronavirus. For Pancakes Café we had a record attendance of around 50 people, including lots of children as it was half term. We raised £250, donated to Christians Against Poverty.

Our Easter morning service on 12th April will again feature the decorated cross on display outside church. Please bring with you a contribution of flowers to add to this.

Carolyn Smith.

As I write this Easter will soon be upon us once again. Time marches on so quickly that Holy Week, when we reach it, can be a bit of a blur. Why not then take so me time out now to reflect on the events of that week, that we might be better prepared to more fully appreciate the significance of the days we are remembering and journeying through?

Little can be said with any degree of certainty, of course, about the last days leading up to Jesus' death, the Gospels either vary as to the order of events or fail to give us any pointers as to the day on which they take place. Tradition has us mark the various stages of Jesus' journey to the cross on particular days; we have the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday and the Crucifixion on Good Friday, with betrayal, arrest and trial in between. But what else can we say with any certainty about the events of those days that we now know as Holy Week?

We know that the tide was at least beginning to turn against Jesus if indeed it had not turned already. We are aware that shouts of 'Hosanna' will soon become cries of 'Crucify him.' We can safely

predict then that darkness was closing in on Jesus. After all, we have reports of Jesus' clashes with the religious authorities and a story in which wicked tenants kill the landowner's son. We also know that the Pharisees are trying to entrap Jesus, that the chief priests and the scribes are plotting to kill him. All of these things lead to a sense of foreboding. Jesus' own lament over Jerusalem and his prediction of its destruction hardly ease our concerns. We can say with some confidence, I think, that, as the week progresses, the storm clouds are gathering and a thick darkness begins to descend and enfold Jesus and his followers. Jesus' death is becoming inevitable and his attempts to prepare himself and his followers for it begin to intensify. As we approach and journey through Holy Week again this year, we might not be able to say with any degree of certainty exactly what happened all those years ago. But we can be fairly sure that darkness was descending and that darkness would soon overcome Jesus and his followers. Whatever stage of the journey we find ourselves at this Lent and Holy Week, let us always remember that Jesus assured his followers that they could enter that darkness with hope.

Let's not grasp too quickly for Easter Day. The darkness has to be endured before the glorious light can be embraced. So let's move tentatively forward: walking with the light while we still can, full of fear maybe, but also full of hope.

With every blessing

Rev Tanya Short

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

It is not enough to have a good mind. The main thing is to use it well. ***Rene Descartes***

THE CHURCH OF MY DREAMS

This is the Church of my dreams -
 The Church of the warm heart,
 Of the open mind,
 Of the adventurous spirit;
 The Church that cares,
 That heals hurt lives,
 That comforts old people,
 That challenges youth;
 That knows no division of culture or class,
 No frontiers, geographical or social;
 The Church that inquires as well as affirms,
 That looks forward as well as backward;
 The Church of the Master;
 The Church of the people;
 High as the ideals of Jesus,
 Low as the humblest person;
 A worshipping Church;
 An attractive Church;
 A Church that interprets truth in terms of truth;
 A Church that inspires courage for this life;
 A church for all compassionate people-
 The Church of the living God.

Anon

BUY A BULB – WHAT NEXT?



At the October 2019 Saturday Coffee morning there was the opportunity to buy a variety of spring bulbs – snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils and tulips. They would then be planted in the Church

grounds as needed or as requested. You could also have them planted in memory of someone. Any money raised to go to the Church Project.

I am pleased to advise that we eventually had to plant over 700 bulbs and over £200 was then given to the Church Project. Many thanks to those who assisted with the planting – Liz, Margaret and my sister, Sue.

Spring will soon be here and hopefully we will all then benefit from the garden blooming with the bulbs giving us a display of new flowers. So do come and join us at the Coffee Mornings on Saturday 7th March and 4th April and take time to have a wander round the gardens and see what may be there.

Some of the bulbs were given in memory of someone and this is the list of those being remembered:

Malcom Firth	Andrew Benson	Betty Sadler
Michael Bowers	Bryan Christopher	Barbara Bull
Howard Belsham	Irene & Stanley Mitchell	Eileen Kemp
Elsie & Cis	Gwen Brand	Grandma of Sandra
Cyril Carr	Our friend Ron	Connie Wager
Enid & Arthur Philo	John Sanders	

For those in need of a little sunshine on dark days.

With thanks to Val



THANK YOU TO YOU ALL.



Further to our discussions on 'Our Way Forward', and exploring the priority – encouraging and developing our activities with children and young people, supporting those in particular who use our premises, it was agreed in the February Church Council that we would seriously consider if Lidgett Park could manage and sustain a Messy Church.

Messy Church is a different way of 'being church', and provides a way for churches to reach out to and engage with those on the fringe of the church family, and has proven to be an effective way of 'being church'. Messy Church values are about being Christ-centred, for all ages and based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. Messy Church isn't just about children, it is constantly creative in its thinking about how to involve very different people: young and old, families and single people, male and female, academic and practical, poor and rich. Messy Church isn't child care, parents / carers have responsibility for their children.

It was agreed that we would consider a festivals Messy Church, holding a Messy Church at important Christian times of the year that are very familiar, Christmas, Easter, Harvest etc. We hope to hold this on a Saturday morning, 10- 11.30, serving a snack mid-way through.

To even begin to think about planning a Messy Church we need to have a bank of Volunteers. I have listed below the kind of roles we need volunteers for. If you think you are able to be part of this new mission venture please let me know.

People to make refreshments of juice, tea / coffee and prepare plates of biscuits / fruit.

People to help cut out craft activities at home.

People to sit around craft tables with children and adults, helping and chatting.

Someone to welcome and make sure people 'sign in'.

At times someone to bake plain biscuits / cakes for a food activity!

Many thanks,

Tanya

BOOK REVIEWS

Margaret Thatcher. The Authorized Biography. Volume 3: Herself Alone. by Charles Moore. 2019

'You must be out of your mind.' That was the reaction of Denis Thatcher when his wife told him that she was going to contest the Leadership of the Conservative Party in 1975. That Margaret Thatcher was actually mad, though, of course, only in the colloquial sense of the term, was to become a familiar view of her. Such was the prejudice against women in politics at the time that she made her Leadership bid, her ambition to displace Edward Heath and to aim to become Prime Minister seemed comparable to attempting to climb Everest in her high heels. Feminism was very much in intellectual fashion at the time, even if the vast majority of women neither then nor later did not sign up to it. This did not stop most academics from deferring to it, while at the same time pouring scorn on the idea of a woman having Mrs Thatcher's ambitions, dressing up this prejudice in all sorts of ways. I was one of the few in university life who differed. I thought that the economic and social order which had been established by the Wartime Coalition Government and then the Attlee Governments was seriously malfunctioning, The trade union movement had too much power, and leading figures within it were determined to impose socialism on this country. In 1975, a majority of the respondents to an opinion survey when asked who was the most powerful man in the country declared him to be Jack Jones, the General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, whom we now know to have been on the payroll of the K.G.B., the Russian Secret Service. There were those who said of Jones that he had left their ranks in 1968 because he opposed the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. It always seemed to me that you only leave organizations of that kind feet first.

Though Mrs Thatcher published her own memoirs, she also resolved that there should be an official biography of her published after her death. Her choice of biographer turned out to be, to his surprise, the journalist Charles Moore, who, at various stages of his career has been the editor of *The Spectator* and

The Daily Telegraph. Though he continued to contribute to the latter publication, Moore devoted himself to the task of biographer. In 2013, the first volume, *Not For Turning* was published. In 2016, the second volume, *Everything She Wants* was published. In 2019, the third and final volume, *Herself Alone* was published. It consists of no less than one thousand and eight pages, including a massive list of references and sources. Moore has had privileged access to a host of papers and political figures and he has produced yet another authoritative study of the woman who was the Prime Minister of this country between May 1979 and November 1990.

This volume starts with the Conservative triumph in the General Election of 1987. Though there were those, not least in the employ of what was in those days derided as the Bolshevik Broadcasting Corporation, who chose or needed to believe otherwise, that the Conservatives would secure a three figure majority was easy to predict. I predicted it. In her two earlier Governments, despite opposition from within the ranks of her own party, she had forced through an economic liberal programme with all the zeal of a convert, and also established herself on the international stage in the role of the Iron Lady, as, to her delight, the Soviet Union dubbed her. She got on famously with Ronald Reagan, the then president of the U.S.A., which was just as well, given that American aid was crucial to Britain defeating Argentina in the Falklands War.

Yet, at the head of the Conservative Government in 1987 she was very much alone. She had lost her valued second in command, William Whitelaw, who had provided her with shrewd and often calming advice. She was, moreover, one of the few Eurosceptics in her Cabinet, in the sense that though she thought it to be in the country's interests at that time to be a member of the European Economic Community or Common Market, the idea of Britain becoming a member of a Federal Europe was alien to her political beliefs. Her opponents were fond of describing themselves as One Nation Conservatives, which merited her eventual response that the form of federal involvement they favoured with continental Europe would surely mean that they were effectively No Nation

Conservatives. The most that Mrs Thatcher ever subscribed to was a Gaullist conception of a Europe des patries, members of a single market but independent and sovereign. She was, indeed, one of the architects of the Single European Act of 1986 and of the single market it established, and unaccountably seemed to think that countries like Germany and France would turn away from their Statist traditions and embrace economic liberalism in the way she had done. In her memoirs she confessed that she had anticipated the European Commission taking on a diminished role, as if any career bureaucracy would volunteer to do this. Though even *The Economist* (in its issue for 24.9.1988, p.36) described Mrs Thatcher's Bruges Speech of 1988 as 'a thoughtful, elegant essay,' pious conformity with the 'European' ideal was by then a requirement of being 'respectable' in the political class. Geoffrey Howe, her Foreign Secretary, was, indeed, shocked, and compared his role as being 'a little like being married to a clergyman who had suddenly proclaimed his disbelief in God.' The obvious reply to this barely sane comment was, surely, that a belief in 'Europe' was not comparable with a religious faith that could not be questioned..

Mrs Thatcher's attitudes towards closer involvement with Europe were always unlikely to damage her in the eyes of the electorate as opposed to the political class, but she had eroded such popularity as she had with that electorate not just by the usual accumulation of grievances, but more specifically with her introduction of a Poll Tax to fund local government expenditure. 'My father always said that everybody should pay something even if it's only sixpence,' Mrs Thatcher declared. Her father, though, had merely been Mayor of Grantham, not a Prime Minister who had made much of cutting taxes. Here she was introducing a new tax, and one which did not meet any of the criteria advanced by her supposed intellectual hero, Adam Smith. It was the popular revolt against the Poll Tax that damaged her electorally most of all, and encouraged the Europhiles in her Cabinet and in the Conservative Party ranks to bring her down, which they eventually contrived to do in 1990 with a resignation speech by the fanatical Howe leading the way. In the wisdom of retrospect, even the Europhile Christopher Patten recognised

that 'we should have left it to the electorate,' but, of course, to the fanatics there was no certainty that the Conservatives led by Mrs Thatcher would lose the next Election, and, indeed, they won it despite being led by her inept successor as Prime Minister, John Major. So, despite winning three Elections in the grand manner, Mrs Thatcher was dumped by her own party. Charles Moore tells the tale of her final spell in office very well indeed, and of her miserable existence after her enforced resignation. His three volumes rank with the best biographies of Prime Ministers, and, of course, Mrs Thatcher won on 'Europe' in the end once the electorate had finally grasped what it was really about. Without doubt, she was one of the four great Prime Ministers of the twentieth century, the others being Churchill, Lloyd George, and Attlee. Of the four, I would suggest that only Attlee could be seriously said to have been in his or her right mind, which is a thought to conjure with.

GEOFFREY K FRY

DRAMA GROUP - A LETTER OF APPRECIATION.

Saturday 22nd February 2020

To the cast and everybody involved in the production of 'Sleeping Beauty'.

I just wanted to congratulate you all on an absolutely fabulous production. My granddaughter, Olivia, appeared with you as a fairy/bat and she absolutely loved it. Indeed, last night following her last performance, she voiced her regrets that it had ended.

As it turned out, I came to see Sleeping Beauty three times (!) with various members of my family. Everyone thought it was wonderful.

It was so funny with the perfect balance of audience participation. The ventriloquist scene with Percy the snake was really hilarious and very 'Morecambe and Wise' we thought!

Another favourite part was when King Boris surprised Queen Alice (after the bats had flown away) and nearly frightened the life out of her. Pomponius, the court attendant, the Troubadours, Carabosse, Mrs Crone Nurse, the Good Fairy and Prince Rupert were all marvellous.

Everyone in the cast did a marvellous job – the King and Queen holding them all together – including all the younger players who were amazing. There is obviously a lot of up and coming talent.

The costumes were great and the scenery and lighting fantastic. What a joy.

It was so lovely for Peter Harper to warn us all, at the very beginning, of the ‘little step’ – should we need to vacate the building. His introduction was a great start to the evening as was the ‘before performance’ music from David Wilks who set the mood so beautifully.

A very big ‘well done’ to everyone involved, including those providing refreshments and looking after the children.

Congratulations and thank you. I’m looking forward to next year’s pantomime already (oh yes I am!)

With very best wishes,

Sincerely

Stella Baker

PANTOMIME REVIEW *Sleeping Beauty*

You know it’s going to be a winner when the usual suspects ably aided and abetted by others turn up to do a Pantomime.

I didn’t remember Pomponius (Lord High Everything) from the original story but ably helped by the Court Attendant he kept

changing hats each portraying one of his many different roles within palace life. (I wondered was Howard trying to equate the part to the many different roles he has at church currently?!) After this I began to recognise the story. There was the usual argument between the main characters with the audience asked to adjudicate on the name of the baby Princess. Most of the suggestions by the king and queen were just preposterous and the audience told them so. We were greatly assisted in choosing a name by the good fairies and fairy helpers. There was some excellent audience participation in the songs on the night I went and you can't have a Pantomime without that.

The wicked witch was definitely scary. She seemed to be able to use her magic to change the good fairies and their helpers into bats at will and then change them back again. Events were not helped by the king and queen who were deaf thinking that the wicked witch was also deaf and believing that she couldn't hear how they were planning to exclude her from the party. After she had cast her spell, the king banned spinning wheels from his kingdom and Pomponius put this into effect, but you just wondered with these 2 characters on the case how effective this was going to be. I was hoping the wicked witch wouldn't come to near me as she made her way through the audience.

I needn't have worried about the wicked witch. My 6-year-old granddaughter told me at the interval not to be frightened of the wicked witch as she had read the book.

After the interval the story continued and convincing suitors for the Princess all made out their case to marry her.

In between we had troubadours entertaining us and helping with magic tricks, more bats and fairies before the terrible moment when it happened. The princess pricked her finger on the spinning wheel, and everyone went to sleep thanks to the Magic Fairy. Thankfully they did stick to the story and the prince did wake up the princess with a kiss, so it all came right in the end.

Thank you drama group and helpers for a very entertaining evening. It's good to laugh.

Sue Wittrick



PROJECT NEWS APRIL 2020.

The sausage and mash lunch in February was enjoyed by many people and we thank you for raising over £360 for the Project. We always seem to manage to cook enough so that those who want seconds can have them – several folks had two portions of both sausage and mash and apple crumble. We are glad that you enjoy the meals so much that seconds are wanted and take it as a compliment!

Our next event is on **Saturday April 18th** and is Lidgett Park's 2020 Bake Off, starting at 2.30pm. We have a number of bakers

who will present cakes (all to the same Victoria Sponge recipe) for judging by “The People” (you, in other words!) and then by 3 judges : Frances (Val’s granddaughter of cupcake fame) together with Maureen and Bernie from Oasis Relief Zambia. The People’s Vote will be based solely on the visual, the Judges’ Vote will be based on the taste. And afterwards, we can all have a slice! There will be two prizes – one for each category. Tickets are £6 and, as well as cake, includes scones and a cuppa, a flower demonstration by Doreen Aldridge that we can all readily copy at home and music from the 1920’s. If you are able to dress in a Roaring Twenties – style outfit, that would be great, or alternatively a suggestion of that decade – be it a hat, headband or piece of jewelry. It is important that you **KEEP AND BRING YOUR TICKET** as this will enable you to vote for the cake of your choice. We hope to see you all there for an afternoon with a difference.

Haydn Dalton is offering additions to two of the Saturday Coffee Mornings: on **May 2nd to celebrate VE Day**, he will be cooking sausage and bacon butties and on August 1st to celebrate Yorkshire Day, he will be providing a Yorkshire Lunch of pork pie and salad, Wensleydale cheese and pickle. We are grateful to Haydn for his kindness in helping to raise more money for the Project.

Our final event of the current Project year is the **Elysian Singers concert on Saturday July 18th**, more of which in later editions of The Link.

Thank you all for your continuing and generous support.

Margaret Farrar. On behalf of the Project Group.

SOME MORE THOUGHTS

Behind every successful man there is a surprised woman

Anon.

Bitterness imprisons life; love releases it.

Harry Emerson Fosdick

THOUGHT FOR TODAY - The Venerable Liz Adekunle 11.03.2020*Reproduced with the permission of the BBC*

Last week I binged watched the six part TV series 'Noughts + Crosses' a BBC adaptation of Malorie Blackman's novels.

Childhood friends Sephy and Callum live in a contemporary dystopian society divided by colour with strict race laws. Sephy, a 'Cross', is a member of the black ruling class and the daughter of a prominent politician, whereas Callum is a 'Nought', a white member of the underclass.

At the centre of this tale is a Romeo and Juliet-style romance with Callum and Sephy attempting to build a relationship based on love and trust against a backdrop of fear and prejudice.

It is set in an alternative version of 21st Century Britain and is consistently jolting and uneasy carrying within its layers a potent message about representation and power.

'Noughts + Crosses' feels apt at a time when racist discourse is heard in debates about refugees, and even the coronavirus. It raises questions about how societies choose who is in and who is out. And it asks its audience an important question; what if it was you on the receiving end of the treatment meted out to the noughts?

French historian Michel Foucault said 'Power is not an institution, and not a structure; neither is it a certain strength we are endowed with; it is the name that one attributes to a complex strategical situation in a particular society'.

Society needs its structures and governments their strategies, but the proper use of Power is only effective when there is genuine buy in. When its reasons and function are clear. Otherwise people are vulnerable to being exploited by those who misappropriate it.

Something Jesus knew well and so he subverts the structures. He turns them on their head. He says those who had been the most abused and neglected of society on Earth will be the first in His government. Those who ruled on the Earth in this life, will be the least in the kingdom of God. In that kingdom the poor and powerless are exalted. Not because they are better than everyone else but because they are equal to them.

There are no spoilers here – but I can tell you that the Noughts and Crosses story features ongoing power struggles based on resentments and revenge. And two star struck teens use the power of love to overcome this

In the midst of power struggles, for Jesus, it always comes down on the side of love, justice and trust. He reminds his disciples that in God's economy the last will be first and the first will be last.

I USED TO BE YOUNGER

I used to be younger, I used to remember,
 I used to know everyone's name.
 I'd go out alone and I always come home,
 But nowadays things aren't the same.

I'm not to be trusted, my memory has rusted,
 I sometimes don't know who you are.
 But it's still me in here, it's just sometimes not clear
 Why I'm not allowed out in my car.

While you're on the outside trying to look in,
 I'm on the inside trying to look out.
 I'm a little confused and sometimes bemused,
 But I really don't need you to shout.

It's no good now trying to teach me,
 Or tell me you told me before.
 I'm not being awkward, my consciousness altered,
 I'm stuck behind a one-way glass door.

So, just smile when I ask the same questions,
 Or when I don't remember your name.
 I used to be younger, I used to remember,
 But nowadays things aren't the same.

Chris Ross 2020

GRANDPARENTS

Lord, make me a good grandparent.
 Help me to be there when I am needed,
 and not to interfere.
 Show me how to encourage and not to criticise,
 support and not to judge.
 Give me tact, warmth and a grateful heart
 for this wonderful gift of a child of my child.

Maria Hodges

THE WORLD-WIDE CHURCH

Barbara Belsham had recently visited Sri Lanka as part of a group liaising between the Diocese of Leeds and the Dioceses of Colombo and Kurunegala in Sri Lanka. Here is the first part of an account of what she found out about the work of the church in that very different country. Ed.

I have just returned from a wonderful visit to Sri Lanka and would like to share some of what I experienced with you. The purpose of the visit was to find out what is happening in the church in Sri Lanka and to strengthen the link between the Diocese of Leeds and the Dioceses of Colombo and Kurunegala which began nearly forty years ago. I have been involved with this link since I first visited Sri Lanka in 2002 with Christian Aid and I had links with schools in Sri Lanka when I was a headteacher, so I was pleased to have this opportunity to go again with five other members of the Sri Lanka Task Group: three clergy, Bishop Paul, Rev. Julie and Rev. Andrew and two other lay people: Mark, a retired headteacher and Richard, a media officer who would be making a video diary of our visit.

We left England on the 6th February and after a three-hour delay in Doha arrived at our hotel in Colombo on the evening of the 7th. As with all the places we visited we received a warm welcome at the hotel with the lighting of a large oil lamp topped with a brass cockerel as is the tradition in Sri Lanka at any important celebration, and the first of many Sri Lankan meals. We had time the following day to adjust to the heat, traffic jams and noise of Colombo before meeting with clergy and officials from both dioceses and their families. We learned that there were a number of projects the church is involved with and in the next two days we discovered more about these.

One is to start Alpha courses throughout the region with material translated into Sinhala and Tamil and including Alpha Youth. This is an ecumenical project involving Methodists and Baptists. Another project is the Church of Ceylon Sports Movement which encourages churches to start sports activities in their community

so making contact with young people. Under the guidance of Sports' Chaplains and Co-ordinators the focus is 'Making disciples for Christ in Sri Lanka through sport and play.' It is open to all young people of all faiths and none, where human values are cherished, and gospel values shared when the opportunity arises. Volleyball, netball and, of course, cricket are on the agenda. The World Needs a Father is another initiative they have adopted. This is a global initiative emphasising the importance of fathers and encouraging them to be more involved with their families and based on Malachi 4v6 'He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents.' Apparently, many fathers in Sri Lanka have little involvement with their children and there is a lot of domestic abuse so the churches are taking this on board, empowering fathers and stressing their importance in establishing emotional security in the home. The project of most interest to me is the Pre School and Day Care Ministry which involves the setting up of nursery schools with fully qualified teachers, fairly paid, and providing for the physical, social, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of the children.

On the Sunday we went to three different churches for worship. I went with Rev. Julie to St Michael's and All Angels which follows a high Anglican style of worship. I am not familiar with bells, candles and incense but the hymns were familiar, and the words of the communion were very similar to ours. What I was not familiar with was being at church at 7.30 a.m.! The early start is because there are four services on a Sunday morning: two in English, one in Sinhala and one in Tamil, catering for the different languages spoken by the congregation. We were told that five hundred people worship there each Sunday and many of these were young people who read the lessons, led the prayers and took the collection. After the service there were refreshments; not coffee and biscuits but string hoppers, a typical Sri Lankan dish, and dahl for breakfast. In the evening we went to Fr. Niroshan's, the priest of the church, for a meal. We had to adjust to eating while our host watched on and using our hands, no cutlery.

On Monday the visit began in earnest with an early start and a visit to Dev Siri Sevana Pre -School and Day Care Centre. It is run by

the Union Church, the only ecumenical church in Sri Lanka, a union of Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists and Dutch Reformed and each Sunday in a month the person leading worship uses the eucharistic rites of a different denomination. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month the worship is led by one of the church groups. The nursery caters for twenty-five children who greeted us with gifts of betel leaves which they presented to us by kneeling at our feet- not something we are accustomed to. Nursery education is more formal than in this country, but the rooms were attractive, and the children were well cared for and enjoyed their activities. Next to the nursery and also ran by the church is an Elders' Home providing free care for sixty-five elderly people who have no one to care for them and have little money. The home is dependent on the church and voluntary contributions and one way they had of raising money was by encouraging local people to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries by paying for a meal for the elders. So, 5000 rupees (around £20) would pay for lunch for all them. It is a wonderful example of church and community working together.

We also visited two other church schools, St Thomas's and Ladies College, both very prestigious. Although they are both church schools the majority of their pupils are Buddhist with a number of Hindus and Moslems. As with all church school in Sri Lanka, the morning begins with an act of worship in the different faith groups then to lessons in the three different languages. Many people in high positions in the country send their children to these schools as they appreciate the standard of teaching and the importance of a high standard of English. We were welcomed at Ladies College by the school choir and some of the most wonderful singing I have ever heard. At St Thomas's we had the privilege of watching the opening of a two-day cricket match, a yearly contest with another school and of great importance to both teams. Our day finished with Evensong at the cathedral followed by a meal with some of the people we had met.

On Tuesday we joined the Diocesan Office for Daily Devotions and were introduced to many of the staff. We met with Sri Lankan's who had recently visited England and I was pleased to

meet Rev. Jency Manjuka who had stayed with me last year. Then lunch at the Diocese after which we prepared to travel to Jaffna which is the most northerly town in the island and it involved a long journey by mini bus.

To be continued in the May issue. Ed.

A MODERN GOOD SAMARITAN

It is well established that in most large businesses, there is a big gap between the salaries enjoyed by the top company executives and those of their employees, and that this gap is widening. Statistics from the United States indicate that chief executives earned around 20 times more than their average worker in 1965, but that this had widened to around 300 times by 2015. Similar data for the UK shows that the bosses of FTSE100 companies currently receive salaries more than 100 times those of their average worker. Much is said and written about this growing unfairness, but little ever seems to be done. Except for one boss in Seattle USA, and this is his story as reported recently in the media.

Dan Price, who runs his own company in Seattle, was hiking with a female friend in the surrounding mountains. As they walked she confessed that her life was extremely difficult, that her landlord had recently put up her monthly rent, and this had meant that she was struggling to make ends meet. This set Dan Price thinking. Although his company, which he had started in his teens, was doing very well and he was earning over one million dollars per annum, he suddenly realised that many of his staff, like his hiking friend, must also be struggling. So he decided to do something that would change things, and at the same time be in harmony with his deeply held Christian principles.

After studying a report written by two Nobel Prize economists outlining how much money a typical American needed to be happy, he did his own calculations for Seattle and arrived at a figure of

\$70,000 per annum. Then he gathered all his staff together in 2015, and announced that from that moment everyone in the company, including himself, would be paid \$70,000 per annum. He'd expected immediate scenes of celebration, but he had to repeat himself before the implications of what had been announced began to sink in. Then most of his staff realised that their salaries would be increased with immediate effect, that over a third would have their salaries doubled, and smiles broke out on their faces.

Needless to say, there was much criticism of his plan. Internally, two of his senior staff resigned immediately. Externally, commentators argued that the proposal would make employees lazy and that the company would become uncompetitive. He was also branded with the stigma of being a communist by right wing politicians. However, the result over the past five years has been positive. The number of employees has doubled, business has trebled, and many of his workers have been able to buy their own houses and to locate them nearer to their place of employment than was possible when they were renting. This has enabled them to spend less time commuting and more time with their families with its consequent social benefits. His employees have also noted that, as a result of Dan's largesse, they are now living less stressful and more fulfilling lives.

One final touching note. A group of his employees, fully appreciative of all that Dan had done, became sick of watching him turn up for work each day driving an old, battered 12 year-old Audi. So they secretly clubbed together to buy him a new car, A lovely way of saying 'Thank You'.

Gerry Leake

PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR NEXT YEAR

Homeless Street Angels.

<https://www.homelessstreetangels.co.uk>

We are Homeless Street Angels - An Award-Winning Charity. We currently provide outreach every Thursday evening on the streets of Leeds City Centre, handing out hot and cold food, clean clothes, toiletries and more. We also provide ongoing support for our people that we have helped to rehouse in Headingley.

Homeless Street Angels was established in 2017, and in October 2019 we were officially granted charity status which has been a great step forward for us.

We believe that homeless and marginalised individuals are capable of change and will only achieve their full potential when offered a safe, supportive, empowering and non-judgemental environment – it is our vision to provide such an environment and meaningful activities which will help reverse the spiral of homelessness.

Our dream is to open a day centre called "Abi House" in memory of our sister who passed away in August 2017.

We are currently working with Leeds City Council and Housing Options to re-house people off the streets and are part of the Leeds Homeless Charter to help eradicate homelessness in Leeds. Once re-housed, we continue to provide ongoing support by providing food parcels and any additional help they may require.

We welcome any donations to help us carry on our charity work with the homeless and we would be delighted if you could consider helping out through fundraising events for Homeless Street Angels and if you have any ideas you'd like to put forward, please get in touch with us.

Proposed by John Wells

A non-charity project proposal for 2020 – 2021.

Project fund-raising has, in the main, been for causes external to the church and we have raised thousands of pounds over the years for a number of excellent charities. We have also raised money for large-scale alterations to the Church, most recently to renovate the front entrance. However, sometimes it becomes apparent that perhaps there are smaller items of equipment that need replacing but the finances of the church cannot meet these needs.

As a member of the Project Group for many years and also having helped with other events, it has become obvious to me – and many others – that the current dishwasher is “not fit for purpose”. Whether you are part of a group cooking for a large number of people e.g. Project meals, smaller numbers at the bi-monthly Sunday lunch, serving coffee after Sunday service or at the monthly Coffee Mornings, what is needed is an efficient means of washing-up afterwards. What you don’t need is a dishwasher that does not get crockery clean and which needs to be hand-washed after it comes out of the machine. A quick look at many of the cups used on Sunday mornings will show you how inefficient our current dishwasher is.

The kitchen itself causes difficulties for many of its users – plates stacked in low-level cupboards, glasses and cups partly stacked at too great a height for many people – but I appreciate that this is something that we will just have to live with since a re-configured kitchen is most certainly out of the question.

The current Project Group would like to suggest that some of the money raised during the next year be used to purchase a better quality dishwasher that will help to make life easier for those who need to use it, as well as ensuring that the crockery and cutlery we use is maintained to a high standard of cleanliness.

Proposed by Margaret Farrar.

Some necessary property maintenance.

It is coming up to two years now since I have been wanting to paint the windows in the youth hall as I did in the past. Owing to time, old age and not wanting to climb up a ladder on my own outside, just in case I fall with nobody around I have not been able to do it, much to the annoyance of my "Boss" (*Jackie – Ed.*). However, since we (Judith, Gary and I) did the inspection of the church a few weeks ago, it is quite apparent that most of the windows in the hall are rotten and desperately need replacing instead of repairing.

I am, therefore, proposing to the General Church Meeting to be held on the 26th April 2020 that the Church Project for the next 2 years (i.e September 2020 until April 2022) be the replacement of ALL the WOODEN WINDOWS to uPVC in the youth hall in memory of the five members of church who died last year.

Proposed by Gilbert Jarrett.

SOME EXAMPLES OF:

Faith

Once all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one by came with an umbrella. That is faith.

Trust

When you throw babies in the air they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.

Hope

Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.

Confidence

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.

Love

We see the world but still we get married and have children. That is love.

With thanks to Rachel Mounsey

SHADWELL METHODIST CHURCH

Cafe Morning 10.00 am - 12.30 pm

21st April

19th May

16th June

Paninis & Toasties

Bacon Butties

Paninis & Toasties

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.

LIDGETT PARK LADIES' GROUP

Meeting on alternate Thursday evenings at 7.45 pm in the Community Hall. All ladies welcome. We have interesting Speakers (we are told), refreshments and plenty of chat. £3 per meeting.

2nd April Catherine Curzon, Author, 'In Kitty's Company: Courtesans, Ladies and Strumpets'. Should be interesting? And she may/or may not be bringing books to sell.

16th April Our own Sue Wittrick (no stranger to our Ladies Group) will be recounting her's and Alan's trip to 'Alaska.....the Greatest Wilderness'.

30th April Patti Gold with the second half of her story 'The Tracks of my Years'

A reminder that our **Coffee Evening** is next month - the **14th May** - an 'OPEN to everyone' evening. Books, CDs, DVD,s and especially Plants would be gratefully received nearer the time.

Lynne and Anne

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