

# *The Link Magazine*

*December 2016 & January 2017*

Rev'd Dr Daniel Mwailu  
Tel: 0113 2681757  
Emails: dkm308@aol.com

Editor: Stan Pearson  
Tel: 0113 2736463  
sbpearson@gmail.com



**Happy Christmas & A  
Blessed New Year**

## MINISTER'S LETTER

### Switch on Jesus. He is the reason for the Season

*Isaiah 9:6 "unto us a child is born, a son is given and these will be his royal titles: Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"*

A while ago I was challenged for abbreviating Christmas as Xmas. The challenge was X in maths is used to represent an unknown factor and in common life it represents what has been. The contention was that Christ should be at the centre of Christmas. As I reflected further on that challenge I was reminded of the story of some kids who were putting on the Christmas play. To show the radiance of the newborn baby Christ, they put an electric light bulb hidden in the manger. All the stage lights were supposed to be turned off so that only the brightness of the manger could be seen. The kid who controlled the stage lights, however, got confused and all the lights went out. A very tense moment followed, broken only when one of the kids taking part as one of the shepherds in the play said in a loud stage whisper, "**Hey, you switched off Jesus!**"

This story is a constant cautious reminder of how easy it is in the confusion of consumerism and commercialism that surround Christmas, to switch off Christ who is the reason for the Season of Christmas, Christ the light of the world, the one who should be at the centre of Christmas and focus instead on the trappings that surround the celebration. Henry Nouwen, commenting on the modern world said, "We are on the move from false uncertainty, to true uncertainty". We live in a world most advanced technologically but still full of uncertainty. By switching off Christ, the only true source of light in a world that is like a moral maze, we certainly move into more uncertainty.

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). In other passages of Holy Scriptures Jesus is referred to as both the morning and the evening star. As we approach the end of the year and stand on the dawn of the New Year may we switch onto Christ, the light of the world, to give us light in the dark moments of life? As we celebrate Christmas may we find God's kingdom in the new born King of Kings; righteousness in the Righteous One; Counsel in the prime Counsellor; wonder in the Wonderful One; salvation in the Saviour of the world and peace in the Prince of Peace.

I wish you all and yours a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

**Daniel.**

## **WELCOME TO THE REVD NIGEL WRIGHT**

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> of October was the occasion of the Collation and Induction of Nigel Wright as the new vicar of St Edmund's by the Rt Revd Paul Slater, Bishop of Ripon.

It was an impressive occasion, steeped as it was in Anglican tradition, and a time of celebration as the parish welcomed Nigel and his young family. Leaders from Church and Community were introduced to and welcomed them, including representatives from the covenanting churches of St Andrews URC and Lidgett Park Methodist Church. Members from his previous parish in Oxenhope were also there to wish him well and to commend him to the people of Roundhay.

We all left with a feeling of hope and great promise for an effective Christian witness. The evening ended in a way familiar to all Methodists with an impressive spread of food and an opportunity to share fellowship with our Anglican and URC brothers and sisters.

### ***Stan Pearson***

#### **PRAYER FOR CHANGE**

*Published simultaneously in the magazines of our Covenanting Churches, St Andrew's URC and St Edmund's CoE*

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

All you people, come to the mountain of God and let goodness guide you.

Open the eyes of your heart to see the face of God in each human being.

Find the gentle footprint of the divine on your path and follow.

All you people, open the ears of your spirit.

Hear the laughter of Christ in the joyful song of children.

Recognise his cries in their hunger and fear, and respond like you would to your own.

All you people, open your hands, so tired of clenching – striking out in anger or holding on like grim death to things that stifle life.

Stretch them out and embrace each other.

Free yourself by flinging away the trinkets that have trapped you.

God of peace, lift us up.

May we walk by your light, wide-eyed and awake and ready to welcome you wherever we find you.

**Amen. (*Christian Aid*)**

**WORSHIP IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY**

4th Dec	10.30 am	Revd Dr Daniel Mwailu	<i>Gift Service &amp; Holy Communion</i>
	6.30 pm	<i>Chapel Allerton Methodist Church</i>	
11th Dec	10.30 am	Revd Norma Davey	
	4.00 pm	Revd Dr Daniel Mwailu	<i>Holy Communion</i>
18th Dec	10.30 am	No Service	
	3.00 pm	Revd Dr Daniel Mwailu	<i>Carol Service</i>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	4.30 pm	Mrs Patricia Davies	<i>Crib Service</i>
	11.30 pm	Revd Dr Daniel Mwailu	<i>Holy Communion</i>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	10.30 am	Revd Dr Daniel Mwailu	
1st Jan	10.30 am	Revd Dr Daniel Mwailu	<i>Covenant Sunday</i>
8th Jan	10.30 am	Mr John Richardson	
	4.00 pm	Revd Dr Daniel Mwailu	<i>Holy Communion</i>
15th Jan	10.30 am	Mr John Clay	
	4.00 pm	<i>Circuit Service at Chapel Allerton Methodist Church</i>	
22nd Jan	10.30 am	Revd Dr Daniel Mwailu	<i>Ecumenical Covenant Service &amp; Communion</i>
29th Jan	10.30 am	Revd Dr Daniel Mwailu	<i>Baptism</i>
	6.30 pm	St Edmund's Church	<i>Ecumenical Service</i>

**CAROLS ROUND THE MANGER**

For the last 11 years we have had a children's service at 4.30 pm on Christmas Eve. This has been aimed specifically at small children but for the last couple of years it has been more an All-Age service. Hopefully there will still be enough content to maintain the interest of little ones but also mark the beginning of Christmas for adults, who are unable to stay up until after midnight. **Patricia Davies**

## **WHAT'S IN THE NEWS (apart from Brexit and Donald Trump)?**

At the end of the summer, Tanveer Ahmed, a Sunni Muslim, was sentenced to a long term in prison for the murder of Asad Shah, a Glasgow shopkeeper. After killing Mr Shah with a knife, Tanveer Ahmed gave himself up to the police. The murder was committed on religious grounds. Mr Shah had posted on Facebook the message, "Good Friday and a very happy Easter, especially to my beloved Christian nation."

In the words of the judge "This was a truly despicable crime motivated, it seems, by your sense of offence at a man's expression of his religious beliefs which differ from yours." Tanveer Ahmed had claimed that, "Asad Shah disrespected the messenger of Islam, the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. Mr Shah claimed to be a prophet."

Asad Shah was a member of the Ahmadiyya faith, a Muslim sect known for its peaceful interfaith work. The sect's motto is "Love for all, hatred for none". The community was founded in 1889 in British-controlled northern India. It identifies itself as a Muslim movement, following the teachings of the Koran, and is claimed to have tens of millions of members across 206 countries. The sect moved its headquarters to the UK after a law in Pakistan banned its members from identifying themselves as Muslims and calling their places of worship mosques. It takes its name from its founder, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, who was born in 1835 and was regarded by his followers as the messiah and a prophet. Ghulam Ahmad saw himself as a renewer and reformer of Islam and claimed to have been chosen by Allah.

All faiths have their divisions within them as well as from other faiths, but as we approach Christmas it is worth remembering that Jesus is recognized in Islam and revered as one of the prophets of Allah along with figures such as Abraham, David and Moses and John the Baptist. He and his mother, Mary, are referred to in several places in the Koran (see Surah III, 42-61). Currently, as we see so much bitterness and war between different branches of Islam and between some branches of Islam and Christianity it is worth remembering the message of Christmas of peace and goodwill and the values and beliefs that are common to both our faiths.

***Stan Pearson***

## **ARE YOU A SWITCHED ON PERSON?**

Some people have expressed an interest in getting the Link in electronic format (pdf file as an email attachment). This can be easily arranged and the Link will be in colour. If you are interested in this please let me know, preferably by email. The Link can also be found on the Lidgett Park web page, together with previous issues. **Ed.**

## KEYS - A MEDITATION

Whenever we think of shut and locked doors, we also think of a key. But a key is not **only** a thing; it is also a powerful metaphor. We speak of the '**key to the problem**', the '**key to understanding**', and that finding such keys will help us to '**unlock**' solutions.

Reference to a key suggests that a barrier exists. A door is locked shut. For example, there is tension between a parent and child; we are baffled by a computer problem; relations between two countries continue to deteriorate. The solutions to the problems, whether small or global, seem blocked. What keeps us going is faith that there is a solution, if only we can find the right key, unlock the door, and remove the barrier.

But this is no easy matter. Keys are different and complicated, because locks are different and complicated. If locks are to be secure, the particular serrations which fit the correct key must be hidden away inside. Therefore making it difficult to find the right key.

Sometimes things feel like that. We reach for what to say to an angry spouse, friend or business colleague. What is needed? - more honesty? more tact? more self-assertion or less? more time apart or more togetherness? We flip through the keys, but cannot easily find the one which will release ( open ) the recalcitrant lock. Still we persist. If we are sincere in our efforts and consult with others, we stand a chance of finding the right key. When this happens it is magical. A tiny key slides into place, turns the bolt, releases the door, and opens up a new beginning.

Perhaps that key was as small as a moment of kindness; an admission of wrongdoing; an inspiration; a chance encounter; a heartfelt prayer. And lo, the door swings open; the barrier has disappeared.

So we must never despair. The forces that block and trouble us can seem to be as mighty as a fortress. By comparison, the forces of help seem small. And so they often are. But they are small like a key, and it can open the door and remove the barrier.

**Gerry Leake**

## SOME THOUGHTS ON LOVE

Love all God's creation, the whole of it and every grain of sand. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light! Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. And once you have perceived it, you will begin to comprehend it ceaselessly more and more every day.

**Fyodor Dostoyevsky**

## THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

### When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
 When the star in the sky is gone,  
 When the kings and the princes are home,  
 When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
 The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
 To heal the broken,  
 To feed the hungry,  
 To release the prisoner,  
 To rebuild the nations,  
 To bring peace among people,  
 To make music in the heart.

*Howard Thurman (1900 – 1981).*

## ED'S QUIZ (answers on page 23)

### OUR POLITICIANS

Here are ten quotes from ten politicians and their names. Can you match the names to the quotes?

I know some of the English is not correct but that's what was said.

They are all current MPs except David Cameron and the late Jo Cox. Except somehow Mary Berry and Nigel Farage have sneaked in.

1. Sometimes my judgement has been faulty. Sometimes horrendously faulty
  2. Brexit means Brexit
  3. Minimum sales prices for alcohol are a startlingly bad idea
  4. She purred down the line
  5. The final say as leader of the party is now mine
  6. What I'd do about immigration is try and bring about is a degree of coterminosity
  7. No more soggy bottoms
  8. My friends as I have discovered there are no disasters, only opportunities
  9. (We) have far more in common with each other than things that divide us
  10. We need to be, spiky, different, human
- A. David Cameron.    B. Nicola Sturgeon.    C. Mary Berry.    D. Michael Gove  
 E. Tim Farron.    F. Boris Johnson.    G. Jeremy Corbyn    H. Nigel Farage  
 I. Teresa May.    J. Jo Cox



## THORNER BROADSHEET

Many thanks to all who supported us at our Christmas Fayre which took place on Sat Nov 19<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 noon and where we served our usual bacon butties and also mince pies, Christmas cakes etc. This event was held in aid of Thorner Church Funds so we thank you all for your generous support!!!

On Monday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm there will be Carols in the BUPA Elmwood Nursing Home on Wetherby Rd. As last year, it would be lovely if folk from Lidgett would join with those of us from Oakwood and Thorner who are going to be there to sing carols to help bring the spirit of Christmas into this Nursing Home. Please meet with us at Elmwood in the Foyer at around 2;20pm for a prompt 2:30pm start. You'll have a warm welcome from all the residents who are looking forward to this event already!

As this magazine issue covers January as well, we hope you'll join us in 2017 for the first of our fund raising events of the year which will take place on Sat Jan 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 12 noon and will be a 50/50 coffee morning in aid of MHA and Action for Children As usual our famous Bacon Butties will be served!!!

We hold our Covenant Service on the third Sunday in January next year, which will fall on Sun Jan 15<sup>th</sup> in 2017. We will be celebrating The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity on this Sunday too and, as usual, it will be a joint service with our Anglican sisters and brothers but for a change, to show our unity, we will be holding it at St. Peter's church with both the Rector, the Rev'd Andy Nicholson and our own Minister, the Rev'd Dr Daniel Mwilu presiding. There won't be a service at Thorner Methodists on this Sunday.

It just remains for me, on behalf of all of us here at Thorner Methodists, to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing for 2017. May the love and peace of the Christ Child fill your hearts this Christmas and throughout the coming New Year. **Ann Johnson, Thorner Methodists' Senior Steward . Tel: 2893532.**

### Fund Raising Events Programme for 2017 (all Saturday events)

Date	Time	Event
Jan 14th	10-12 noon	AFC/MHA
March 18th	10-12 noon	Missions
March 20th	10-12 noon	Martin House
July 1st	10-12 noon	Summer Fayre TMC Funds
Sept 16th	10-12 noon	St Gemma's Hospice
Nov 18th	10-12 noon	Christmas Fayre TMC Funds

Please support these events. We look forward to seeing you.



## **LIDGETT PARK METHODIST CHURCH**

### **Carols & Christmas Music**

**With the Wendel Singers**

**and**

**The Yorkshire Post Brass.**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December @ 7.30 pm.**

**Adults £8      Children £1**

**Including coffee and mince pies.**

The concert is being held to raise money for the charities Christian Aid and Leeds Autism Services which we are supporting over the coming year.

## **SHADWELL METHODIST CHURCH**

### **CAFÉ MORNING**

**10am-12.30pm**

**December 13th   Christmas Fare**

### **CHRISTIAN AID SOUP LUNCHES**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 12.30 at St Andrew's URC

Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup> at The Friends Meeting House

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm at Immaculate Heart.

## ANGELS

Last year members in the Whitley Bay Circuit in the North East of England knitted and handed out to people in the local community over 2000 angels. They were surprised and delighted by people's response and decided to share their experience with the wider Methodist Church.

Angela in the circuit office sent a copy of their email with pattern attached to the stewards at Lidgett and Val and Jennifer thought it might be nice to hand a knitted angel to every child using the church building. Val went round all the groups and we soon discovered that rather than the 150 children we had assumed used our building, there were close to 300 using the building every week.

So began our campaign to find Lidgett Park's knitters and so far 200 angels have been placed in the box provided for their deposit. Diza very kindly drew a growth chart which shows us 2/3rds of the way to our target.

We intend having a display of all the angels at the December coffee morning and they will be displayed in the church on the following Sunday. The angels will be handed over to the children when they come into the church to look at the Christmas decorations.

Val and Jennifer thank everybody who has knitted angels, whether one angel or sixty.

***See below for pictures of Jennifer and Audrey hard at work raising money for the church project with their handiwork. Ed.***



## SONGS AND STORIES OF COURAGE AND CONSCIENCE

A large and very appreciative audience attended this event where Clive Barrett, Chair of the Bradford Peace Museum, enlightened us with facts, stories and information regarding the rise of the Conscience Objectors (CO's) and various other peace movements that sprang up during WW1 with emphasis on stories relating to some Yorkshire CO's.

The concert was interspersed with songs from the very melodious **Free Range Choir** led by the talented Frances Bernstein and the audience joined in with songs such as "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" and "The National Anthem" (peace version). A very moving rendering of a French song "La Chanson de Craonne" told of the grief suffered by soldiers in battle in the Craonne region where there was huge loss of life, and their growing opposition to the war.



Music played a vital role in the lives of CO's and the word "parting" occurs often in the songs as the men never knew when they would see each other again. With the death sentence hanging over them, men of conscience including those of religious faith, political activists and artists suffered terrible conditions of brutality, torture and imprisonment and opportunities for singing together lifted their spirits. Eighteen men were imprisoned in Richmond Castle and sixteen, including eight Leeds men were sent to France where

the death sentence awaited, later to be commuted to hard labour. Irish soldiers often faced treason charges after the war for supporting the British army.

Hearty thanks to Clive, Frances and the choir for a memorable time not forgetting our own band of ladies who nobly faced the throng to serve refreshments

At this time of year as we wear our poppies in remembrance of the fallen we may also give a thought to those who died or suffered for their beliefs serving in the Front in non-combative roles or at home.



A quote from a moving song from the choir

“There’d be no war today,  
if mothers all would say,  
I didn’t raise my child to be a soldier”

***Barbara Holmes***

### **NEWS FROM THE DRAMA GROUP**

The Drama Group once again has been on tour with their play ‘Murder at the Mansion’ written by our resident author, Irving Theaker. We are repeating the play we first performed last November when we did 2 performances at Lidgett and a further 5 on tour. This time we are doing 6 more performances, which include Horbury, Knaresborough and Clifford Methodist Churches, Beeston St Mary’s C of E, Morley High School and, of course, one at Lidgett for those who didn’t see it last year or who cannot remember it!

We enjoy visiting the various venues because we don’t know what to expect. Sometimes we have a stage and a dressing room; sometimes we have the end of a hall and a small area to change in, which we share with chairs, tables and other stored items of furniture. But wherever we go we are always given a very warm welcome, a good supper and are much appreciated for helping to raise funds for the various venues.

Recently we were asked by the Wakefield Express newspaper if we could provide a photograph for publicity purposes. Here it is! Can you spot who’s who?

***Pat Brooke***



## LIDGETT PARK PROJECT 2016-7

Many of you will be aware that the project year began with the Harvest Lunch on September 25<sup>th</sup> when we reaffirmed our continuing support for Christian Aid and were introduced to our new project: Leeds Autism Service (*see November issue page 13*).

The Chairman Iain Wilson, Karl Wilson, and Michael who is a user and enthusiastic advocate for the charity spoke to us about the work of LAS and of how pleased they are to accept our support.

Many members will have attended our second event, *the Songs and Stories of Courage and Conscience at the church on 6<sup>th</sup> of November*, an account of which appears elsewhere in this issue.

As the project committee we are planning further events in 2017. There will be further concerts, at least one dance evening, an Italian themed meal and an afternoon tea with a difference. The following dates are now confirmed:

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2106 at 7.30 pm. Carols and Christmas music with the Wendel Singers and the Yorkshire Post Brass Ensemble.** Tickets £8 including coffee and mince pies (children £1).

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – a concert by Castleford Young Musicians.** More details to follow. Make a note in your diary.

We hope that you will enjoy at least some of these events so that Lidgett's support of LAS and Christian Aid will be generous.

**Project Group: Daphne Barton, Judith Clinkard, Heather Crosby, Heather Fry, Liz Pearson, Jan Rippin, Sue Wittrick.**

### LIDGETT PARK LADIES' GROUP

Meetings are held in the Community Hall on alternate Thursday evenings at 7.45 pm. Companionship, Speakers and refreshments provided for a very small fee.

**8 Dec. Our Carol Service.** OPEN to ALL, and please note we start at 7.30 pm on this occasion. There will be a collection in aid of our President's chosen charity - Mercy Ships. We recently had a very interesting talk about these - a very worthy cause.

**12 Jan. Our New Year Party.** Something different, we are going out to a Lunch at The Deer Park. More information nearer the time - Val is taking names/deposits and giving out menus for you to pre-order (or otherwise).

**26 Jan. A long-awaited talk by one of our "Travellers" - Barbara Belsham.** This time she will be telling us about her "Journey to Shangri-La". Another Meeting that is OPEN to All.

**Secretaries Lynne and Anne.**

## **LIDGETT PARK METHODIST CHURCH 2022 VISION STATEMENT**

Over the last 18 months, work has been continuing to develop a series of actions and initiatives to respond to a sense in the church that we have to change and keep moving forward as the needs of church members and the local community evolve. Examples of these initiatives are clearer and include more attractive notice boards, the new cross in the side entrance lobby, and the development of a new midweek space for reflection and worship.

However, questions have been raised continually by members about the overall future of the church looking ahead five to ten years, and the emerging sense that there needed to be a focus or vision to which everyone could sign up. Following a number of meetings and discussions, a small group representing most aspects of the Church's life has recently met and exchanged views on a new vision statement for the Church for the next 5 years. Such statement would be an overarching statement about what we are trying to achieve over this period, whilst being realistic about where we are and what is possible.

The proposed statement was presented to the Church Council in October and enthusiastically supported. This is, therefore, the new vision statement for the church.

### **WHY ARE WE HERE?**

**The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission**

### **PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT VISION 2022**

**The people of Lidgett Park Methodist Church believe that there continues to be an important need for a distinctive Methodist Christian community in the locality around Lidgett. They also believe that the vision for the next 5 years through to 2022 should be to maintain and expand the church's witness to the Christian faith through talking about Jesus to others, ensuring worship is attractive and meets the needs of both existing and potential new members, and by expanding further its mission and links with the community locally.**

**To support this vision we will:**

- 1 Be welcoming and supportive of everyone (without judgment), and offer a welcome to all to join us in conversation, worship and other activities.**

- 2 **Be more open about talking about our faith (Sharing Jesus) with others with whom we have contact**
- 3 **Continue to develop and enhance our buildings to provide a welcoming, safe and flexible set of premises to be made available for church and community activities.**
- 4 **Build on our existing worship style and times, by considering additional forms of worship which may be more attractive or convenient for others in our community.**
- 5 **Encourage and develop our activities with children and young people, supporting those who use our premises in particular.**
- 6 **Enhance activities and pastoral support for those in our community who are elderly, sick or in need.**
- 7 **Encourage and help our church members and friends to learn about, and develop further, their faith in Jesus, and to provide opportunities for them to grow in Christian discipleship.**
- 8 **Be open and responsive in our dealings with the wider faith communities, and, in particular, to develop closer links and activities with our sister churches at St Andrews and St Edmunds.**
- 9 **Encourage, support further and play our part in the Methodist Circuit in North and East Leeds.**

### **What happens next?**

Although at first this may look similar to our existing aims and initiatives, a considered read again may indicate a need for change and response in areas such as worship, further development of our buildings, reaching out more to those who use our buildings, supporting more ecumenical and circuit activities and being bolder about talking about our faith.

The Church Council are keen for all members and friends to embrace these statements and to respond to them by personally getting involved in some new way (however small) to play a part in achieving this vision for 2022.

Over the next few months there may be new ideas and changes proposed in support of this vision. As we approach the New Year 2017, let us all consider how we can play a part in taking this forward.

***Alan Wittrick***

### **FLOWER FESTIVAL**

I was intending to put pictures of all the displays in successive issues of the Link, but the reproduction in the magazine has been disappointing and doesn't do them justice. They are all beautifully displayed on the Lidgett Park web site to be found at <http://www.leedsnandemethodist.org.uk/>. Ed.

## **WITH THANKS FOR LEGACIES AND DONATIONS**

Over the last few years Lidgett Park has benefited from a number of bequests from church members who are sadly no longer with us. Some legacies have been for specific items or, as with the legacy from Mary Raine, it was left to the church to make best use of the money available. From all these gifts, we have been able to make many improvements to the fabric of church and have enhanced the sound system, added our lecterns and flower stands and many other often unnoticed improvements.

We have also been donated money from church members when a specific need has arisen. The secondary glazing in the church was made possible by such a donation and there are other unseen benefits both large and small that are often made quietly and anonymously.

After a legacy is received either the family is consulted when possible or the interest of the donor of the legacy is considered. When a wish is expressed this is taken into account if possible and such has been the case with the legacy received from Audrey Sykes. Through her daughter Hilary Hallewell we were asked to consider if we could improve the existing seating in the church. This has been possible with Hilary being kept informed and consulted with, and today we are all benefiting from that legacy in the new pew seats and cushions that are now in place for us all to enjoy. I hope you agree that they are an improvement both in comfort and appearance.

Thank you to all who have given money to the church over the years.

***Jackie Bennett (on behalf of the Property Committee).***

## **LIDGETT PLACE ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH**

The main entrance to our church, although not the most used entrance, is off Lidgett Place. If you walk or drive past this entrance what do you see? Unless there is a service or concert going on in the church you will see three pairs of closed and locked solid wooden doors with little indication of what is behind them. Many other churches have done something to open up the front of their churches.

The vision statement for the Church agreed at the last Church Council includes the statement that *'we will continue to develop and enhance our buildings to provide a welcoming, safe and flexible set of premises to be made available for church and*



*community activities'*

The Church Stewards and members of the Finance and Property Committees agreed to appoint an architect to advise us on how we could open up the Lidgett Place entrance to the church and provide toilets at the back of the church. We now have a plan which provides this, glazed doors in the centre with glazed windows to the sides, the removal of the first screen to open up the front lobby and allow a view into the church and two toilets in the store on the left side of the lobby. The cost of this work is likely to be between £40,000 and £50,000. This will make the front entrance to the church more welcoming and will be particularly suitable for events when most people do come in through the front entrance of the church (weddings, funerals and concerts)

Church Council has agreed that we should take this further. This means working up the scheme in more detail, looking at the various approvals that will be required, and considering what grants we might be able to apply for. There is £6000 that we could use from money available to the Church but it will inevitably mean that we will have to think about ways of local fund-raising as many grants will be dependent on matched local funds.

If you have any questions about this please contact me. We hope that all members of the church and church users will support this scheme to improve our main entrance

***Graham Saunders***

***Chair of the Church Finance and Property Committees***

## **MORE THOUGHTS ON LOVE**

When you love you should not say, 'God is in my heart', but rather, 'I am in the heart of God'. And think not that you can direct the course of love, for love, if it finds you worthy, directs your course.

***Kahlil Gibran***

Love is eager, sincere and kind; it is glad and lovely; it is strong, patient and faithful; wise, long-suffering and resolute; and it never seeks its own ends, for when people seek their own ends, they at once fall out of love.

***Thomas a Kempis***

## A LETTER OF THANKS

*Below is an extract of a letter of thanks received by the project group from Christians Against Poverty for the work we did on their behalf in the last project. Ed.*

***To everyone at Lidgett Park Methodist Church***

I wanted to write personally with a massive thank you for your £8000 donation. I cannot thank you enough for all you are doing to support CAP and, more importantly, the wonderful clients that we serve around the UK. Your church is a huge blessing to CAP and to the families that we help.

I am totally blown over by your generosity. To have raised £8000 over the course of this past year is a clear example of hard work and of faithful, sacrificial giving. It is openly evident you share our heart for helping the poor and vulnerable in Jesus' name. Your donation will do so much to help us lift more families out of poverty. In the past year, 2,642 people have gone debt free as a result of CAPs work. Each one of those numbers represents a life and often a family, whose future now looks completely different as a result of the vital work we do to lift people out of poverty.

On behalf of Christians Against Poverty, thank you so very much for all you have done.

***Sian Wrangles - Director of Partnership, CAP UK***

## HOLIDAY MEMORIES

Having read with interest, Jennifer's tales of her trip around the world, we recalled tales of our own whiz round the planet when I retired, at the 'turn of the century'! In Fiji, we stayed on Mana Island, one of the Fijian Group. We were taken to an impressive room with veranda, garden down to a beach, and a scenic view to another island on the horizon. We had viewed the room then gone for a walk and on our return decided on a rest before dinner and were about to leap(!) onto the bed, when the quilt pattern moved. Man of action turned to stone (fear) and Joan decided the object was to be removed. She reasoned it was too big to bash (a) it would make a mess, and (b) it might fight back. So we hastily wrapped it in the quilt, rushed outside and deposited it in the garden—hoping it would not return. On the Sunday we went to Church with a South African doctor and New Zealand nurse, (or was it a South African nurse and a New Zealand doctor). The service was explained to us, in detail, then began with a prayer. The gentleman leading could pray for his church, the island, the Pacific Rim, the world even. We were glad we had not attempted to sit cross legged on the floor as the rest of the congregation did. The sermon was equally lengthy, but had been reviewed in our pre-service explanation. The puddles, which we avoided, and the bites on the way back to our lodge, which stayed with us for a few days, made it a memorable occasion. ***Michael Bowers***

## NINE WORDS WOMEN USE.

(1) **Fine:** This is the word women use to end an argument when they are right and you need to shut up.

(2) **Five Minutes:** If she is getting dressed, this means a half an hour. Five minutes is only five minutes if you have just been given five more minutes to watch the game before helping around the house.

(3) **Nothing:** This is the calm before the storm. This means something, and you should be on your toes. Arguments that begin with nothing usually end in fine.

(4) **Go Ahead:** This is a dare, not permission. Don't Do It!

(5) **Loud Sigh:** This is actually a word, but is a non-verbal statement often misunderstood by men. A loud sigh means she thinks you are an idiot and wonders why she is wasting her time standing here and arguing with you about nothing. (Refer back to 3 for the meaning of nothing.)

(6) **That's Okay:** This is one of the most dangerous statements a woman can make to a man. That's okay means she wants to think long and hard before deciding how and when you will pay for your mistake.

(7) **Thanks:** A woman is thanking you, do not question, or faint. Just say you're welcome. (I want to add in a clause here - This is true, unless she says 'Thanks a lot' - that is PURE sarcasm and she is not thanking you at all. DO NOT say 'you're welcome'. That will bring on a 'whatever').

(8) **Whatever:** Is a woman's way of saying "Go to hell." (edited)

(9) **Don't worry about it, I got it:** Another dangerous statement, meaning this is something that a woman has told a man to do several times, but is now doing it herself. This will later result in a man asking 'What's wrong?' For the woman's response refer to 3.

\* Send this to the men you know, to warn them about arguments they can avoid if they remember the terminology.

\* Send this to all the women you know to give them a good laugh, 'cause they know it's true!!!

## A THOUGHT TO PONDER

You can't control the winds; you can only trim the sails

**WHO'S WHO**

Ministers	Rev. Dr Daniel Mwilu	2681757
Church Stewards	Betty Ashton	2935832
	Daphne Barton	2664999
	Jan Sanders	2933700
	Jenny Dalton	2934588
	Ruth Albiges	2665482
	Val Faint	2663433
Church Council Secretary	Susan Philo	2685204
Church Treasurer	Alan Wittrick	2613392
Treasurer's Assistant	Jackie Bennett	2684914
Senior Property Steward	Peter Bennett	2667380
Senior Communion Steward	Val Faint	2663433
Room Bookings (long term) J	Jackie Bennett	2684914
Room Bookings (one-off )	Patricia Davies	2663090
Junior Church Contact	Peter Bennett	2667380
Pastoral Secretaries	Kathy Benson	2941059
	Val Faint	2663433
Worship Consultation	Patricia Davies	2663090
Organist/Lidgett Singers	David Wilks	2932960
Car Rota Organiser	John Wells	2661952
Church Notices	Pat Brooke	2678506
Editor of The Link	Stanley Pearson	2736463
Benevolent Fund Secretary	Barbara Holmes	2686499
Christian Aid Organiser	Heather Fry	2933784

Churches Together Rep	Barbara Belsham	2737192
Link Distribution Manager	Joyce Toms	2933693
Church Flowers	Margaret Lee	2663876
House Groups	Margaret Mattocks	2668727
	Stanley Pearson	2736463
	Gerry Leake	2664856
Stewardship Envelopes	Paul Nolan	2663160
Gift Aid Secretary	Garth White	2730313
Ladies Group Secretaries	Lynne Pullein	2665303
	Anne Millett	2666910
Badminton	Jackie Bennett	2684914
Church Walking Group	Peter Harper	2662310
Drama Group	Carol Russell	2698341
Simply Stitching	Audrey Gabbitas	2664979
Women's World Day of Prayer	Pat Nolan	2663160
Church Cleaning	Angela Bowers	07749877933
3rd Roundhay Brownies	Jan Ridsdale	2684873
Candy Stripes	Office	2757697
Play Centre Group	Jeanette Bartle	07985569146
Toddler Group (Thursday)	lidgettparktodds@hotmail.co.uk	



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### **ED's QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. D.    2. I.    3. H.    4. A.    5. B.    6. G.    7. C.    8. F.    9. J.    10. E.

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