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MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

I write this having just shared with you in our Covenant Service and we are now already thinking about Lent. However, that shouldn't surprise me. When I went to replenish our milk on the 27 December, (which for some reason had gone off), as the sliding doors of the shop opened before me I felt as though I'd been mugged by the large display of Easter eggs blocking my entrance to the milk aisle.

But, back to our Covenant Service; this got me thinking about one of the earliest covenants we have in our scripture between the divine and humanity – which of course is found in the story of Noah. This is not just a covenant with humanity but with the whole of creation. In the story, God chooses to save Noah, and there we have a word that I am often uncomfortable with when used in some church circles, 'save'. It often talks of exclusivity, of those 'in' and those 'out', the very opposite of what Jesus and his ministry was about. If anybody who walked this earth was inclusive rather than exclusive it was Jesus. But back to the saving of Noah. We could ask the question was Noah 'saved from' or was he 'saved to'? Being saved from is *passive* and brings us back to exclusivity, whereas being saved to is *active* and implies a purpose with opportunity and possibility. It seems to me that the writer of this story wants to present the reader with a picture of a God who cares for all creation and recognises the important part we as human beings can and indeed must play in that.

Let me remind you of a short part of the Ash Wednesday Service found in the Methodist Worship Book.

In the name of Christ, therefore, I invite you to observe this holy season of Lent, by prayer, self-denial and charitable giving; by self-examination and repentance; and by reading and meditating on God's word.

There then is an invitation to us all for the coming weeks of Lent, but can we make it a little more specific to us this year. Well let's take each discipline and attach it to this earliest of covenants that God made with humanity.

Prayer – pray this lent for all creation.

Self denial – what could you reduce or give up that is causing harm to the earth, for example could you take the bus, get a lift, or walk instead of taking the car?

Charitable giving – could you make a donation to a charity that is

specifically trying to help the planet?

Self examination – how often and how seriously do we as individuals look at how we use all earth’s resources and not just the main ones like energy?

Repentance – let’s make sure we are not just sorry for our past ways, but actively seek to turn over a new leaf in how we care for the planet. Maybe we could make more effort to remember those bags for life.

Reading and meditating on God’s word – look at the encounters Jesus has with people, there are many where some would say “Jesus saved that person”. Ask yourself were they saved from something and thus had become part of an exclusive club, or were they saved to... make a difference?

How can each of us make a difference this Lent?

Every Blessing

Andrew

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

03	10.30	Rev. Andrew Atkins	Holy Communion
	6.30	Chapel Allerton	
10	10.30	Mr. John Witt	
	6.30	Rev. Andrew Atkins	United/Circuit Service
17	08.00	Rev. Andrew Atkins	Holy Communion
	10.30	Rev. Michael Stopford	
	6.30	Rev. Andrew Atkins	Holy Communion
24	08.00	Rev. Mark Harwood	Holy Communion
	10.30	Mr. John Summerwill	
	6.30	Rev. Graeme Dutton	Ecumenical Service

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group meet fortnightly on Thursdays in the Youth Hall. All are welcome

07 February

Members’ Evening

21 February

Canon Anne Hemsworth

“Firing a Canon”

CHRISTMAS REMEMBERED



Here's a great picture of the inn and the stable as constructed by our own Junior Church. You can see why there was a problem finding accommodation in the inn.

THANK YOU

Our youngest grandson Jon came along to coffee morning and interviewed retired people in groups about their difficulties in using or connecting to the internet. This is for a thesis he's working on at University. Below is his thank you to all who helped.

Barbara Massey

Hi, just a quick 'thank you' to everyone who helped me in the interviews at the Coffee Morning. Your opinions were all very useful. I will be running a second set of interviews shortly, to make sure I'm on the right track.

But, if anyone has anything else they would like to say about Internet access and how to improve the way in which people access it or learn to use it, feel free to send me anything directly through Email - "jon1992@hotmail.co.uk" or, if you pass it on to my granny Barbara Massey I'm sure it will get through to me. Thanks again for all your help.

Jon Chapman

JIGSAW FAREWELL

We will no longer be running the Jigsaw Library. We have had great fun doing this at coffee mornings.

We plan to sell the jigsaws for 50p each at the February coffee morning, and any left will be offered to charity organisations.

Thanks to everyone who has donated and borrowed jigsaws over the last three years.

Gill and Andy Cooper.

LADIES GROUP PARTY



Our Ladies Group celebrated the New Year with a party in the form of a Victorian Soiree, Cameo brooches, shawls and other treasures came out of the mothballs for the occasion. Members enjoyed the poetry readings and singing, which ended with a rousing chorus of “Rule Britannia”.

Audrey Gabbitas

Lidgett Park Drama Group
presents the pantomime

'Little Red Riding Hood'
at Lidgett Park Methodist Church



on Friday & Saturday
15, 16 February and
Friday & Saturday
22, 23 February, 2013
at 7.00pm

Adults £6

Children £3

For tickets please ring 267 8506

SOME WORDS ABOUT OASIS

There are now nine of us who act as leaders for the Thursday evening meetings. We start at 7pm and generally take no longer than 30 minutes, thus on alternate weeks, those involved in the Ladies Group hasten across the foyer to join their colleagues who start at 7.45 with music to move chairs to, ringing in their ears.

It's a meeting for quiet reflection and prayers, with a little music, occasionally interactive, but more often the leader will introduce a subject or subjects we can consider in our own time. There are times of silence for our own thoughts and prayers. Now I've written this down it seems half an hour crammed with stimulus! I rarely come away without something to mull over. We had a meeting on All Saints Day led by Barbara Belsham and she talked briefly about St Patrick and St Alphege (you remember him, he was the guy who, as Archbishop of Canterbury, was martyred by the Vikings when he considered he could not subject the diocese to the ransom the invaders were demanding. Mind you that was in 1012 AD). The St Patrick Gaelic cross, had that circle of the sun around it's cross-bar. We thought about Saints famous and those we've lost recently known to a smaller circle.

Come and join us you'll never find it boring, the silence is wonderful and sometimes the music is too.

Michael Bowers

TREES FOR DONALD

On Saturday 29th December Donald Nicholson's family, along with the Friends of Roundhay Park planted two trees in memory of Donald. One, a copper beech, can be spotted at the end of the upper lake on the top of the bank overlooking the big lake. A spot we reached the last time he and I walked in the snow there.

The second, which is a redwood, has been planted further down the ravine. If you spot them, have a look round and smile - someone may take your photo!! :)

Mary Patchett

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“I'd describe myself as a Christian who doesn't believe in God.”

Helen Mirren

PRAYER FOR CHANGE

This prayer appears in the magazines of Lidgett Park, St Andrew's and St Edmund's.

Lord, the world changes - All too quickly.
I cannot keep up at times.
Do not let me be overwhelmed by the pace.

Lord, the world changes – All too alarmingly.
It seems too big at times.
Do not let me be overwhelmed by the emotions.

Lord, the world changes -I cannot change the world.
'No, you can't, but do what you can, You can change
You can share my love with those you meet
You can change your world.'

Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
Forever in the next.

Amen.

Mary Patchett

A PARADOXICAL WORLD

The piece below was written for Oasis on 20th December 2012.

We live in a paradoxical world. The sun is essential to life, but too much can cause skin cancer, or dry up the earth to make infertile deserts. Likewise, water is essential to life but too much and we can drown, or towns can be swept away. Radioactive materials can be used to provide plentiful energy

and medical treatments but can also be used to make bombs which can kill on a massive scale.

We are given an appetite for food which is essential in order to live, but that appetite can lead to obesity which is detrimental to life. The same applies to sexual appetite. It is essential for the continuation of life, but can go out of control and lead to miserable excesses. Our bodies are host to millions of bacteria which enable us to live, but those same bacteria, if they migrate to a different part of the body to where they are normally found, can kill.

All life is created by God, but that includes predator as well as prey. The predator is designed to kill and feed on other God-created animals in order to continue its own life.

Our God-given intelligence and creativity have created beautiful works of art, marvellous feats of engineering, incredible advances in medicine – and the ability to destroy the planet by nuclear or biological warfare.

Physics has thrown up an even more intriguing paradox. If we look at a rock we would describe it as solid and static. But that rock is made up of atoms which are mostly space, and the subatomic particles are all whizzing around at tremendous speeds. So the apparently solid, static object is comprised of things which are neither solid nor static!

I'm sure you can think of lots of other instances of the paradoxical nature of the world. Why is it like this? God created the world and I cannot believe its paradoxical nature is unintentional. I think it is to make life complicated and to cause us to have to constantly make choices which are not straightforward, black or white decisions, but where there are pros and cons on both sides to be considered. What do you think?

Gillian Clements

AN INTERESTING FACT

The Great Barrier Reef in Australia contains a reef named “Unnamed Reef”.
I thought you would like to know that.

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ

Each clue provides two words which differ by one or two letters (eg aunt, ant [1], plant [2]). The differing letters, when rearranged, make the name of a popular locality (8, 4).

1. Can you put wine in a pouch? (4, 3) [1]
2. He was offhand and hirsute. (4, 5) [1]
3. The borer spoke in a slow, sleepy way. (3, 5) [2]
4. The chemical compound occurred during the Christian festival. (5, 6) [1]
5. The fight was bitty. (4, 5) [2]

6. The shell cost 20 shillings. (3, 5) [2]

7. The cereal made me smile. (5, 4) [1]

8. It was a tale in a pigpen. (5, 3) [2]

I think you will find this a bit easier than our Christmas quizzes.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: MORE ON ALCOHOL

Dear Editor

You wrote that "it is a fact that excessive consumption of alcohol was (and still is) a major social problem."

No one who drinks can offer 100 per cent proof that one day it won't be them, as alcohol is a highly addictive drug, one of the UK's biggest killers, with some 38,000 deaths a year.

Do you remember "George Best"? To football fans and players of his generation, he was simply the best, who could put the ball in the net with dazzling ease. He was a legend but what a tragedy that his unique talent went to waste because of drink and an early death because of alcohol addiction. It does not matter how attractive, how gifted, how famous a person is - alcohol can rip it all away.

Booze does not choose. It is no respecter of persons. It can ruin anyone, even the best. I should know, every year my elder son David is missing from our Christmas dinner. Alcohol ruined my wonderful talented son and he died at the age of 51.

Joyce Wood

PUTTING ON THE RITZ



For one afternoon the Community Hall was transformed into a very upmarket version of “Bettys”. White tablecloths, padded chairs, posh china and delicious scones and cakes to go with our tea and coffee. Plus we had a friendly maitre d’, charming waiters and waitresses and piano music to accompany our munching. The rumour is that it was the brainwave (brainstorm?) of Kathy Benson, as usual abetted by Pat Brooke and the fund raising committee. Wonderful - and it raised over £400 for the Church Project. We are already looking forward to the next one.





CONGRATULATIONS

Many at Lidgett Park will remember Peter Grubb and his work with the Nigerian project which we have helped with contributions in the past. He came to Lidgett on several occasions to talk about the project.

To my surprise and joy he recently rang me to tell me that he has been invited to Buckingham Palace to receive an MBE. I'm sure we would all like to congratulate him on this award.

Barbara Holmes

CORA BLACK

We as a family felt privileged to know Cora Black who was our son Lester's friend for over 40 years. We will all miss her.

These words penned by Charles Wesley come to mind and we feel are appropriate for Cora, who is now with her Lord in glory.

My God I am thine, What a comfort divine.
What a blessing to know that my Jesus is mine

Yet onward I haste to the Heavenly feast,
That, that is the fulness, but this the taste.

And this I shall prove, till with joy I remove,
To the Heaven of heavens in Jesus' love.

Unforgettable Cora, God be with you till we meet again.

Joyce Wood

THE HARD FACTS

- The average age of death in the UK is 74 for men and 80 for women
- In the homeless population it's 48 for men and 43 for women
- That's 26 years early for men and 37 years early for Women

(from Homelessness: A Silent Killer)

Fred Langley

THE VISIT by Friedrich Dürrenmatt

- at **The Carriageworks, Leeds, 31st Jan - 2nd Feb**

How far would you go for the sake of your community? How much would you overlook for your family's comfort? What crime would you condone for a million pounds?

These are the questions faced by the citizens of Gullen, a small poverty-stricken town somewhere in Europe, when one of its former inhabitants - now fabulously wealthy - returns and offers them a way out of their misery, but on just one condition.....

Originally written in Switzerland in 1956, this thought-provoking tragicomedy uses its black humour to consider human fallibility in the face of temptation; updated to the present day, but keeping the moral dilemma at its heart, this new production can be seen at The Carriageworks Theatre, Millenium Square, Leeds from Thursday 31st Jan to Saturday 2nd Feb 2013 at 7.30pm nightly.

Tickets from Pam Wilson: email technopam@yahoo.com or call 0113 2752174 or 07968 502326

Bit short notice this, but if you can get there I'm sure it will be well worth it. Pam is too modest to tell you but she is the star (and the visitor of the title). Good for you Pam – but technopam! That really is LOL (laugh out loud).

REAP (Roundhay Environmental Action Project)

REAP is starting 2013 with a swishing event! 10am – 12pm, Saturday 23 February, St Edmund's Church Hall

Fancy starting 2013 with a new wardrobe but without the expense? Swishing is an ethical way of recycling clothes by swapping unwanted clothes for new ones. Simply bring your pre-loved clothes that are clean and in good condition but no longer needed, hang them on the 'swishing rail' and find something else that you would like to take away. Please bring along clothes, shoes, bags, jewellery. Once you have donated an item you are free to take away what you wish.

Everyone must bring at least one item.

Helen Ellis

THE BUS

Here it is – the first picture of the bus that we bought for the school for the hearing impaired at Rangammal, South India. As you see it is brand spanking new and as yet has not had the name of the school or the message that it was donated by Lidgett Park Methodist Church painted on the side. We hope shortly to have a picture of it painted and with the children of the school around it.



MARRIAGE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Marriage. When the government started talking about allowing gay couples to describe their partnerships as “marriage” rather than “civil partnerships” I was surprised to hear a Christian cleric say that marriage was a term which was owned by Christianity. I think those who have a registry office wedding or who have a faith other than Christianity would disagree. If a couple wish to marry in church and make a promise to God relating to their union that is a personal decision for them. I do not believe it means that people who do not marry in a Christian church are not married.

In this country marriage has traditionally been between one man and one woman. It isn't so long ago that a woman was regarded as the property of her father and then, on marriage, the property of her husband. There was a strong economic imperative behind marriage, ie ownership (a man owning a woman) and inheritance (a man wanting his wealth to go to his offspring). It wasn't very spiritual.

Gender. Most characteristics, physical and mental, are on a spectrum rather than one thing or the other. A simple example is height – people aren't simply short or tall, but all heights are represented from the shortest to the tallest. Within recent months I heard a doctor on the radio explain how this also applies to gender. At one end of the spectrum there is the very masculine man and at the other end is the very feminine woman. Towards the centre are feminine men and masculine women. In the centre are the poor folk who are both male and female. I describe them as “poor folk” because they live in a world where they are expected to be male or female and they have to make an

impossible decision. They need a world where everyone is accepted regardless of where they sit on the gender spectrum. Also, there are people who have the body of one gender but the mindset of the opposite gender. They also encounter great difficulty fitting in with current society and go through much to make an acceptable life for themselves.

The development of the foetus in the womb is extremely complicated and there are many opportunities for this development to take an unexpected turn. Is there any wonder that we don't all turn out the same.

Sexuality. If gender is not straightforward, it is hardly surprising that sexuality isn't either. Homosexuality is not a lifestyle choice, it is inborn. It is found in the animal kingdom as well as in humans. The majority of heterosexuals hope for a loving relationship to help them along life's journey. Do heterosexuals have the right to deny the same to homosexuals? *[As I write this the C of E has just announced that gay clergy in a relationship can be considered for the post of bishop as long as they are celibate.]*

During an edition of TV's "Who Do You Think You Are?" one person was dismayed to find that his ancestor, a Christian cleric, along with church elders had subjected a young woman to some sort of examination to determine whether or not she was a virgin. Surely we've moved on from this sort of prurient behaviour. What consenting adults do in private should be no-one else's business.

I consider the most important words in the Bible to be "Love your neighbour as yourself". I would like to see everything else in the Bible measured by that. Christians should not turn a blind eye to scientific knowledge. What we know and understand about human behaviour and development is vastly different to what was known thousands of years ago. We should use our God-given brains to think things through rationally rather than automatically repeating what an individual person wrote down in the distant past.

Gillian Clements

BROWNING HOUSE

I have been involved with Browning House for the last 30 years since John and Betty Sadler and I went round to see it. It was a deep shock to me, two weeks before our Gift Service, to find that it was closing down. I rang Browning House and the staff were very distressed that the Council was taking over from them. They gave me the name of Shantona Women's Centre as a possible recipient of our gifts which were transported there after the service.

Barbara Holmes

THANK YOU

Dear Ms Holmes,

Please convey our sincere thanks to the Lidgett Park Methodist Church congregation for their generous donation of good quality gifts, which will help the local community we serve.

We really appreciate your contribution at this time of the year; it will bring smiles to the faces of a lot of children and their families.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Harpreet Dosanjh Fiaance and Monitoring Officer
Shantona Women's Centre

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S CHRISTMAS QUIZZES

CHRISTMASSY QUIZ

Each clue provides two words which differ by one or two letters (eg aunt, aunt [1]). The differing letters, when rearranged, make two animals.

Part 1

1. They used cans for the sparkly Christmas decorations. (4,6) [2]
TINS, TINSEL = EL
2. The boat was called "The Ilex". (3,5) [2] HOY, HOLLY = LL
3. I do not like the gift. (6,7) [1] RESENT, PRESENT = P
4. Reveal the shade. (4,6) [2] SHOW, SHADOW = AD
5. He had bundles of Christmas tree decorations. (5,7) [2]
BALES, BAUBLES = UB
6. The NT king had a lot of cows. (5,4) [1] HEROD, HERD = O
7. You could do this in an oven. (5,4) [1] ROAST, OAST = R

BULL, LEOPARD

Part 2

1. The elephant tusk was entwined with hедера. (5,3) [2] IVORY, IVY = OR
2. A sailor twinkled in the sky! (3,4) [1] TAR, STAR = S
3. The trio danced round the elm. (5,4) [1] THREE, TREE = H
4. Pull this to make a noise and get a paper hat. (5,7) [2]
CRACKER, CRACK = ER
5. The aged yellow metal. (3,4) [1] OLD, GOLD = G
6. The farm worker found a broken piece of pottery. (8,5) [3]
SHEPHERD, SHERD = PHE
7. This spherical fruit grows on a chain of mountains. (6,5) [1]
ORANGE, RANGE = O

GOPHER, HORSE

LINKS

Place a word in Col B which turns the words in Cols A and C into longer words. The words in Col B are three letter words except for no. 5 which is a four letter word. The first letters of the words in Col B when read downwards make a word (clue: Grab some nuts and you have this.)

	<u>Col A</u>	<u>Col B</u>	<u>Col C</u>
1.	RAT	HER	RING
2.	POT	AGE	LESS
3.	CAT	NIP	PER
4.	SUN	DAY	TIME
5.	MONK	FISH	CAKE
6.	ALL	URE	A
7.	PAL	LET	TING

HANDFUL

ONLY CONNECT

This puzzle is based on a section of the BBC show “Only Connect”. Arrange the 16 words into 4 groups of 4

TSAR, SULTAN, PEACOCK, TOM, TORTOISESHELL, MOGGY, EMPEROR, RATS, KITTEN, EMIR, QUEEN, ARTS, KING, STAR, BRIMSTONE, RAJAH

SOLUTION

TSAR, RATS, STAR, ARTS = Anagrams

KING, SULTAN, EMIR, RAJAH = Rulers

EMPEROR, PEACOCK, BRIMSTONE, TORTOISESHELL = Butterflies

QUEEN, TOM, KITTEN, MOGGY = Cats

I hope that that little lot kept you busy after Christmas Dinner!



Almost done but there's just room to congratulate “Sir Kev” on his latest award. But what is it? And why has it upset the Aussies (Aww!)?

And don't be sad – Spring will soon be with us. Have a good February.