

# ***The Link Magazine*** **2019**

## ***February***

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### **MINSTER'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter in the midst of the turmoil about Brexit, and we do not know if, ....when, .... or how Brexit is going to happen. Many different voices are calling for different solutions from a no deal Brexit, through to a second referendum and there are those calling for the revoking of Article 50, that would stop the Brexit process altogether.

In these recent years we have witnessed politicians and campaigners use distorted truths as all of us have tried to make sense of the hugely complex economic, political and social aspects of our relationship to and within the European Union. It takes a huge amount of understanding to evaluate calmly the consequences of the "leave" and "remain" options. The negotiations so far have highlighted issues of significant economic challenge if we leave with no deal, as companies are stockpiling materials in the light of that possibility. The negotiations have also exposed the risk to the peace process in Ireland that came with the Good Friday agreement, if there is a no deal Brexit.

In the last century the countries of Europe fought two world wars, with great loss of life and destruction of communities. The European Project was set up to create a different structure of international order in Europe, that was inter-dependent, as the countries of Europe did not want to go back to the context of hostility and war. That theme of reconciliation has strong echoes with the Gospel. We cannot keep our Gospel message just to the area of person holiness, it has implications for how

we organise our society and our national and international relationships.

Who knows where the conversations and decisions will have got to when you read this letter ! I pray that our politicians will be guided by a vision of God's Kingdom and the Gospel values of reconciliation as they make key decisions on behalf of the people of this country that will have huge consequences for decades to come.

Love and peace

***Robert***

## **WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY**

<b>3rd Feb</b>	10.30 am	Mr John Summerwill	
<b>10th Feb</b>	10.30 am	Revd Robert Creamer	<i>Holy Communion</i>
<b>17th Feb</b>	10.30 am	Revd Phil Chilvers	
<b>24th Feb</b>	10.30 am	Revd Becki Stennett	
	6.00 pm	<i>St Andrew's Church</i>	<i>Ecumenical Service</i>

## **Safeguarding and "Safer Recruitment".**

All of us in the Methodist Church want to take Safeguarding seriously and carefully. Part of our requirements means that if a person is appointed to a role within the church that requires a DBS check, or other checks, they cannot take up that role until those checks have been completed. It is important that we all adhere to that requirement. If our safeguarding officers approach you on this matter because you have been appointed to a post, please recognise they are simply implementing the standards that we are required to work to today.

***Rev Robert Creamer***

## PRAYER FOR CHANGE

*These prayers are published also in the magazines or our ecumenical partners, St Andrew's Church and St Edmund's Church.*

### **January 2019**

On many occasions recently we've heard the expression "Happy New Year". The dictionary defines "new" as "not seen or known before" and "beginning afresh". It's now 2019, a new year, when we can begin afresh, not having seen or known it before.

A whole new year awaits us. – each day untouched and unspoiled, a gift from God, full of opportunity for us to use meaningfully to the glory of God.

The wise men were guided by a star to find Jesus; may God's love be our guide, always directing us in our daily lives. As they gave their gifts to the baby, may we be prepared to offer our gifts of love, praise, prayer, time, fellowship and compassion in every part of our lives, so that we can find true fulfillment through serving others.

Help us to go into this new year with courage and excitement, knowing that with God we can find new joy, new confidence and new hope.

**Amen.**

### **February 2019**

We give you thanks Lord.

The days are getting longer.

Bulbs are in evidence.

Buds decorate the trees.

All signs of promise of good things to come.

May our living become brighter.

May we be full of the promise of spring.

May our spirits glow in the reflection of your love for all.

**Amen**

## Pancake Party Borehole



Here you are!

This is the result of you enjoying (or Not), Pancakes at the pancake party one year ago.



This is what your funds replaced:  
Cattle drinking

Human washing

Human  
drinking

We're flipping again. 4<sup>th</sup> March 4-8pm  
Stuffed savoury pancakes. Sweet  
pancakes. Gluten, sugar and meat free  
available.

Come, enjoy food and fun.

Digging boreholes with every penny  
you give.

**Mary Patchett**

**28, Birchwood Avenue LS17 8PL**



Oasis Relief  
Zambia

WATER... EDUCATION... HOPE...

# Pancake Party

Will it come down

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 28<sup>th</sup> Birchwood Avenue First serving 4pm Last serving 8pm



Yes we are partying again.

4<sup>th</sup> March between 4

and 8pm

You can help to put smiles on another community of people waiting

## THE NEW MINISTER

Rev Tanya Short has been delighted to accept the invitation from the Leeds North and East Circuit to join our Circuit Staff from September 2019 for five years, and to take pastoral charge of Lidgett Park and Shadwell Methodist Churches and the Moortown Methodist Church Centre. She will be living in the manse at Alwoodley Park.

This will mean that at the end of August, I will hand over pastoral responsibility for Lidgett to Tanya. I would like to thank you all for your kindness and affirmation to me in these recent months, and to let you know, (if you haven't realise it) that I am enjoying being with you for this current connexional year.

Rev Tanya Short's welcome service will be at Lidgett Park Methodist Church at 2 p.m. on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, and our new Chair of District, Rev Kerry Tankard will be the preacher.

***Robert***

## A SUGGESTION FROM OUR ECUMENICAL PARTNERS

In our churches we pray for people living in Roundhay. Most of them will be unaware that they are being prayed for. Generally, people value being prayed for so we have been thinking of how we could let them know. Perhaps once a month in our Sunday services, starting after Easter, we could pray for God's blessing on the people living in a street near our churches. In the week before a small group could go out in twos to let the residents know they are being prayed for that Sunday. We could carry cards for houses where there is no-one in, letting them know and include perhaps 3 phone numbers /email addresses they could contact with requests for confidential prayer. At the same time as homes were being visited another group would be in church praying for those knocking on the doors. If you, or anyone you know, would be willing to be involved we could meet before Lent to discuss details and possibly have advice/training from those who have done this elsewhere. Trying this for 6 months would give us an idea of its value. I would greatly appreciate your prayers for God's guidance for this idea and any comments/suggestions.

Thank you. ***Martha Jaggs 2403048***

Please respond to Martha if you support this idea. ***Editor.***

# Sunshine & Smiles Benefit Concert

with



*Free Range - Headingley Voices*  
*Sound Company - Harissa*  
*and Roger Harington*



**Saturday 2nd February at 7.30**

**Lidgett Park Methodist Church**  
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Interval Refreshments by Café **21**

**Tickets £10** or pay as you can

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Sunshine & Smiles - Leeds Down Syndrome Network  
[www.sunshineandsmiles.org.uk](http://www.sunshineandsmiles.org.uk)

## CHURCH PROJECT - OPEN WELCOME

Work should have started on the Lidgett Place entrance to the Church on 21 January and should be completed by Easter. During the construction work the Lidgett Place entrance to the Church will be closed and you will have to enter the Church through the entrance from the church car park.

This has not been an easy scheme to work through because the Church is a grade 2 listed building and this has limited what we originally wanted to do. It might be helpful to remind ourselves about what we have achieved as the scheme progresses

- We wanted to make this entrance to the church more open and welcoming. Although we have not been able to remove the wooden outer doors we are putting glass doors or glass screens behind the wooden doors so that the wooden doors can be left open and passersby can see into the church. Although we have not been able to remove the first wooden and glazed screen we are putting almost clear glazing into the centre of both screens so that it will be possible to look into the church. We are using light coloured wood in the entrance lobby and improving the lighting to brighten up the entrance. We are putting lighting inside the church tower and the chancel so that the church looks alive in the dark evenings.
- We wanted to provide toilet facilities for those who come to the church through the Lidgett Place entrance and do not know about other toilets on our premises, particularly infrequent visitors coming to weddings, funerals, and concerts. There will be two new toilets at the Lidgett Place entrance in the 'lobby' on the left hand side just before entering the church.

- We wanted to use the opportunity of the scheme to carry out some maintenance work in this area which would have to be carried out whether or not the other work went ahead. There is significant dampness in the plaster in the first lobby and this will be stripped and re-plastered and some heating installed in this area. The external roofing over the porch will be replaced.

The overall cost of the scheme is estimated to be £55,000. We have obtained a grant from the Circuit for 50% of the cost of the scheme (£27,500). Church Council has agreed that we use legacy money currently held centrally by the Methodist Church (£6000). We have already spent £2000 from church funds on some of the earlier work on this scheme. The Church Project fund raising group has already raised £ 14,000 and we expect that the balance of the money required will be raised by Easter.

As I said earlier this has not been straight forward. Thanks are due to those who have helped with the planning of the scheme and stayed with it when we ran into difficulties because of the listed building issues. Thanks are also due to the fundraising group and all those who have financially supported the project. It is good news that as the work is completed we will have enough money to pay for it and we can move on the fund raising for the next church projects.

***Graham Saunders***

### **WORLD DAY of PRAYER 2019**

From this year the title is no longer prefaced by 'Womens', however the services are still prepared by women, this year from Slovenia. We will meet in St. Andrews on Friday March 1st at 7pm, and warmly welcome everybody regardless of age or gender! Hope to see you there.

***Pat Nolan***



## **PROJECT NEWS. FEBRUARY 2019.**

We start 2019 being very near to the total needed for work on the Church entrance and by the time you read this, the work will have been started.

Once this sum has been reached, the fund-raising then is for the two chosen charities ( Oasis Relief Zambia and the Sreepur Village, Bangladesh). The same Project Group will carry on until at least September. You have been warned!

The Christmas Concert by the Wendell Singers and the YEP Brass Ensemble was its usual wonderful evening and made £600 profit. A huge “thank you” to both the singers and the band for their festive treat which never disappoints.

Our “Winter Warmers” recipe book sold 70 copies and has made a profit of £200. Commercial printing costs mean we have made less profit than we would have wanted but we hope you will by now have perhaps tried one or two of the recipes and enjoyed them. We still have some copies left if you missed out.

We were sorry to have to cancel the proposed Sunday Lunch For All on January 13<sup>th</sup> but with only two of the committee available to cook and serve the meal, even we were daunted. The new date is after morning service on Sunday February 10<sup>th</sup> which will replace the usual bi-monthly Sunday Lunch. Numbers will be needed before the day so please give your name to one of us or sign the list in the foyer. The cost for this is £8.

Still thinking of food (don't we always) the following event is an evening of European dishes. Whatever has happened to Brexit in between writing this and it being printed, this is an occasion to celebrate the diversity of culinary cultures. The date is Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4.30pm. Menus will be available in the March Link as well as the weekly bulletin and a choice of English, French, Italian or Greek food can be ordered (in advance).

The only other definite date I have at the moment is Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup> for the Summer Swing dance but we are likely to be arranging other events at our next meeting at the end of January. These will be advertised as soon as possible. If you have any suggestions for events, do please let us know.

Finally, as always, the committee is very grateful for your continuing support and goodwill.

***Margaret Farrar***

***On behalf of the Project Group.***

## **COMPASSION**

When I read the New Testament, one of the things that stands out is the compassion that Jesus showed both in his teaching and in his actions. This can be easily illustrated with a few random quotes from the gospel writers. *'Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man ( who had leprosy)'* ( Mark 1.41 ). *'When he saw the crowds he had compassion on them, for they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd'* ( Matt 9.36 ). *'When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick'* ( Matt 14.14 ). And in two of the letters we read *'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other'* ( Eph 4.32 ) and *'Dearly beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience'* ( Col 3.12 ).

In our own lives, at a personal level, it is always possible to show compassion in our dealings with our fellow men and women. But when we are dealing with compassion at a societal level, we inevitably enter the field of politics, an arena that Jesus did not flinch from entering when confronting and challenging the self-serving Jewish elite and Roman government of his day, who

drove the majority of the Jewish population into abject servitude and starvation poverty.

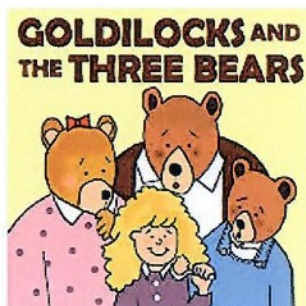
It would be no exaggeration to state that in most political systems today, including our own, compassion seems to be in short supply. So it was heartening to read a short article in the *i* newspaper dated 28 November, 2018 entitled **Compassion should be at the heart of politics** by Tracey Crouch, Conservative MP for Chatham and Aylesford. It will be remembered that she resigned as Minister for Sport because of government delays in introducing plans to cut the maximum stake that people could bet, when sitting in front of Fixed Odd Betting Terminals ( FOBTs ), from £100 to £2. It will also be recalled that, after her resignation and its associated publicity, the timing of the implementation was returned to its original date of April, 2019.

In her article, among other things, she had this to say. “ We need to get back to basics. Politics should be about making people’s lives better and happier. It should be about empowering and strengthening communities. Doing that relies on mutual respect for other people’s lives and opinions, a commitment to understanding different perspectives, and an empathy with the struggles that each and every person can experience. Those two principles – mutual respect and a commitment to helping others – are at the heart of my politics. It’s why I have thrown my support behind the newly launched cross-party initiative **Compassion in Politics**, which is seeking to inject more compassion not only into government policies, but the way we do politics..... For me, compassion has to be the central and leading value of them all. “

Jesus would be in full agreement with this, I am sure.

**Gerry Leake**

LIDGETT PARK DRAMA GROUP  
*presents*



*by Irving Theaker*

*on Fri, Sat 15,16 and  
Tues, Thurs, Fri, 19,21,22 February  
2019*

*at 7.00pm*

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## HOW DID I FIND MYSELF IN THE PULPIT?

My father was a local preacher. As a little girl I loved it when he led worship. At home, his presence lit the house. First thing in the morning I could hear him singing as he lit the range and put the kettle on the hob. As I fell asleep each night, I could hear him laughing with my mother, or talking on the phone (union business – he was a full-time union official) or singing Gilbert and Sullivan. Cheerful, homely sounds through my open bedroom door. I was afraid of the dark and they knew that family noise around me was the way I found to sleep.

At Church he was still my own father but different. I understood, even when I was tiny, that what he was doing was important and special and I think that I first began to understand through watching him that God could be both close and near to us and beyond us too. Not surprisingly, I also wanted to be a preacher. Well, not only a preacher! I was going to be a minister. At home I played Church. I put the dining chairs out in a row and placed books on each one and then stood in front of them and preached my heart out! Nobody had told me then that women weren't allowed to be ministers! It never occurred to me. I was horrified when I realised this – but I think I always knew I would be a preacher.

Trouble was I didn't look like a preacher so other people had some problems recognising this! It was the 1960s and like other young women I wore short skirts, white boots, daisy earrings and my hair was ash blonde. The Chairman of the District had been a friend of my father. We called him 'Uncle Bill'. He said to me, "The pulpits are full of old men from 1900-and-frozen-to-death. We need to hear from young women like you." I didn't need any more encouragement.

When I turned up to preach, people often assumed I was someone who had wandered in by accident. I'd be handed a hymnbook marked 'For the Use of Visitors' while the stewards anxiously peered out looking for the preacher to arrive!

Not dressing like a ‘normal’ preacher was an advantage in that it grabbed attention. But there could be problems. I remember one day when I was wearing my high white boots and beloved white PVC mack to take the service. It was ‘Church Parade’ with flags and banners and scores of scouts milling around. I’d washed the mack especially – in the washing machine as I usually. The service was going well. I’d prepare everything carefully and managed to get the boys’ attention as I stood in front of them in the pulpit. Then I put my hands in my pockets. They were full of water and it ran down my legs leaving pools on the pulpit floor. Best not to try to explain!

There were those who did ‘appreciate’ a different style. I remember a ‘healing miracle’. I was leading worship at a special ‘Women’s Anniversary’. The Church was full and I was nervous but everything seemed to go fine. After the service I went to thank the organist for his enthusiastic playing. He gave me a huge smile. “You did well,” he said. “I recently had a stroke and I’ve been having trouble getting my feet on the peddles. By watching you go up the pulpit steps, my legs started peddling of their own accord. I had a new lease of life.” Well, I think it is nice if we can bring some comfort to the afflicted.

Some of the Leeds churches could be quite daunting places to visit when I started out. I remember vestries in which the steward would stare at me with frank horror when I first arrived and then attempt some small talk:

“Have a seat lass ....yes the big chair.....the last minister died there.”

“Your Dad used to preach here ..... Can’t say I agreed with him.”

“You’ve got notes .....so you won’t be needing the Holy Spirit then?”

And the usual:

“You won’t be wanting your expenses will you?”

Obviously, many things have changed over the years and I am so glad that my daughter, who is also a preacher, does not face

some of the prejudices I had to deal with. But I sometimes wonder whether she will have as much fun as I did preaching to those (very) peculiar people called Methodists!

***Hazel Walton***

## **CULTURE CORNER**

We are indeed fortunate at Lidgett Park to have access to good drama and music. This is shown by two events that we enjoyed in the run up to Christmas. The first, in November, showed us the Drama Group at its best. Nothing too highbrow but just an evening of fun and laughter, “*Strictly for Fun*”. A series of sketches and knockabout humour which had everyone laughing. Of course, there were also refreshments in the form of hot drinks and mince pies to make the evening complete.

The second event was the Carol Concert given by the Wendel Singers under their new conductor, Joe Reeves, and the YEP Brass Ensemble under the baton of Nick Meredith. It proved to be a really splendid evening with a wide variety of Christmas music, both religious and secular, as well as congregational carols. It was especially pleasing to have Joe Roberts in the audience and in conversation with him afterwards he expressed his enjoyment and pleasure at the way the Wendel Singers had performed. Young Joe, as we call him, was under some pressure as this was his first big concert with the Singers but we all felt he acquitted himself well and I know he was grateful to have Joe Senior (as we call him) give his support and approval. We were also extremely grateful for the support of Majorie Hodlin, who stepped in at the last minute as our (very expert) accompanist.

The evening finished in fine style with an encore of Christmas music from the band which had everybody dancing (yes, really!) in the aisles.

***The Editor.***

## LIDGETT PARK LADIES' GROUP

We are a very convivial group of about 25 ladies who meet alternate Thursdays at 7.45 pm in the Community Hall. We usually have Speakers coming to entertain us, coffee evenings, etc. Please do come along and join us, you will be made very welcome.

**14th Feb.** OPEN EVENING. If you can tear yourself away from a romantic dinner, come along and enjoy meeting up again with Andrew Atkins, a previous Minister at this Church (if you didn't already know!). Andrew's talk is entitled "Musings of a Methodist Minister gone AWOL". I think we will all be interested to find out what he's been up to over the past few years.

**28th Feb.** Another Atkins, Stuart Atkins, who has been to us before but this time bringing along "The Great American Songbook". Should be a lively, musical evening.

***Lynne and Anne***

## SHADWELL METHODIST CHURCH

***Cafe Morning 10.00 am - 12.30 pm***

19th February	Pancakes
19th March	Soups
16th April	Easter Treats
21st May	Paninis and Toasties
18th June	Bacon Butties

There will also be the usual wide range of delicious home-baked cakes and scones and a variety of styles of coffee.



## WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Two things caught my eye recently. The first was a report on a homily by Pope Francis in the Times on January 5th 2019 and the second an article by Ed Kessler in the Independent (Sunday 13th January 2019) asking the question, "Is religion a cause of or a solution to violence, or both?"

The report on the Pope's homily was entitled "Parrot-like praying is useless". The essential points made seem to be that we should stop trying to flatter God with long streams of praise "like a parrot"; that God does not need to be appeased with adoration. Rather, prayers should come from the heart and be offered to God in the knowledge that he knows what we need even before we tell him. Above all, we cannot pray and then live hateful lives and speak badly of one another. Praying from our hearts should be reflected in the way we live.

Kessler's article makes the interesting observation that 61% of the UK public think that the teachings of religions are essentially peaceful, but 70% also think that most of the wars in the world have been caused by religion. It needs to be recognised that violence is often carried out in the name of religion and that religion is a cause as well as a solution to violence. He refers specifically to a rise in religious intemperance, abrasiveness and aggressiveness in Israel, and to the rise of a violent Hindu extremism in India. To this one might add the violence of muslim extremists, for example, in so-called Islamic State.

But both Judaism and Hinduism have ways of overcoming violence; the sadness is that it is often the peacemakers in religions that fall foul of their co-religionists. Yitzhak Rabin after years of seeing the Palestinians as the enemy and using violence against them came to the conclusion that this was not the way; if you seek respect you must give respect. He paid for this by being murdered by his own religious community. Mahatma Gandhi devoted his life to achieving political ends through peaceful activities. A year after India had won its independence he sought

reconciliation between Hindus and Muslims by travelling to Delhi where he began to fast for muslim rights. Like Prime Minister Rabin, he too was murdered by his own religious community, in this case by a Hindu nationalist. And, of course, Christianity is not exempt from this. One has only to remember the terrible toll taken in the name of religion as Christian fought Christian during the Reformation in the name of their version of religion.

***Stan Pearson***

## **TOUCHSTONE ANNUAL REVIEW**

I was given recently the 2018 Annual Review of Touchstone. Touchstone has recently moved into its new building, 4, Eastby Road, Bradford, BD7 1QX. There is too much in the review to reproduce here in the Link but here are some of the things that are going on. More information is available on their website [www.touchstone-bradford.org.uk](http://www.touchstone-bradford.org.uk)

*Weaving Women's Wisdom* have enjoyed a very successful tour of the UK with their exhibition exhibiting in mosques, churches, cathedrals and, more recently, in the Upper Waiting Hall in the Houses of Parliament.

*Roots and Shoots* is an intergenerational, interfaith project which enables women and girls from different backgrounds in Bradford to come together to share and discuss ideas around their identity; faith, culture, and being female and what this means to us across generations.

*Light in Communities* enables groups of women of different faiths to come together to discuss the theme of light, for example, who or what brings light to our lives? Who are the shining examples in our communities and faith traditions? While at the same time joining in various craft activities. The results of the discussion are translated into various acts of support and help in the community.

*Baking a Difference* takes place every Monday, bringing together women of all cultures and faiths who, while making bread, discuss their beliefs, their life experiences and make new friends.

We have more in common than that which divides us. **Jo Cox**  
**Editor**

## **A CONCEPT OF GOD**

***This parable is from "Your Sacred Self" by Dr. Wayne Dyer.***

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense" said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet

Mother and she will take care of us.”

The first replied “Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That’s laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now?”

The second said, “She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are part of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist.”

Said the first: “Well I don’t see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn’t exist.”

To which the second replied, “Sometimes, when you’re in silence and you focus and listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above.”

May be this is one of the best explanations of the concept of ‘GOD’!

***With thanks to Ray Mouncey***



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