

# *The Link Magazine*

*February 2015*

Rev'd Andrew Atkins and Rev'd Palo Tshume

Editor: Stan Pearson

Tel: 0113 2681757

Tel: 0113 2736463

Emails: rev.andrew07@gmail.com; palotshume@yahoo.co.uk

sbpearson@gmail.com

## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

Dear Friends

A couple of days after Christmas I was lucky enough to get out for a walk with some of my family and friends for a couple of hours at Eccup. It became a rare occasion of me having one of my cameras with me and a couple of photo opportunities presenting themselves. As late afternoon approached I was lucky enough to get a couple of shots of a fabulous sunset and just have time to add a filter and change my lens before the moment was lost. Whilst the subject, was the same and the time and lighting only marginally different between shots the story the pictures told were very different. It's a shame the Link isn't in colour for you to see the images, but by adding a filter the scene could easily be mistaken for a scene in Africa rather than Yorkshire.

This reminded me that we all view what we read, what we see and hear, our daily experiences, through many different lenses and filters. This of, course, is equally true of how we view and read the Bible. We read it through many and varied lenses and filters, some of which are our own, some have been instilled in us or imposed on us by others, some are added by the writers themselves, others are to do with the culture we have been brought up in. I'm not saying that these filters are bad or wrong, but we need to be able to recognise that there is no such thing as a value-free or unbiased position on anything, in a similar way that a change of lens and filter altered my photos at Eccup.

I know that some of my filters are that I'm a white British man, brought up working class, degree educated and now in a middle class occupation. I have a theologically conservative Methodist upbringing, but have now moved a long way from that following personal experience and much reading and conversation. I have lived predominantly in the north and have strong socialist tendencies.

The list goes on...

So as we move into the new year my challenge to us all this year is to think about the filters we may have and see our daily life, world events and scripture through, and ask ourselves how these filters may change our view or perspective on things.

Till next time

**Andrew**

### **PRAYER FOR CHANGE**

*Published simultaneously in the magazines of all three covenant churches in Roundhay (Lidgett Park, St Edmund's and St Andrew's).*

Lord Jesus, You are a Lord who walks beside your people  
So we pray for people who walk for justice.

You are a Lord who raises up those who are bent low.  
So we pray for those held down by the grindings of life and the indifference of the world.

You are a Lord who fed the hungry.  
So we pray for all who long for bread and the means to provide it.

You are a Lord who celebrates the small and the insignificant.  
So we pray for the children and for those who are never noticed.

You are a Lord who says, 'Follow Me'  
So we pray for courage and faith in our hearts that we may take up the cross and find it leads to life.

*Prayer from Christian Aid*

**WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY**

1st Feb	10.30	Revd. Andrew Atkins	Communion
	6.30	Service at Chapel Allerton Methodist Church	
8th Feb	10.30	Mrs Catherine Frieze	
	6.30	Rev d. Andrew Atkins	Communion
15th Feb	10.30	Revd. David Hall	
	4.00	United Service at Shadwell Methodist Church	
22nd Feb	8.00	Revd. Joyce Nicholson	Communion
	10.30	Revd. Palo Tshume	
	6.30	Ecumenical Service at St Edmund's Church	

**INTERESTED IN CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER? *An invitation to learn about Julian Meetings.***

Do you find it difficult to find the words to say when you try to pray? Would you like to pray without using words or simply find time for quiet reflection or meditation? If so, Julian Meetings may be for you.

Deidre Morris, the GB National Coordinator for Julian Meetings, has kindly agreed to visit St. Edmund's Church on Tuesday 3rd. February at 2 pm. for about two hours when she will introduce JMs and help us to experience contemplative prayer.

In the first session Deidre will give the introduction followed by a centring exercise leading to a silence of 15-20 minutes. There will then be an opportunity to comment or ask questions after which Deidre will then lead a second period of silence, probably with music, again followed by a time to chat and share a cuppa.

You are warmly invited and would be able to slip away at any time

**For more details please contact Astrid Fielden at [astrid.fielden@gmail.com](mailto:astrid.fielden@gmail.com) or 0113 2735865 or Martha Jaggs on 0113 2403048.**

## A CHRISTMAS RANT

This is a comment on Andrew's message in the last Link. Assuming that Stan decides to print this it will be February by the time you read it. So, if you think it a bit inappropriate, I am writing it well before Christmas and, secondly, when have I ever needed it to be the right time to have a moan?

Ministers of Religion seem to have some problems with Christmas. Every year we hear from some of them that stores are putting up the decorations earlier than ever before. This can't be true since I've heard this asserted for at least 50 years, which would mean that by now the decorations for one Christmas would have to be going up before the ones for the preceding one had come down. And, of course, the lamentations that stores are over-commercialising Christmas are always with us. There might be something in that but, given that the function of retail businesses is to sell things, you might think that they would be in dereliction of their duty if they under-commercialised Christmas.

But that isn't what worries me; rather it's that Methodist ministers generally seem to be afflicted with a disease which I call Adventitis. In his letter Andrew asks the question "How soon dare we sing our first Christmas carol?" and then tells us that Advent will be an "angel, shepherd, stable, manger, baby, Magi... and certainly donkey free zone". The reason given for this being "Advent is a time of hope, of expectation, of preparation, of reflection".

But that isn't how it was. The Magi might have had some vague hopes of seeing something exciting when they looked up at the skies. But we can be pretty certain that the shepherds weren't sitting around their fire saying "well when do you think the messiah will be born, tomorrow perhaps or maybe tonight?" In fact we know that when the Angel of the Lord appeared not only were they surprised, they were terrified. It was only Mary and Joseph who had an Advent experience.

Well that's no reason why we shouldn't do a bit of preparing and reflecting through Advent. But what Adventitis seems to mean in practice is, that instead of being allowed to sing the joyous Christmas hymns that we only get a short time to sing anyway, we end up having to drone out the (mostly turgid) Advent hymns that no one wants to sing.

There really is no reason that once we get to Advent we can't start singing Christmas carols. As someone who views the Christmas season as starting when I hear the hallowed strains of "Lonely this Christmas" echoing around a supermarket or mall it really upsets me that we, in the Church, have so few opportunities to raise our voices singing about the real meaning of Christmas.

**Ed Dodman**

**NOTICES.*****The Car Rota.***

John Wells, who coordinates the car rota, has asked me to remind people that there is spare room on this if people would like help in getting to Church. John's contact details are 2661952 and can be found in the back of this magazine (Who's Who).

***The Coffee Morning Bookstall.***

I am asked to remind people that the aim is to keep the bookstall supplied with a good turnover of books so that the stock remains fresh. Books that are getting old or do not appeal are removed at intervals. Replacements for these are always needed so keep the bookstall in mind if you are thinking of giving any books away.

***What a milestone!***

Margaret Barraclough will be 100 years old on 20th February 2015 and she wishes to invite the Church to take tea with her on Saturday 28th February 2015 between 4.30 and 6.00 pm in the Community Hall.

Strictly NO presents or flowers please but, if you wish, donations can be made to the Church Project.

**A NOTE OF THANKS Andrew Walker**

I would like to thank all the church members who have 'phoned, sent get well cards or called to see me following my recent, unexpected, short stay in the LGI. It has been heartwarming and uplifting to know that so many people know and care. A special thank you to Val for calling with the flowers.

Thank you again, and God bless you all.

**TRAIDCRAFT MINI ROADSHOW**

Saturday 28 February 2015 10am-3pm @ St Edmund's Parish Church Roundhay Lidgett Park Road LS8 1JN

View the Spring range of clothes, household items, jewellery, crafts and cards and get an extra 10% discount on all orders placed on that day. Special offers on some groceries. A simple lunch will be available to buy, *also tea, coffee and cake.*

There will be a Powerpoint presentation of the current work of Traidcraft, information about new products and the opportunity to ask questions.

Book your place via Susan Scott [susans@traidcraft.co.uk](mailto:susans@traidcraft.co.uk)



*As of writing we understand that Thorner is to be our sister church within the circuit and I feel it important that we support them whenever we can. Ed.*

As you will all know by now, from February 2015 due to the reorganisation of the pastoral responsibility of the Presbyters in our Circuit, we here at Thorner are to share a Minister with you at Lidgett. With this in mind, we are SO grateful to the walking group who came and supported our Christmas Fayre which took place on Sat Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10-12 noon and where we served our usual bacon butties and also mince pies, Christmas cakes etc. This event was held for Thorner Church Funds so we thank you all for your generous support! We raised £500 in 2 hours! Thanks again!

We hope you'll join us in 2015 for the first of our fund raising event of the year which will take place on Sat Jan 31<sup>st</sup> and it will be held from 10 – 12 noon and will be a 50/50 event in aid of MHA and Action for Children As usual our famous Bacon Butties will be served !!!

It just remains for me to wish you all, on behalf of all of us here at Thorner Methodists, a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing for 2015. May the love and peace of the Christ Child fill your hearts this Christmas and throughout the coming New Year. **Ann Johnson ~~ Senior Church Steward**

### **Saturday Fund Raising Events Programme for 2015**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
Jan 31st	10-12noon	AFC/MHA
Mar 21st	10-12noon	Missions
May 9th	10-12noon	Martin House
July 4th	10-12noon	Summer Fayre (TMC Funds)
Sept 19th	10-12noon	St Gemma's
<b>Sun</b> Sept 27 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Harvest Lunch (MDRF Fund)
Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>	10-12 noon	Christmas Fayre (TMC Funds)

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

## GARBAGE---A MEDITATION

Garbage bins are filled with our rubbish. Poke around in one and you will find tea bags, banana skins, empty bottles, the remains of a takeaway meal, a crushed box and so on; all mixed together and waiting to be taken away. We have taken what we wanted for our pleasure and sustenance, and thrown away the rest.

If a town or city produces too much garbage it can soon be overwhelmed. We are surrounded by landfills, as well as by air and water made toxic from our refuse and its disposal. And the same can become true of our lives. We may consider so much of it garbage – a failing relationship; an irritating colleague or neighbour; aspects of our own personality we would gladly do without such as a quick temper or intolerance with people having a slower mind. We'd love to toss these things away and get rid of them.

But one person's garbage can be another's wealth. Notice a homeless person picking through garbage bins looking for things that can be turned into cash; or a stray cat outside a restaurant looking for delicious leftover morsels; or a sculptor finding metal scraps in a junkyard; or a gardener looking at banana skins and seeing potential mulch. Each is a form of recycling – the discovery of that which can be salvaged and re-used.

So, too, can we recycle our *personal* garbage. A dying relationship? - Perhaps we can rediscover what first brought us together and renew our commitment and love. Even if this proves impossible there may be something positive gained from the 'failure'. An irritating colleague: how to recycle that? Maybe we'll finally learn to stand up for ourselves. Conversely it may be the perfect opportunity to develop more tact and patience.

There's no rulebook. While dumping garbage is a crude affair, recycling is an art. Give a small child an empty box and it is often put to a number of different uses in her/his imagination. But for us adults – why it's just an empty box. Throw it out.

But if we *can* commit ourselves to recycling, then perhaps every piece of our *personal* garbage can become an opportunity for improving the quality of our lives as well as those of other people.

So, the big questions. What garbage is there in our lives that needs to be creatively recycled? How can we salvage, learn from, use even those things in our lives which we now count as rubbish?

**Gerry Leake**

## THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE IT!

What do we mean? A Yorkshire Tea, of course! A necessary prerequisite is to go without food for the previous 24 hours. Food will probably also be unnecessary for the day or so afterwards.

We had a wonderful Yorkshire Tea in November, courtesy of the Lidgett Park Ladies with all proceeds going to the Church Project this year (The Oxford Place Children's Centre). **A total of**



**£336 was raised.**



We had a sit-down meal with ham, game pie or, alternatively, Wensleydale pate for those with a vegetarian preference (do we have those in Yorkshire?). To follow we had a large selection of cakes including favourites such as curd tart, treacle tart and parkin, not to mention Yorkshire Pudding with either golden syrup or honey.

A day to remember. **Thank you Douglas Bowers for the photos.**

## LIDGETT LADIES' GROUP

Meetings held at 7.45 pm in the Youth Hall on alternate Thursdays. If you haven't been before, please do come along and "try us out", you'll be very welcome.

5th Feb. Anne Allen will be giving "A demonstration of Chinese Brush Painting". This is a change to the published programme as the Speaker for this date was unable to come due to family illness.

19th Feb. Nancy Norton "I've Got a Drawerful At Home". Interactive demonstration, and please remember to bring your purses/chequebooks as Nancy will be bringing items you may wish to purchase - scarves and bags.

Hopefully your bank balances will have recovered after the Christmas "splurge"!

**Lynne Pullein**



**THANK YOU FROM BELIZE**

Rev. Andrew Atkins  
Lidgett Park Methodist Church  
United Kingdom

December 15, 2014

Dear Rev. Atkins,

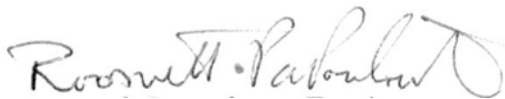
I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

It is with joyful heart that I write on behalf of the Belize/Honduras District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, and especially on behalf of the 190 students of the Belmopan Methodist High School to thank you and the congregation of Lidgett Park Methodist for the very generous contributions towards the development of the New High School. You have been with us in this effort since its inception. The recent donation of £ 11,000.00 is a clear demonstration of your continued support towards the young people in Belize.

I express deepest gratitude for the love, generosity and support that the Belmopan Methodist High School has been receiving from Lidgett Park Methodist Church. I wish to reassure you that your effort has not been in vain, for the school is growing. Your support is recognized and truly appreciated. The students, administrators, staff, parents, and the Methodist Church in Belize are all grateful to you all.

May continue to bless you and the congregation at Lidgett Park Methodist as you continue in the service of Christ. May you all have a peaceful Season of the Nativity as well as a blessed New Year.

Yours in the service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roosevelt Papouloute".

Roosevelt Papouloute (Rev.)

**THANKS TO THE WENDEL SINGERS AND LIDGETT PARK DRAMA GROUP**

The Friday before Christmas brought us what is becoming an annual treat in the form of our Christmas Concert by the Wendel Singers (conductor Joe Roberts). This time the Singers were paired with our own Lidgett Park Drama Group who added to the splendid music some extremely funny Christmas sketches. It was an evening that combined the serious with the light-hearted, the religious with the secular. As well as enjoying ourselves, the event raised £921 for our Church project, the Oxford Place Children's Centre. **Stan Pearson.**

**ADVANCED WARNINGS.**

I am unclear at the moment as to the exact date of the Annual Church General Meeting, but usually this is sometime in May. This is to invite Church organisations to post in The Link in March and April topics that they think are of interest to that meeting, for example, a summary of the activities of your organisation over the past year and the plans for the coming year.

I think it would be particularly helpful if details of any proposed Church projects for the coming year could be posted in The Link. This would allow them to be presented in a considered way and members would be able to give each one some thought before the AGM. In recent years there has been little or no information before the meeting itself, which has limited discussion. It would be helpful also if, with the outline of the project, proposals for the organisation of the fundraising could be given.

The agenda for the AGM is in the hands of the minister and the stewards, but The Link provides a means of bringing issues to people's attention.

**Editor.**

**WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER.**

Once again it is almost time for the annual Womens' World of Prayer service. This year it will take place at Lidgett Park at 2pm on Friday 6th March. The service has been prepared by Christian women of the Bahamas so we aim to be colourful! All are very welcome, gender immaterial.

**Pat Nolan**

**MAKE A NOTE OF THIS**

Please make a note in your diaries that on Saturday March 21st at 7.30pm there will be a concert in Lidgett Park Church featuring the following:-

THE ELYSIAN SINGERS
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Conductor
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JONATHAN POWER
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This 30 strong choir based in Wetherby sing music of all styles and genres in a most entertaining and enjoyable way. Please come along and hear them - proceeds in aid of the church project.

**David Wilkes****THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS EXPLAINED**

The partridge in a pear tree – Jesus Christ

Two turtle doves – Old and New Testaments

Three French hens – faith, hope and love

Four calling birds – the four gospels

Five golden rings – the Torah (the first 5 books of the Hebrew Scriptures)

Six geese a-laying – the 6 days of creation

Seven swans a-swimming – the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit (see page 28. Agree?)

Eight maids a-milking – the beatitudes

Nine ladies dancing – the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit (see page 28. Agree?)

Ten lords a-leaping – the Ten Commandments

Eleven pipers piping – the eleven faithful disciples

Twelve drummers drumming – the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed

**Source unknown**

## INTERNET WARNING

You need to know about this email virus. Even the most advanced programs from Norton or McAfee cannot take care of this one. Lidgett members may be particularly at risk. Some of its effects are:

- Causes you to send the same email twice
- Causes you to send a blank email
- Causes you to send an email to the wrong person
- Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you
- Causes you to forget to attach the attachment
- Causes you to hit 'SEND' before you have finished
- Causes you to hit 'DELETE' instead of 'SEND'
- Causes you to hit 'SEND' when you should 'DELETE'

It is known as the C-NILE virus. (Have I already told you about this?)

## QUIZ

See if you can identify the twelve English towns from these anagrams:

1. Mary
2. Ruby
3. Poems
4. Swell
5. Ghouls
6. Launder
7. Secret lie
8. Heretics fled
9. Dominates
10. Recent wish
11. Match Helen
12. Hectogram ends

*For the answers see page 28, but why not give yourself a challenge? In half an hour see how many English towns you can identify from these anagrams. Six is an average score; eight is good; ten or eleven is excellent; whilst if you get all twelve you must be a genius!*

**Fred Langley.**

## UNINTENDED NOTICES

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At our recent anniversary service Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

*Continuing our series about activities that go on in the background in our church, the following emphasises the contribution made in a pastoral sense by the work of our 'Flower Ladies'. Ed.*

### **YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ILL.**

The flower arrangements in Church give pleasure to us all week by week. We are grateful to Margaret Lee's team of flower arrangers, and also to the church members who donate money for the flowers – perhaps to celebrate a birthday or anniversary.

When the Sunday services are over the flowers are taken from their splendid arrangements and made up into bunches to be given to members and friends. Sometimes, when they open the door to our flower-bearer people say, "But I'm not poorly!" You don't have to be! There are many reasons for calling with flowers. It is good to have the opportunity to make a pastoral visit to friends who are housebound, bereaved or having to deal with a difficult family situation. It is a way of saying "Thank You" to those who serve the church in various ways – stewards, caterers and organisers of events. It is also a pleasure to share the joy of those celebrating a special occasion, or welcoming a new baby into the family.

Many people are involved with the Church flowers in one way or another. The flower arrangers have already been named in a previous edition of *The Link*. Team distribution consists of Joan Bowers, Kath Gee, Val Faint, Heather Fry, Audrey Gabbitas and Margaret Leake. Two very important members of our team are Muriel and Fred Langley who make the tags to tie up the bouquets.

Well done, and thanks Team Flora.

**Jean Todd.**

### **LIDGETT PART DRAMA GROUP.**

*On the subject of what goes on in our church, I wonder how many of us realise how much money our drama group raises for charitable causes around the region.*

The amount raised for this year's murder mystery was **£3,405**. We did actually make more but some of the churches never let us know what they had raised. Most of the money went either into their church funds or for their particular projects. We have now done 8 murder mysteries so just think how much money that would come to over the years! **Pat Brooke.**

## AND SOME MORE ON THE MURDER MYSTERY PLAYS!

*For those of you who read the suggested solutions in the last issue, we now have the Red Herring Prize. Ed.*

### **Red Herring Prize winner at Hunslet Methodist Church**

Right now our heads are in a whirl  
 We're wondering who's done in that girl  
 Poor Brenda's been shot in the head  
 Was it by David, Tom or Fred?  
 It can't be Debra she's on stage  
 And not poor Florence at her age.  
 So who's the nasty piece of work?  
 In every life some secret lurks  
 Now listen up now here's a thing  
 At one time David had a fling  
 With Charlotte when so young and gay  
 Along came Penny, Happy day.  
 But Brenda fancied David too  
 And what's a jealous girl to do?  
 The proof of love before her eyes  
 Why show the world that he's a rotter!  
 And that's the reason why he shot her.

In case you're wondering? The cast list is below!

Brenda - **Marion Colbeck** ; David - **Ian Russell**; Tom - **Irving Theaker**;  
 Fred - **Peter Harper**; Debra - **Mary Patchett**; Florence - **Pat Brooke**;  
 Charlotte - **Catherine Johnston**; Penny - **Alison Yorke**

### **CONGRATULATIONS ON NEW ARRIVALS**

Old members of Lidgett Park Sunday School have recently had additions to their families.

Lucy (nee Wilkes) & Jim Hennessy a baby girl, Alice Cora, born 1<sup>st</sup> December, weight 8lb 4 oz, sister to Millie.

Miranda & Christopher Saunders, a baby boy, Orson Robert, born 22<sup>nd</sup> November, weight 7 lbs 8 ozs.

Holly & David Pearson, a baby boy, Joseph Pepys, born 15<sup>th</sup> October, weight 8lbs 4 oz.

## BOOK REVIEW

### *A Long Way Home by Judith Tebbutt.*

You may remember hearing on the news of a couple, Judith and David Tebbutt, who went on their dream holiday on safari in the Masai Mara area of Africa followed by a restful time in the remote Kiwayu in Kenya, close to the Somali border. During the first night of their stay, they were attacked by Somali pirates. David died following his injuries and Judith was kidnapped and held hostage, first at Kismayo in Somalia. The pirates' only interest was the ransom they hoped to receive.

This is a grueling account of her fortitude and her resolve to be a survivor during her six-month ordeal, almost starved, isolated and dehumanized. The responsibility of securing her release fell to her son and it was the belief in him, the occasional contact she was allowed with him and the love between them that sustained her and determined her will to survive. This is her story in her own words, a memoir of the life she shared with her husband and an unflinching account of the ordeal that overturned her world. It also explores Judith's attempt as a senior social worker in a psychiatric ward to understand the thinking of her captors.

This book is well worth a read, if not for the faint hearted! It was heard on Radio 4's Book of the Week and was featured as The Sunday Times best seller.

**Barbara Holmes.**

## HOLINESS

Wesley House Cambridge plans to launch its new, international journal, **Holiness**, in time for Pentecost 2015. The journal will appear three times a year, and will be available online with free access for all readers. No subscription is payable, but readers can [register](#) to receive an email prompt when each issue is published. Aimed at an intelligent readership with Methodist/Wesleyan sympathies and interests, **Holiness** welcomes proposals for contributions from scholars and practitioners worldwide. It will include an academic peer-reviewed section, but also seeks shorter articles that may arise from sabbatical studies or other theological reflection on practice, along with creative contributions such as poetry, prayers and devotional audio files. There will be a regular column: 'What have the sermons of John Wesley ever done for us?' as well as book and film reviews. For more information see <http://www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/>

*There follows an article written on ‘Singing the Faith’ by Alan Wittrick. This has set me thinking. I for one will be asking Alan for his list of recommended new hymns to try when I next take a service at Lidgett. **However, I also wonder if people would like to tell us about hymns, not necessarily from ‘Singing the Faith’, which mean something special to them and why.** For copy right reasons we may not be able to print the whole hymn but we can print particular verses and, of course, give the number and book so that people can look it up. To set things rolling I include, after Alan’s article, a suggestion from Joyce Wood. **Ed.***

### **SOME THOUGHTS ON SINGING THE FAITH**

One of the benefits of being retired and having more time, is that over the past few months I have been able to explore ‘Singing the Faith’ in some detail in a way which was not possible before.

I have played every one of the 840 hymns, psalms and songs and, in particular, have learnt those with new tunes that I did not know, and reviewed the words of many new hymns.

I have really enjoyed myself indulging in this activity and have discovered a wealth of new music and words which, as far as I know, have not been used by ministers or local preachers at Lidgett Park (or maybe only once). I know that a number of church members are not very supportive of the new hymn book and it is true that a number of the hymns are not really suitable for congregational singing. However, it is clearly not appropriate to dismiss all the new music because of a few unsuitable ones.

I have discovered a number of new hymns which have wonderful words sung to familiar tunes. A good example of this is number 3, “Eternal God, your love’s tremendous glory cascades through life in overflowing grace” which is set to ‘Highwood’ which goes with it so well.

However, the real discovery has been those with new words and new tunes which



enhance and compliment the words in a way which transforms the hymn into something quite powerful.

For me the selection of hymns and songs by the preacher can transform a service into one where God speaks directly and powerfully to me in a personal way. Beautiful music can change a service and take the congregation into a new dimension where God is in direct communion with his people. When a beautiful tune and some powerful words are in harmony, then the whole feeling of the service is transformed.

If you have time, look at 161 which has an easy to sing tune and some powerful words: verse 4, "Speak, O Lord and renew our minds, help us grasp the heights of your plans for us". Or have a look at the communion hymn 582, which is simple but moving with a lovely refrain : "Eat this bread and never hunger, drink this cup and never thirst".

I believe that the words of a hymn do not in themselves need to have deep meaning (though of course some do). Some repetition can bring familiarity and allow time to reflect during the hymn itself. The words can be simple, but together with the music they need to stir our feelings and emotions and resonate with what we know and understand about God or challenge us to think differently. That to me is a powerful combination. I realise that this is not true for everyone and that, for some, music is not even that important in a service. But for others it is THE way in which God speaks and is heard.

In total I have noted 55 new hymns and tunes which I like (list available on request!) which I believe have not been used at Lidgett or at best only used once or twice in the last 3 years since the new hymn book was launched. Why do preachers often only select the tried and trusted familiar hymns? I am not dismissing these at all, as many of these also speak to us today. However, I am challenging all preachers to select at least one 'new' hymn from '*Singing the Faith*' each week so we can all begin to learn and enjoy some new music. The story behind creating and approving the new hymn book involved numerous working groups and individuals, and, in fact, several years of discussion and consultation. Whatever you may think, those involved in its creation cannot all be wrong and

there must be merit in virtually all the new hymns in the book. So this article is a challenge to increase our repertoire.

My favourite 'new' hymn is without doubt 109. One of the simplest set of words in the collection, but with some fabulous music and harmonies the whole hymn is very moving:

The words of verse 4 are as follows;

In our joys, our hopes, our healing,  
in awakening to revealing,  
in your call and our responding,  
Creator God, you are there.  
In our prayer and in our service,  
in our praise and in our worship,  
in your love that is eternal,  
Creator God, you are there.

***Margaret Rizza (b. 1929)***

**Alan Wittrick**

## **A HYMN WHICH SPEAKS TO ME**

As I read December Link, "Texts of the Golden Rule in various religions" and also "The Charter for Compassion". I was reminded of this song (478 in the old Salvation Army Song Book) written by Albert Osbourne (1886-1967) .

Except I am moved with compassion  
How dwelleth Thy Spirit in me?  
In word and in deed  
Burning love is my need:  
I know I can find this in Thee.

God bless and guide people of all religions who are seeking to love and serve Him with compassion and to make the world a better place in which to live in 2015.

**Joyce Wood**

## REFLECTIONS ON THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT.

For many years I have always been a keen reader of The Link whenever it appeared in my neighbouring church of St Edmund's, but I have not presumed to intrude with any written contribution.

However, stimulated by the interesting review of *Jerusalem, The Biography-* by Simon Sebag Montefiore in the September issue and also the film show of Stan and Liz Pearson's recent visit to the Holy Land. It seemed that the following two poems might add another dimension to this topic.

Each writer is a Leeds resident and is *quite happy for their work to be reproduced here*. Rabbi Douglas is associated with the Bradford Reform Synagogue for which the local Muslim community offered a very generous contribution towards the repair and maintenance of this historic place of worship of their Jewish brethren. Such a healing gesture in today's world.

### Joyce M Sundaram

#### Peace, Peace, but there is No Peace

There is a small piece of land in the Middle East.

It has seen war of over fifty years.

Two people claim it and refuse to share it.

Yet they are related to each other.

Both are Semites and claim Abraham as their father.

Both Hebrew and Arabic are sister languages.

So why is there far more hatred than love?

The very soil is drenched with the blood of the innocent.

Men, women, children, babies –

All have been bloody victims.

Is there any way for the two related people to come together in harmony?

Only by compromise and mutual respect can things change for the better.

Both pray to the same God, though the name be Adonai or Allah.

Let them remind each other that they are children of the same One God.

Pursue peace for the sake of your children and their children.

Then all will enjoy God's most precious gift of Shalom – Saalam.

### Rabbi Douglas Charing

## Not Entering In

A small plane, jam packed,  
 A meal set down before us  
 Eating off our neighbour's backs.  
 As our faces reflect in silver-foil wrappers  
 I ask the Arab boy,  
 "Can I go into the Great Mosque?"  
 'You've a better chance that I have", he replies.  
 "I need a permit to enter Jerusalem, my own city".

Soon I sit at a different table,  
 The riches of vegetables and fruits  
 Reflected in silver candlesticks.  
 The wife lights the candles,  
 Reciting the blessing for a perfect wife.  
 Later in Kippa and shawl  
 The husband tells me of Jerusalem's  
 Seven hills and of its gates.

In response to my question  
 He tells me that Jesus came into the city  
 By the Golden Gate,  
 Where, it is prophesied, someday the Messiah will pass.  
 I enter into their circle of friends and into their Shabbat meal;  
 They break bread and pass me the wine.

Suddenly, in memory, the Arab boy is before me,  
 His face narrow, dark, sad.

Not entering in.

**Thelma Laycock**

# FAITH IN DARK PLACES

Myths and Lies about Poverty  
A Lenten Journey

February 21st 2015

Venue: St Edmund's Church, Roundhay

9:30am tea and coffee / 10am start / 3pm finish

Admission free (donations welcome) / Free light lunch

#### Speakers:

**Paul Morrison**, author of  
'Truths, Myths and Lies  
about Poverty'

**David Rhodes**, author of  
'Faith in Dark Places'

**Ann Morisy**, theologian and  
practitioner

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Debt  
Homelessness in Leeds  
Asylum Seekers  
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Food Banks: Are they  
enough?

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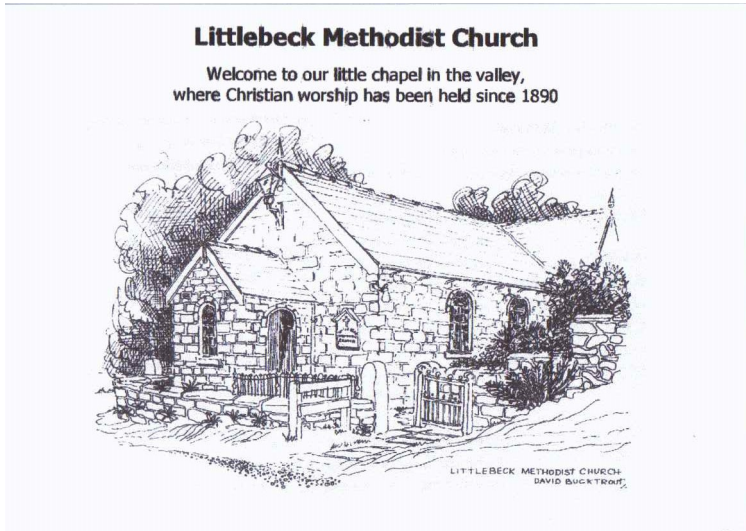
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Book the date now and bring a friend

## A FINDING IN A RURAL METHODIST CHURCH

In the December issue of The Link Margaret Leake shared with us the words she found on a bookmark in a small Methodist Chapel on the North York Moors.


Margaret Lee has recently visited the chapel at Littlebeck and found a welcome card, some of which is reproduced below.



**How can it be?**

How can it be  
That He  
Who did no wrong  
Is hanging on a tree?

How can it be  
That He  
Who only loved  
Can so hated be?



How can it be  
That He  
Is ready to forgive  
In His final plea?

How can it be  
That He  
The Son of God  
Died for you and me?

*Sylvia Bradford*

*Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise him, all peoples!  
His love for us is strong, And his faithfulness is eternal.  
Praise the Lord!*

Psalm 117

## WHAT'S IN A NUMBER (Continued from December/ January)

Thank you Stan for that bit of research (December/January Link). I confess that I find the suggestions a bit hard to accept and probably the truest response would be, as you state, 'nobody of course knows the answer'.

If nobody knows the answer, then why put hypothetical suggestions forward?

Even in the time of miracles and parables it seems inconceivable that the number of fish counted would correspond exactly to the 'recognised' number of fish types in the sea of Tiberias. All caught in the net at the same time? Remarkable!

It is also hard to accept that when St John wrote his gospel in Ephesus late in the first century AD [disputed] that the population of either area, Galilea or Asia Minor, would have recognised the significance of this very specific and miraculous number. Is there a contemporary archive or record somewhere which supports the suggestion?

With regard to the arithmetical suggestion, it could also be said that if 17 and 3 had a strong biblical relevance then these two prime numbers would also get to the magic figure  $17 \times 3 \times 3$ .

How dull the Bible would be without conjecture!

### Colin Watson

*Numbers had a significance in biblical times that we wouldn't necessarily ascribe to them today, so I think that when a number appears in a text it is reasonable to ask what it means and why it is there (as you did), even if there is no immediate answer. The book of Revelation (also ascribed to St John) provides a number of examples. For example, the figure 666 is thought to stand for the beast (Nero, whose name in Hebrew characters= 666), whereas the number 144 corresponds to the word *anggelos* (angel in Greek). 12 equates to the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles etc. **ED***



Or perhaps it is all due to chance?

  
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## QUIZ ANSWERS

Can you identify twelve English towns from these anagrams?

Mary (Yarm) Ruby (Bury) Poems (Epsom) Swell (Wells) Ghouls (Slough)  
Launder (Arundel) Secret lie (Leicester) Heretics fled (Chesterfield)  
Dominates (Maidstone) Recent wish (Winchester) Match Helen  
(Cheltenham)  
Hectogram ends (Godmanchester)

**Fred Langley**

### Twelve Days of Christmas

**Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit** (according to whoever wrote the explanation of the 12 days of Christmas) —Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, Mercy.

**Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit**— Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control

Any other suggestions?