

The Link Magazine

February 2017

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MINISTER'S LETTER

ROCKS GO IN FIRST. *"Teach us to number our days aright that we may gain a heart of wisdom" Psalm 90:12*

A true story is told about a professor in business management talking to his students and seeking to drive home the importance of prioritizing. He did so using the following illustration. He pulled out a big wide-mouth jar and set it on the front table. He took out some fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top until no more rocks would fit inside he asked his students, 'Is the jar full?' They replied, 'Yes.' He then reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel and started to pour it in, shaking the jar gently to allow the pieces of gravel to work themselves down into available space between the big rocks. Then he asked once more, 'Is the jar full?' The jar looked full. He reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand and started pouring it gently into the jar allowing it to find spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question, 'Is this jar full?' The students, having grasped the message shouted, 'No!' Then he took a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked at the class and asked, 'What is the point of this illustration?' One of the students replied, 'The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard you can always fit some more things in it!' 'No', the professor replied, 'That's not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is, **if we don't put the big rocks in first, we may never get them in at all.**'

At the beginning of the new year with so many demands on our time, we need to pause to reflect on our priorities. What really matters in our lives that we identify like the apostle Paul and say, 'this one thing I do' (Phil. 3:13). Addressing the issue of life's priorities Jesus asks the question, '*What will it profit a person if they gain the whole world and lose their own soul?*' (Matt. 16:26). According to Jesus, getting our souls saved or sorted out in terms of where we will spend eternity is the first rock that

should be fitted in. Where we will spend eternity after the flitting transient life on this earth is a big priority that needs to be sorted out. Our relationship with God is paramount. In terms of the second priority may I suggest it is how we relate to others. What legacies are we writing in our daily encounter with people that would form part of our obituaries? May I suggest that this text, which summarises Jesus' summary of the greatest commandment, 'Love God, love fellow people.' (see Mark 12:30-31).

As a church we continue to reflect on the Five Year Plan. What do we identify as a priority in our church activities for 2017 and, indeed, for the next five years until 2022? As individual Christians, where are we at in our Christian pilgrimage and what takes priority in our lives at the moment? May this new year emulate the psalmist prayer which in the original Hebrew language renders: 'teach us to live as if we are living on borrowed time.'

I wish us all that God would richly bless us in this new year.

Daniel.

ADVANCED WARNING.

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.

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. It would be helpful also if, with the outline of the project, proposals for the organisation of the fundraising could be given.

Editor.

A THOUGHT TO PONDER

Since God is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve God in our neighbour, which God receives as if done to himself in person, standing visibly before us. ***John Wesley.***

A FOLLOW UP.

In the December Link we had an article on members of the Ahmadiyya faith, a Muslim sect known for its peaceful interfaith work. While visiting family in London in the run up to Christmas I was approached by a man who gave me a Christmas card wishing me Season's Greetings and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Five things were listed in the card as important: loyalty, freedom, equality, respect and peace. The card came from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Love for All Hatred for None. That seems to be a good basis on which to approach the New Year. I wasn't given any cards by Christian organisations. *Ed.*

PRAYER FOR CHANGE

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

As we move closer to Lent this month it is time to reflect on our role in the world.
Lord, we are small.

We are insignificant in the great scheme of things.

You offer us the great commission, yet we question how we can bring about much-needed change.

We have even contributed to the changes that have occurred in recent times and we do quite like the material benefits our lifestyle brings.

Enlighten our hearts and minds to see the manageable challenge before us.

Move us to make changes, however small, that we can place our foot on the ladder and leave finite resources in the ground.

Challenge us to act, first individually, then as a neighbourhood then as a whole community of your people, waking up as we go to the beauty of an earth that is green and blue, not blackened and sooty.

Creator God, the earth is yours and we its custodians. You are the light of the world shining on us all. Let us be reflectors of your light.

Amen

THE CRIB SERVICE—AN APPRECIATION

This is just to record that a number of people have said to me how good they thought the crib service was on Christmas Eve. Thank you to all who helped with this. *Ed.*

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY**LIDGETT PARK**

5th Feb	10.30 am	Revd Dr Daniel Mwilu	
	6.30 pm	<i>Chapel Allerton Methodist Church</i>	
12th Feb	10.30 am	Mr John Summerwill	
	4.00 pm	Revd Dr Daniel Mwilu	<i>Holy Communion</i>
19th Feb	10.30 am	Revd Dr Daniel Mwilu	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	4.00 pm	Christ Church Halton	<i>Circuit Service</i>
26th Feb	10.30 am	Revd Madeline Andrews	
	4.00 pm	Revd Dr Daniel Mwilu	<i>Ecumenical Service</i>

THORNER

5th Feb	9.30 am	Mrs Hazel Featherstone	
12th Feb	9.30 am	Mr John Clay	
19th Feb	9.30 am	Mr Andy Birkett	
	4.00 pm	Christ Church Halton	<i>Circuit Service</i>
26th Feb	9.30 am	Revd Dr Daniel Mwilu	<i>Holy Communion</i>

NOTICE FROM THE EDITOR

The title of this magazine is The Link, which is significant. The principle of the Methodist Circuit is that churches are linked together not just for administrative purposes but also for mission, mutual support and pastoral care. We now share a minister with Thorner so this church now has a special link with us and they have asked if they can share our magazine. We have printed their programme of activities for some time, but now I include their preaching appointments and the link with Thorner is acknowledged on our front sheet. When we shared a minister with Shadwell we started a joint house group to foster the link at that time. This will continue as it has worked well and I will continue to advertise Shadwell's events as well.

THOUGHTS FROM A HOUSE GROUP

The Thursday house group continues to use Rowan Williams' book, *Being Christian*, to guide our discussion. At the moment we are looking at the last chapter on Prayer. Williams uses the writings of some of the early church fathers in his understanding of prayer and, like them, centres the discussion on the prayer Jesus gave us, The Lord's Prayer. The following points were found to be helpful.

He begins by referring to Romans and Galatians and the idea of adoption. 'God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts crying "Abba! Father!"' (Galatians 4:6). We speak to God as sons and daughters and so we speak to someone who is not remote but to one who embraces us and is as close as we can imagine. We let Jesus pray in us and take us to the very heart of God the Father. In the same way as Jesus emptied himself out of love for us, so we in return empty ourselves – we push away selfish desires and empty our hearts and minds so that the love of God can fill them. We bring the pains and the needs of the world into the heart of God.

Prayer is, in significant part, about resolving conflict and rivalry. If people prayed seriously they would be reconciled. We are enabled to do this as we receive God's power as prayer takes us into his presence. 'Forgive us our sins as we have forgiven those who sin against us'. 'Forgive me. I have forgiven.' This is the most difficult bit of the prayer.

'Give us this day our daily bread' is not about getting what we need. The bread of God is everybody's bread and so we are asking for bread for everyone. I can only say that I have properly receive my daily bread if no one goes hungry or distressed because I have been satisfied. I receive my daily bread when no one is made poor because I am rich. So we have to work for justice along with reconciliation. Prayer is not a narrowly private thing because it changes our attitude to other people and the world. It is about belonging to the body of Christ and the family of humanity. We pray because Christ is in us. There is a connection between praying and living justly in the world; being someone who is not trapped by selfishness, fear of others, anxiety about the future or the desire to succeed at others expense. Prayer is the life of Jesus coming alive in us. It is about a certain way of being human, about reconciliation, mercy and freely extending the welcome and love of God to others.

The early Church talks of three stages in praying:

1. Learning ordinary self-awareness; recognising when we are being selfish and stupid, and acting instead with an increasing degree of generosity.
2. We then move on to the freedom to see God in the world around us. Once we

have got our own concerns into perspective the world becomes more real and beautiful. We see order and pattern in it.

3. The divine life then slowly transforms us so that the whole of our life says Our Father.

I hope you find this summary of what we have been doing helpful.

Stan Pearson

CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC WITH THE WENDEL SINGERS AND THE YEP BRASS ENSEMBLE.

It has become an eagerly awaited Christmas custom at Lidgett to welcome Joe Roberts with the Wendel Singers and Rob Savage with the YEP Brass Ensemble. Their reputation obviously goes before them as there was a large audience made up of church members, band and choir friends, families and visitors. Everyone seemed to enjoy the quality and variety of Christmas music, some to listen to and some to join in with, humming along or having a good sing. The tea, coffee and mince pies at the interval gave an opportunity to chat with old friends and to meet new ones. All this



was to raise funds to support the two church projects, Christian Aid and Leeds Autism Services. (The total raised during the evening was in excess of £1000)

The Wendel Singers started us off with Fanfare, straight in to set the mood for the evening. Their songs included some familiar popular Christmas tunes such as Jingle Bells and White Christmas, the old traditional Boar's Head Carol, the

hauntingly beautiful Do you Hear what I hear and Still, Still, Still and of course the

highlight for many, John Rutter Christmas music which has become so loved. Joe always manages to give us a good mix of the familiar and the less well known Christmas songs. It was good to see Peter Reasbeck at Lidgett again, so ably accompanying Wendel.,

The YEP Brass Ensemble really made the rafters ring with their range of medleys of Christmas music – the serious and the jolly. They started with See amid the winter snow which was an opportunity for us to enjoy the trumpet solos. Although the second medley was described as a “mash up” it was far too recognisable to justify that. Thanks to Rob’s introduction we were not



left wondering “what is that tune, I know it but what is it called?” The medley Santa Claustrophobia was particularly clever as each tune flowed from the previous one, all with a Santa theme. No expense was spared with the provision of whips and donkey on the Sleigh Ride! with Kath and Diane kept busy on percussion. Our own Becky Todd, on



the receiving end of some of Rob’s light hearted banter, was a star, particularly for those who know her and enjoy her talented trumpet playing.

Rob’s and Joe’s little anecdotes, asides and information about the music brought the whole concert together with an atmosphere of casual good humour, but the professional well-rehearsed

performance was evident at all times. We extend to them a huge thankyou for the hours of work, planning, rehearsing, setting up the seating and stage and keeping everything in smooth running order on the night. For many it was a wonderful start to Christmas, hugely appreciated and something to remember.

On behalf of all who enjoyed the evening we thank the musicians, the project committee and everyone who worked so hard behind the scenes. Thank you to all who attended and supported the event. The fact that everything went so smoothly was down to the brilliant organisation and preparation for the evening. We look forward to next year!

Ruth Albiiges

KNITTED ANGELS

This was an important part of the outreach to the children who use our premises. There follows a summary of what was done:

We knitted over 400 angels and there are some left (or were before I went away). They went to every child who attended anything at the church premises:- Candystripe; Playschool; Brownies; Explorers; Rainbows; Music Bugs; Cre8; Toddlers and Baby Band. Then they were given out after the 4.30 pm Christmas afternoon and after the Christmas morning service to anyone who wanted one. We are looking to keep something going for next Christmas - Patricia suggested a small tapestry picture of candles say, but I think that angels go across many religions, certainly no-one objected to them. So I am looking at a different angel and possibly another yet different the year after and then come back to this one. Hope this helps Happy New Year to you all. **Val Faint**

I know from feedback from my grandchildren that they were much liked. Ed.





THORNER BROADSHEET

Where does the time go? Here we are - in February! However, I must tell of what occurred at the events that I reported to you in the Dec/Jan issue. Our Christmas Fayre held on Nov 19th, thanks to your support, raised a magnificent £436:00 for Thorner Methodist Church Funds. Without the support of the Oakwood and Lidgett folk this sum would not have been possible. Thank you SO much for supporting our fundraising events. We have a coffee morning scheduled for Sat March 18th from 10-12noon in aid of The Home/Overseas Missions of the Methodist Church, to be held in our TMC Social Centre. This is a very worthwhile Methodist Charity so do please support us if you can! As usual, Bacon Butties will be served and we'll have our usual cake and fancy good stalls.

On Sun Jan 15th at 9:30am, we held our joint Ecumenical Covenant service with St. Peter's at St. Peter's Church at which we also celebrated the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity (OPCU) even though we were a week early! The service was very well attended and appreciated by all who came. It was good to worship together!

Our next ecumenical event will be our Lent Course which will begin on Mon. March 6th and will run for five weeks, finishing on Monday April 3rd. This will be held at Thorner Methodists' Social Centre, 10am for refreshments for a prompt 10:15am start. It's a York course entitled; 'Receiving Christ in five different ways.' All are welcome, so do come along and join us if you can! You'll be made very welcome!

Ann Johnson

Senior Church Steward Tel: 0113 2893532 Email: vanceann@btinternet.com

Fund Raising Events Programme for 2017 (all Saturday events)

Date	Time	Event
March 18th	10-12 noon	Missions
May 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.

He bids us build each other up;
And, gathered into one,
To our high calling's glorious hope
We hand in had go on.

Charles Wesley.

PROJECT GROUP—DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Project Group's next event will be an *Italian Evening on Saturday March 11th*. Haydon and Jennifer Dalton will be catering and musical entertainment will be provided by Howard Clinkard and David Wilkes. The menu will be announced when the tickets go on sale. Please book the date and look for our announcement of ticket availability as places will be limited.

Other 2017 events to look out for:

Concert Friday May 5th, Castleford Young Musicians

Strawberries and Art June 17th (to be confirmed)

Swingers Dance July 8th.

Jan Rippin (on behalf of the project committee).

SHADWELL METHODIST CHURCH**CAFÉ MORNING**

10.00– 12.30 am

Dates and specialities as follows:

21st February Pancakes

21st March Soups

18th April Cake selection

16th May Toasties

20th June Cake selection

18th July Bacon Butties

CHRISTIAN AID SOUP LUNCHESES

Wednesday February 22nd at The Friends Meeting House

Thursday 16th March at 12.30pm at Immaculate Heart.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Towards the end of last year an off-duty Turkish policeman murdered the Russian ambassador to Turkey and I was struck by the comment attributed to a UK government source expressing regret at this cowardly attack. There are many words in the English language that could have been used to describe it, for example, vengeful, cruel, ruthless, fanatical etc. but, since the policeman knew that he would almost certainly lose his own life, I doubt if 'cowardly' is one of them.

This set me thinking about the way we get information from the media. The above example is casting a slur on the character of the assassin as a way of expressing revulsion at what had happened. However, it does little to clarify the reasons why the act was committed and is one example of the way in which our response to events is manipulated.

Towards the end of the last century it became fashionable to speak of the modern era being replaced by the post-modern. The concept was valuable in that it questioned the idea of absolutes, for example, it reminded us that how something is interpreted depends on your situation, on your perspective. Thus, the supply of cheap food to western supermarkets is likely to be seen differently if you are a third world farmer rather than a supermarket customer. Post-modernism also contains a healthy scepticism about the role of institutions and hierarchies. For example, the assumption that because the church believes or says something it must be so, or the idea that science is always right. Perhaps this might be a charitable explanation of what Michael Gove meant when he dismissed the role of experts in the EU referendum. However, the danger is that it can slip into a state where all truth is relative, that you can believe what you like and that your opinion is as good as anyone's.

The events of 2016 turned up another phrase, that of the post-truth society. This seems to be rather different. If I understand it correctly, the idea is that it doesn't matter what you say if it gets you the result you want, so it is more sinister. In a former time I suppose it might have been called propaganda or, more recently, we have had the idea of spin, which has a cuddlier feel. Nevertheless, the principle is the same, a distortion of truth to achieve a particular end. It was put thus by a recent correspondent in the press referring to George Orwell's book 1984:

While rereading George Orwell's 1984 on Christmas Day, I came across a quotation that seemed eerily familiar to this reader in 2016: "Doublethink ... is to use conscious deception while retaining the firmness of purpose that goes with complete honesty. To tell deliberate lies while genuinely believing in them, to forget any fact that has become inconvenient, and then, when it becomes necessary again, to draw it back from oblivion for just so long as it is needed, to

deny the existence of objective reality and all the while to take account of the reality which one denies – all this is indispensably necessary.”

Welcome to our world, Mr Orwell.

Graham Powell Cirencester

Finally, I was reminded of the fact that we only get to know what is presented to us. If it isn't in the media then it doesn't happen. The Prince of Wales in his recent Thought for the Day on the BBC drew attention to the fact that persecution of religious minorities, including Christians, is often overlooked. Melanie Phillips (The Times 19th December 2016) reminded us that Christian populations are persecuted and, in some cases have almost been wiped out, in many countries in the world. These include Islamic states such as Sudan, Iraq and Afghanistan, but also by others such as Hindu extremists in India. Such events are given little prominence in our media and we are largely unaware that it is happening.

Such selective reporting can be dangerous as well as simply misleading. Tim Montgomerie (The Times 22nd Dec 2016) makes the point that Western decision makers fail to recognize the importance of religion in the lives of many people in the world. For example, he asserts 'Lack of seriousness about the authority of religious texts and traditions — an unseriousness that amounts to complete ignorance in many cases — explains why the West keeps underestimating Islamist terrorism.' We need to understand those with whom we share this world, but so often the news we are given and the opinions we hear aired are partial.

Jesus is recorded as saying "Truly I tell you, all sins and blasphemes will be forgiven for the sons of men. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, but is guilty of an eternal sin. He said this because they [the Pharisees] were saying, 'He has an evil spirit'." (Mark 3:28-30). To understand what Jesus is saying we need to remember that the Holy Spirit is portrayed in the Bible as the Spirit of Truth, the one that leads us to a deeper understanding. The sin of which Jesus speaks is the one of claiming that black is white and white is black. The deliberate distortion of, or unwillingness to see, where the truth really lies. Is this not something of which we as a society are guilty? It is serious because it undermines all moral purpose and threatens the fabric of our society.

Stan Pearson

A THOUGHT TO PONDER

The Gospel of Christ knows no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness.

John Wesley

APPEAL FOR NEW STEWARDS

As a group of stewards we have enjoyed working together but now it is really time for some of us to retire. We are looking for church members to relieve some of us and take over what is a rewarding and interesting job. Please give this situation careful consideration. If you feel that being a steward is something that you might be interested in please have a word with one of us and we will tell you what is involved. It really isn't all that difficult!

Perhaps you have already done the job in the past but feel that you could help out for a short time , say a year. Please give this situation prayerful consideration.

Ruth & Jan – joint senior stewards

DID YOU KNOW?

As we approach the season of Lent we also come to Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday or, in some countries Mardi Gras (= Fat Tuesday)). Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. On Shrove Tuesday it was traditional for Christians to go to confession to be shaven (absolved from their sins).

It also became a day of feasting in which people would use up eggs and fat before embarking on the Lenten Fast and making pancakes was a good way to do this. A good feeling for the impositions imposed in the Lenten Fast can be got by reading the Shardlake novels by C.J. Sansom and set in Tudor England. **Ed.**

A REMINDER FOR THE COMING YEAR- As a member of the Methodist Church I am called to:

Worship within the local church, including regular sharing in Holy Communion, and through personal prayer

Learning and caring through Bible Study and meeting for fellowship, so that I may grow in faith and support others in their discipleship

Service, by being a good neighbour in the community, challenging injustice and using my resources to support the Church in its mission in the world.

Evangelism, through working out my faith in daily life and sharing Christ with others.

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. All Ladies welcome to join us.

9th February Do you want to change/enhance your garden? **Mary Swan**, our local garden designer, will be giving out tips. She'll even design your garden personally if you require it.

23rd February At long last we'll get to hear **Pat Osborne's** interpretation of Catherine Cookson's lifestory. It will be nice to have Pat visit us again after a long absence.

Secretaries Lynne and Anne.

FREQUENT FLYER QUIZ (name the airports from their IATA codes—answers page 23)

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1. ADL | 11. GVA |
| 2. FLR | 12. MCO |
| 3. LOS | 13. BHX |
| 4. JFK | 14. VVO |
| 5. YYZ | 15. NQY |
| 6. LBA | 16. AMS |
| 7. CDG | 17. CHC |
| 8. MAN | 18. BIO |
| 9. WAW | 19. TFS |
| 10. DXB | 20. CGN |

A RUSSIAN SOLDIER'S PRAYER

On the page opposite is a prayer found in the pocket of a Russian soldier killed in action in 1944. The translation by Katia Nabokoff was published in The Tablet 4th March 1972. I am grateful to Irene Rajah for bringing it to our attention.

Hear me, O God: never in the whole of my lifetime have I spoken to you.
But just now I feel like sending you my greetings.
You know from childhood on, they've have always told me you are not.
I like a fool believed them.
I've never contemplated your creation.
And yet, tonight, gazing up
Out of my shell-hole, I marvelled at the shimmering stars above me.
And suddenly I knew the cruelty of the lie.
Will you, my God, reach out your hand to me, I wonder?
But I will tell you, and you will understand.
Is it not strange that light should come upon me
And I see you amid this night of hell?
And there is nothing else I have to say.....
This, though, I'm glad that I have learned to know you.
At midnight we are scheduled to attack. But you are looking on
And I am not afraid.
The signal.....well, I must be going.
I have been happy with you.....
This more I want to say:
As you well know the fighting will be cruel,
And even tonight I may come knocking at your door,
Although I have not been a friend to you before,
Still, will you let me enter now, when I do come?
Why am I crying, O God, my Lord. You see what happens to me.
Tonight my eyes are opened.
Farewell, my God, I'm going and not likely to cry.
Strange, is it not? But death I fear no longer.

LIDGETT PARK DRAMA GROUP

presents



on

Friday 10th February 2017

Saturday 11th February 2017

and

Friday 17th February 2017

Saturday 18th February 2017

Adults £7.00, Children £3.00, Tickets – 267 8506

LIDGETT PLACE ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH

With regard to Graham Saunders' article in the Dec 2016/Jan 2017 Link in connection with the above, I would like to make the following points.

From my own Property Committee records (upgrading may have been raised at an earlier date) an estimate, dated February 2005, of £10,640 + VAT was submitted to Church Council for refurbishment/upgrading to the Lidgett Place entrance. The cost did not include for the provision of a toilet or the removal of the inner screen.

The 'Room for All' project was initiated in 2005 and proposals for the Lidgett Place entrance, similar to those now under consideration, were included as part of DAQ Architects' scheme dated November 2005. The whole scheme was eventually rejected but it is worth recording some of the congregation's comments which were circulated following the consultation:

- Why a disabled toilet when no disabled access?
- When would it (the toilet) be used?
- Improving the entrance and lightening it a high priority
- Agree with alterations to screens etc. but it should include external doors which allow the public to see into the church (DAQ scheme retained solid doors)

Lidgett Place entrance retained as it is now was on Mark Tabert's approved scheme of 2007.

Under item 4 – Ways Forward of the General Church Meeting on 13th April 2008 it was stated 'Refurbishment of the Lounge and Lidgett Park entrance in the near future'.

A further budget estimate was prepared for the Finance Committee / Church Council for 2010/2011 when a figure of £29,900 + VAT was reported. This was an update of the February 2005 cost but with the inclusion of toilet facilities.

As can be seen from the above, the Lidgett Place entrance has not been forgotten over the years but it has not had the priority the 'main entrance' probably should have had.

As a regular door steward and an occasional 'collector of money at concerts' I have seen fewer and fewer people enter the church this way. Although I am in favour of opening up and modernizing the lobby area (even with modest glazing to the external doors), I cannot, unfortunately, imagine this will increase the footfall in any way. Attendees to concerts, weddings and funerals have come for a specific purpose and are more interested in whether the doors, of whatever variety, are open rather than the ambience of the lobby. The opening up of the lobby area may help with the church's vision 'to be more welcoming', but I cannot see more church or community activities using this area.

The introduction of toilets I consider to be an extravagance. Having attended, unfortunately, a number of funerals and the majority of concerts over the last few years I haven't witnessed many, if any, noticeable repairs to the existing toilets. Similarly, with morning service. I cannot say what happened at the weddings referred to in Graham's article but, as they have been few in number, a £14,000 plus installation is, to my mind, excessive.

A walk around our covenanting churches will show a uniformity in the main doors to the actual church premises. They are solid timber. Lidgett Park's doors are slightly different, however, as they are painted a non-brown colour.

Colin Watson

BOOK REVIEW *Sea Glass* by Anita Shreve

I came across this book perusing the book stall at our church coffee morning and thought it worthy of mention.

Anita Shreve is an American who divides her time between Massachusetts and New Hampshire and this novel is set in the small coastal town of Fortune's Rocks in the latter State where most of her novels are set.

Honora Willard and Sexton Beecher start married life during 1929 in a decrepit and isolated beach cottage at Fortune's Rocks. Sexton, a type writer salesman whose work takes him far from home, leaves Honora with long lonely hours to occupy. She spends time walking on the beach where something glittering catches her eye in the wet sand. It is a piece of glass smoothed and shaped by the sea, washed up on the beach and finding it very beautiful she starts to collect all the coloured variety of the sea glass which originated from glass objects smashed up in ship wrecks.

The novel deals with the harsh reality of life for the poverty stricken mill workers at the nearby Ely Falls, the greed of the mill owners, the Wall Street Crash and the impending workers' strike but there is also love, tenderness, friendship and beautiful descriptions of the coastline and sea.

As the story develops we encounter more characters living in Fortune's Rocks. Alphonse, the young unhappy boy doomed to spend his frustrated life working in the mill and bearing responsibilities within his family. McDermott, the gentle young man, deafened by his time in the noisy mill who takes Alphonse under his wing and Vivien the rich and pleasure loving heiress who finally finds a purpose for her life.

Amongst all these characters firm friendships are formed and excluding Sexton who is not all he seems to be, the novel ends on a positive and happy note.

Barbara Holmes

WHO'S WHO

Ministers	Rev. Dr Daniel Mwailu	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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