

The Link Magazine

February 2016

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MINISTER'S LETTER

WANTED JUST THE SITE

The beginning of a new year prompts us to make resolutions, many of which involve the pursuit of personal happiness. This desire is laudable as resolutions help us to focus on something important in our lives. The question is how and in what? Most people turn to the Self – Help Movement. Steve Salerno, in his book, *Sham: How the Self-help Movement Made America Helpless* talks about how when he was 13 he asked his dad, “Dad, are you happy?” to which his dad answered, “Son, a man doesn’t have time to think about that. A man just does what needs doing.” In contrast to the self-help-self assertion movement in pursuit of happiness, the Bible points in a different direction. The reality is that when we observe and study the lives of most movie and media superstars, it appears the more human beings apart from God chase personal pleasure, the more discontent and dissatisfied they are. True happiness in scripture seems to be found in self-sacrifice and surrender to God and in dependence on His Holy Spirit in achieving worthwhile goals.

The reading of the prophets in the Covenant Service is Jeremiah 31:31-34 which in essence seems to challenge self – help movements and most definitely it challenges Frank Sinatra’s most popularized signature of the twenty first century “I did it my way”. Jeremiah 18:1-6 gives the antithesis of the self help movement suggesting that new beginnings come from God the Divine Potter. He has a plan and purpose for each one of us. If we are disappointed with our life perhaps it is because we have not yielded it to God. There are some of our resolutions and desires to improve our live that echo the Biblical teaching that God is working on us – we are His workmanship. He wants to shape us according to His divine design and plan. The Master Potter knows how to create what He designed us for. He knows what needs to happen to turn us into vessels of His glory used to

bring Him glory. Before the clay of our lives is in the hands of the Master it is simply a lump of soil, not good for much of anything. But once God has worked it and shaped it, it becomes His masterpiece. February finds some of us at the brink of abandoning our New Year's resolution as we experience failure after failure. Perhaps instead of abandoning them, we should hand them over to God asking His help to accomplish our desire.

Lindsay Clegg a London businessman told the story of a warehouse property he was selling. The building had been empty for months and needed repairs. Vandals had damaged the doors, smashed the windows, and strewn trash all over the place. As he showed a prospective buyer the property, he took pains to explain that he would replace the broken windows, bring in a crew to correct any structural damage, and clean out the garbage. The buyer said, *"Forget about the repairs. When I buy this place, I am going to build something completely different. I do not want the building; I want just the site."*

That is God's message to us in this New Year! Compared with the renovation God has in mind, our efforts to improve our own lives are as trivial as sweeping a warehouse destined for the wrecking ball. When we yield our life to God, He makes all things new. All He wants is the site and the permission to build our lives. All we have to do is give God the "property", our life and He will do the necessary building and give us a new start. I continue to wish you all Happy New Year.

Daniel.

HOPE

Hope is lived, and comes alive, when we go outside of ourselves and, in joy and pain take part in the lives of others. It becomes concrete in open community with others.

Jurgen Moltmann

The virtue of hope is an orientation of the soul towards a transformation, after which it will be wholly and exclusively love.

Simone Weil

PRAYER FOR CHANGE

Published in the magazines St Andrew's, St Edmund's and Lidgett Park

Love is sustaining. It is building. It is a driving force. All that is love is good. All that is in the name of love but is not good, is not love either.

Being a missionary in God's world is about sharing God's love with everyone we see. It is no more and no less. And so we pray:

Father God your love can sustain me. Your love can build me up. In your love I can grow. I can shine.

Grant me the grace to accept your love every moment of my life, so I have all the more of it to share with others.

I ask this in Jesus' name, who showed us how to share your love.

I ask this of the One who is love in its entirety.

Amen

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

7th Feb	10.30 am	Revd. Dr Daniel Mwilu	
	6.30 pm	<i>Chapel Allerton Methodist Church</i>	
14th Feb	8.00 am	Revd. Robert Creamer	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Mrs Mary Curl	
	4.00 pm	Revd Dr Daniel Mwilu	Holy Communion
21st Feb	8.00 am	Revd. Dr Daniel Mwilu	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd. Dr Daniel Mwilu	
	4.00 pm	<i>Crossgates</i>	<i>Circuit Service</i>
28th Feb	8.00 am	Revd. Dr Daneil Mwilu	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Revd. Dr George Lovell	Holy Communion
	4.00 pm	Revd. Dr Daniel Mwilu	Ecumenical Service

ADVANCED WARNING.

This is to invite Church organisations to post in The Link in March and April topics that they think are of interest to the AGM, 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. Last year most people found this helpful. 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.**A LETTER FROM KATHY BENSON AND FAMILY.**

How can I begin to thank you all for the amazing support & love shown to our family & me, not only since Andrew's death but in the 15 months since we received the bombshell diagnosis & Andrew's subsequent illness. It has helped so much to know that we have been in your thoughts & prayers & that we continue to be so.

Andrew in his typically gentle, humble fashion was always amazed that members of the church family took the time to write to him expressing love & support. He would have been even more astonished by the number of people who came to share in the celebration of his life. Thank you to all who came & helped to make it a very memorable occasion for us all. Special thanks to all who took part in the service, particularly Andrew Atkins & Daniel Mwailu.

Finally thank you for the many many letters, cards & offers of practical help. I think we always knew that that the church family at Lidgett was very special. How fortunate we are to belong to such a family.

Once again our heartfelt thanks.

Kathy, Richard & Jonathan Benson

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

A man and his wife were awakened at 3.00 am by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push.

“Not a chance”, says the husband, “It’s three in the morning”.

He slams the door and returns to bed.

“Who was that?”, asked his wife.

“Just some drunk asking for a push”, he answers.

“Did you help him?”, she asks.

“No, I did not. It’s three in the morning and its pouring with rain out there!”

“Well, you have a short memory”, says his wife. “Can’t you remember about three months ago when we broke down and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself. God loves drunk people too.”

The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pouring rain. He calls out into the dark, “Hello, are you still there?”

“Yes”, comes back the answer.

“Do you still need a push?”, calls out the husband.

“Yes please!”, comes the reply from the dark.

“Where are you?” asks the husband.

“Over here on the swing”, replies the drunk.

HOMER’S WISDOM (the best of Homer Simpson from the Daily Telegraph)

"Books are useless! I only ever read one book, To Kill A Mockingbird, and it gave me absolutely no insight on how to kill mockingbirds!"

The following was used by George VI in his Christmas Broadcast in 1939 and has been widely quoted since then. It is engraved on a panel at the entrance to a side chapel on the north of St George's Chapel, which is the permanent resting place of the king. It seems appropriate as we start a New Year in an uncertain world. The poem was published in 1908. Ed

God Knows

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
 "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
 And he replied:
 "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
 That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."
 So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
 And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

So heart be still:
 What need our little life
 Our human life to know,
 If God hath comprehension?
 In all the dizzy strife
 Of things both high and low,
 God hideth His intention.
 God knows. His will
 Is best. The stretch of years
 Which wind ahead, so dim
 To our imperfect vision,
 Are clear to God. Our fears
 Are premature; In Him,
 All time hath full provision.
 Then rest: until
 God moves to lift the veil
 From our impatient eyes,
 When, as the sweeter features
 Of Life's stern face we hail,
 Fair beyond all surmise
 God's thought around His creatures
 Our mind shall fill

Minnie Louise Haskins 1876 -1957

FROM LEEDS AUTISM SERVICES

08th December 2015

Dear Mary Patchett & Lidgett Park Methodist Church,

On behalf of Leeds Autism Services, I would like to thank you for letting myself and Michael come to Lidgett Park Methodist Church for your Christmas giving service, we both really enjoyed meeting you all.

An amazing £762.55p after gift-aid has been donated, this will be put towards the purchase of a new training kitchen.

The training kitchen provides opportunities for adults with autism to engage in a range of activities such as cooking, cleaning, laundry and housekeeping. Not only does this increase people's independence and daily living skills, it can also increase self-esteem and confidence and provide opportunities for skills development which could potentially help people to find employment in the future.

Thank you so much.



Kind Regards,

Karl Wilson

Charity Fundraiser



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 21st, thanks to your support, raised a magnificent £435:00 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 fund raising events. We have coffee mornings scheduled for Sat Jan 23rd for AFC/MHA & on Sat March 12th from 10-12noon in aid of The Home/Overseas Missions of the Methodist Church, both held in our TMC Social Centre. These are very worthwhile Methodist Charities so do please support us if you can! As usual, Bacon Butties will be served at these events!

On Sat Dec 13th at 3pm, our Millennium Green Carol service was held in the Boules centre due to the inclement weather. It was not well attended as the rain was horizontal! We were fortunate to have the North Leeds Music Centre playing for us and the Thorner Community Choir singing with us. Many thanks to them for leading our carol service.

On Sun Jan 17th at 9:30am, we held our joint Ecumenical Covenant service with St. Peter's at Thorner Methodists. The service was very well attended and appreciated by all who came. This service took place in The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan 18-25th). It was good to worship together!

Our next ecumenical event will be our Lent Course which will begin on Monday Feb 22nd, due to half term, and will run for five weeks, finishing on Monday Mar 21st. This will be held at Thorner Methodists' Social Centre, 10am for refreshments with a 10:15am start. It's a York course entitled, 'The Psalms; prayers for today's church.' All are welcome, so do join us if you can!

God Bless,

Ann Johnson Thorner Senior Church Steward

Tel. 0113 289 3532

LETTER FROM PAT WEBB.

THANK YOU to all those people who bought a calendar from me in aid of MAECARE. It depicts the seasons through the eyes of the Silver Snappers, one of Maecare's groups and part of their Mind and Body Project which aims to improve mental health and emotional wellbeing in adults over 60. There are many activities to pick from and, once in contact with the group and their quarterly magazine, you will find so much is going on in the neighbourhood.

I have benefited greatly in the last two years from the camera class as well as from other experiences. The staff and volunteers are practical, helpful and friendly. They always make sure that I can join even though I am in a wheelchair. As a group we visited the White Cloth Hall in the city centre to see our photographs in an exhibition. We also visited Tropical World at Canal Gardens to snap there. We were taken from door to door.

MAECARE stands for Moor Allerton Elderly Care, but when we see the happy faces and the interesting people you will not think of the word elderly. The professional photographer is Lizzie Coombes who is full of liveliness and knows each person well.

Patricia.

CHRISTIAN AID LUNCHES

Church	Organiser	Date
St Andrew's URC	Alex Jowitt	Tues January 19 th
Friends Meeting House	Liz Schweiger	Feb 25 th (to be confirmed)
Immaculate Heart	Anne Cogan	Thurs March 10 th

THEM AND US

All good people agree,
 And all good people say,
 All nice people, like Us, are We,
 And everyone else is They:
 But if you cross over the sea.
 Instead of over the Way,
 You may end by (think of it) looking on
 We
 As only a sort of They!

Rudyard Kipling

MRS D'S DIARY – a trip around the world.***Toronto***

If you like building sites, constant traffic jams, city centres where no sunlight penetrates you will like Toronto; we did not. About 20 years ago the city fathers decided Toronto needed a makeover so they allowed the demolition of many of Toronto's oldest buildings and in their place the construction of large tower blocks. These were situated so close together to maximize the use of space that the sun rarely reached between the buildings.

One building that survived the 'blitz' was our hotel, the Fairmont Royal York, built in 1929, though there had been a hotel on the same site since 1853. The hotel is situated in the centre of Toronto, opposite the station and developers have had their eye on it for many years. It now faces a new threat as the parent company is on the market and once again developers are eyeing the site. However, the citizens of Toronto are fighting hard to keep it safe and here's hoping as it is a lovely old building.

Our first full day in Toronto was spent visiting the Royal Ontario Museum. It happened to have an interactive display about the disaster befalling Pompeii almost two thousand years ago but, fascinating though this was, our main interest was the gallery showing the cultures of Canada's earliest societies, called The First Nations. In particular, we wanted to see the four totem poles carved by the Nisqa'a and Haida peoples. They are hand carved and, although acquired by the museum in the 1920's, they could not be displayed until the museum expanded in 1933. They are quite incredible, the largest pole standing over 80 feet in height. In order to display the largest pole to its best advantage a circular staircase has been built around the pole to that visitors can see all the amazing carvings. How on earth people managed to carve up to such heights is quite staggering.

The exhibition also displayed a typical settler's house in 1822 and there were over 650 artefacts from both the First Nation Peoples and the European Settlers on display. Even Haydn, who is not a museum lover, enjoyed the various exhibits.

Niagara

Three things to remember if you are visiting Niagara Falls:

1. Don't believe the tour reps when they tell you 'this is your bus'
2. Make sure the tour driver has a list of passengers and you are on that list
3. Ensure that the tour operators are Grayline Tours who pulled out all the stops to make sure we caught up with our designated tour. One of the stops they pulled out was to arrange for us to travel to Niagara on the regular service bus so we travelled not only on roads other than expressways, but the bus also stopped at various small towns either to drop off or pick up passengers. We also avoided all the stops at craft factories, which seems to be an obligatory part on all organized tours.

Niagara Falls town is a 'dump' but the falls are worth a visit. There are 3 waterfalls that straddle the border between the United States and Canada. The most famous, the Horseshoe Falls lies mostly on the Canadian side. The American Falls and the Bridal Veil Falls are entirely on the American side. The combined falls form the highest flow rate of any waterfall in the world and are a valuable source of hydroelectric power.

Until this year, the oldest and best known tourist attraction at Niagara Falls was the Maid of the Mist boat, which has carried passengers into the rapids below the falls since 1846. However, this year it is an American boat called the Hornblower that carries passengers into the mist. The Maid of the Mist has been acquired by a company that is expanding tourism on the American side of the falls and now carries passengers into the rapids below the American Falls. When you go on a cruise from the Canadian side of the falls you cross the US/ Canadian border. You are not, of course, met with customs and border security, but you can't avoid modern technology. As we crossed the border Haydn's phone beeped, the message saying that as we were now in the US, phone calls would cost more.

After leaving the falls area, we drove along the Niagara Parkway. Winston Churchill reputedly referred to it as the most beautiful parkway in the world. It is certainly very pretty. A long, straight, tree-lined avenue with mansions on one side and the Niagara Falls Park on the other, beyond which lies the Niagara River. The leaves were just beginning to turn from green to orange and there was a wonderful mixture of green, orange and red all along the avenue.

We stopped for a short time at Fort Erie, the scene of an important battle in

1812 between Canada and the United States. While Britain was preoccupied with the activities of a pesky Frenchman, the United States invaded southern Canada but were repelled by a rag tag army of British and French soldiers, the First Nation People and the settlers. The US were thrown back across the 49th parallel and have stayed there ever since.

Niagara on the Lake is a small, very pretty town just north of Niagara Falls. It is a complete contrast with small privately owned shops, beautifully kept houses and the Niagara Park and river as a backdrop. Not surprisingly, the inhabitants are very proud of their town and work hard at keeping it unspoilt.

Security

Today we have to collect our rail tickets and leave our cases at the station booking office. The train does not depart until 10 pm so we have the rest of the day to sightsee. We arrived for a late lunch in the Canadian National Tower. Well, there is security, and then there is extra security and then there is the CN security. First, you pass through an airport type scanner machine, then you are screened by a hand held scanner, finally you go through a full body scanner. The body scanner almost took off when I went through, lights flashed, bells rang and security guards came running. I explained that I had an artificial left leg and had had a knee replacement in my right knee. I was, however, left speechless (not my normal condition) when I was informed they would need to see my scars. As I was wearing trousers, I insisted on going somewhere private to undress; long discussion; finally, it was agreed I could proceed without further examination. My very supportive husband, who had gone through security without difficulty, spent his time watching these events with barely suppressed laughter.

The view from the top of the tower was worth the hassle. Somehow a town looks different from on high. This was true of Toronto. The tower blocks looked smaller and the waterfront looked serene with the afternoon sun shining on the shimmering water. The meal was excellent and due to the lateness of the hour we were seated by a window.

During lunch we decided to take a closer look at the waterfront but we were thwarted in our attempt to explore the area by the departing 'blue jay' fans who were celebrating winning an important baseball game. Over 70,000 fans were leaving the stadium, which was situated by the waterfront, and heading in our

direction. Faced with such a mass of humanity we took the sensible decision to clamber onto an ancient trolley bus and head back to the hotel. As a much loved member of Lidgett once remarked about the size of the stadium, 'it's a lot of money to spend on a game of rounders'

So we departed Toronto.

To be continued Ed.

CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Those of us who were privileged to be present at the concert on the 17 December 2015 were treated to a festive delight of Christmas carols, seasonal music and gentle humour. The Concert was organised to support the Church's two charities for the current year and featured the Wendel Singers under the conductor, Joe Roberts, and the Yorkshire Evening Post (YEP) brass ensemble with guest conductor Jackie Armitage.

The programme included a delightful selection of carols, some well-known and others not, from the Wendel Singers including one of my favourites, Listen to the silence by Pepper Choplin. The brass ensemble played three selections of pieces covering a variety of styles and composers.

With six carols for the audience to join in and with the finale of 'O come All Ye Faithful' accompanied by the choir and the brass, it was a truly musical extravaganza of



festive cheer; the mince pies and coffees adding terrific value to a full evening's entertainment.

The event raised £1002 for the two charities and thanks are due to those taking part, the organisers of the event and those of you who supported it.

If the event is repeated again next year, get the date in your diaries as soon as it is known and tell all your friends and neighbours to join us . They won't regret it.

Alan Wittrick

WHAT IS THE POINT OF METHODISM?

An eight-part series on Methodist identity today by John S. Summerwill

1. Setting the scene

Much recent writing on Methodism reflects a sense of crisis in the Methodist Church today as the ageing membership diminishes and few places remain where thriving work among children and young people promises a church of the future. Within the Church there is constant debate about what, if anything, can be done to halt the decline, with often superficial remedies being advocated that do little more than express individual preferences for particular styles of worship. Much of the talk is of organisation, priorities and methods of outreach. Churches are pressed to develop five-year plans. There is very little debate on the substantial content of Methodist belief or reflection on what might be the unique selling point of the Methodist brand of Christianity. Perhaps it is too readily assumed that what we have to offer is not wanted.

For Methodist theologians the focus is naturally more on the Methodist understanding of Christianity and what, if anything, about it is distinctive and worth preserving and celebrating. For example, Jane Craske collaborated with Clive Marsh in 1999 to edit *Methodism and the Future*, a fine collection of essays by young theologians reflecting on Methodist perspectives, and—with some guarded optimism—on Methodism's future as a movement if not as a church. *Unmasking Methodist Theology* (edited by Marsh et al, 2004) brings together more than twenty writers (including Susan Howdle) exploring the way that Methodist theology has evolved historically, the methods by which it is worked out, and the directions in which it is moving. The late Angela Shier-Jones' *A Work in Progress: Methodists doing theology* (2004) is significant as a rare attempt to present a sort of Methodist systematic theology, taking as its structure the arrangement of themes in *Hymns and Psalms*. Most of these contributors are concerned in some way to wrestle with the notion of distinctiveness and to show as false the perception that Methodism has no distinctive identity or theology, and no future other than decline or absorption into another church. What emerges from the picture they collectively paint is that Methodism has a distinctive way of doing theology, and a unique

combination of elements that may exist separately elsewhere but not with the nuances they have in Methodism. They also highlight the danger that Methodists are losing the sense of what makes them distinctive, even a sense of who they are, which contributes to decline.

Distinctiveness does not necessarily equal uniqueness. In this series I will try to show that Methodism, sharing much in common with other Christian denominations, has a character of its own and a significant contribution to make, whether independently or as part of a wider church, which is the result not only of what it believes but of what it does not believe.

As is well-known, Methodism began as a 'society' or movement within the Church of England and became a separate denomination after the deaths of John and Charles Wesley. The wider evangelical movement began before them and large parts of it were not under their control. George Whitefield and the Calvinistic wing of Methodism were equally successful and prominent, especially in Wales and America. What we now know as Methodism is just the Wesleyan wing. In the 19th century it split into various sects, most of which in Britain became reunited in 1932 to form the Methodist Church. It is beyond the scope of the series to explore Methodism outside England, but it is worth noting that the Methodist Church as we know it is only part of Methodism in Britain and a very small part of the world Methodist movement. The Independent Methodists and the Wesleyan Reform Union still exist as separate bodies and have a claim to having a Methodist identity. To them we might also add the most recent secession, that of the Free Methodist Churches, founded in 1971, with a commitment to evangelicalism. At the last count, in 2015, the British Methodist Church had 220,000 members and frequent contact with over half a million people. There are about 80 million Methodists across the world.

Methodist Membership

The most obvious starting point for a study of Methodist identity might seem to be an examination of what is required—and not required—for membership of the Methodist Church. Membership requires no statement of faith or subscription to creeds beyond a simple statement of trust in God as Father, Son and Spirit. Membership is optional and there is little pressure on anyone to make that formal

commitment. The theological basis for what may seem a lax openness is in Methodism's universalist theology, in what John Wesley called 'catholic spirit', and in the belief that every act and attitude of a Methodist should be motivated and guided by, and expressive of, love for God and for one's neighbour. What is also important is the sense of the prevenience (coming in advance) of divine love, its undeservedness and generosity, challenging those who become aware of receiving it to emulate it. So Methodism practises infant baptism in confidence of prevenient grace; it declares the communion table to be the Lord's Table, to which all are invited; it welcomes people in anticipation that they will come to faith rather than requiring faith as a precondition of fellowship.

On a strict view, a Methodist is a member of the Methodist Church in good standing who fulfils the duties of a member and has a valid current membership ticket. Throughout the 19th century Methodist discipline was enforced with some rigour, and membership tickets were withdrawn from those who failed to 'walk worthily of the gospel', or who 'ceased to meet'. Without a ticket there was no admittance to Holy Communion. The disciplinary machinery still exists and occasionally is invoked where need arises. Few Methodists today, though, would approve of a heavy-handed approach to discipline. The Church has for a long time had two lists of those whom it acknowledges as Methodists: one of members (who have entered obligations and are eligible for office) and another, the 'community roll', which includes anyone loosely associated with the local church. All are under the local church's pastoral care.

The 20th century saw changes that made Methodism increasingly more open and welcoming. Two developments were particularly significant: the first, in the 1970s, and as a result of the influence of the Liturgical Movement, was the practice of incorporating Holy Communion with the Ministry of the Word in a single act of worship. Formerly a break after the preaching service allowed non-members to leave before the Lord's Supper. Making the service a unity encouraged non-members to communicate, increasing participation, fellowship and religious commitment, whilst arguably weakening the concept of membership. The second change soon followed. If adult non-members could receive Communion, why not children too? Reports in 1973 and 1975 which suggested children might be allowed were followed in 1987 by one positively

commending children's participation, which has since become the norm.

Methodist identity, then, cannot be confined to those who are formally members. It includes children, and must in some measure include others with Methodist links: children in its uniformed organisations and their parents; people who join in the local church's social activities, though not necessarily its worship, except perhaps at Christmas; those whose only connection with Methodism—but an important one—is that the local Methodist church is 'their church' for marriages, christenings and funerals. Those who are linked in these ways may know very little of Methodist doctrine, values and practice, and even less of its organisation and activities beyond the local community. If asked their religion, they might nevertheless say 'Methodist'.

The books mentioned at the beginning of this article can be borrowed by anyone from the Circuit & Preachers' Library in the Circuit Office. They are classified at 287 Methodism. The instructions for borrowing are on the bookshelves.

FRED'S QUIZ (ANSWERS ON PAGE 30)

Here are the names of 15 creatures – 5 of them are fish, 5 are birds and the other 5 are animals. They are in random order. Find words that answer each of the clues, then alter one letter to produce the creatures' names.

- 1 Code for sending messages (5) 2 Good on puddings (7)
- 3 Keeps car going (6) 4 Countryside walk (4) 5 Reverie (5)
- 6 For a tight grip on ladies' waists (6) 7 Pierce (6)
- 8 Refinement (7) 9 Large stringed instrument (4)
- 10 Be very sparing in use of something – e.g money (6)
- 11 Type of subatomic particle - ? Higgs (5) 12 Supervisor (7)
- 13 Hut (5) 14 A certainty (5) 15 Small but important role in play or film (5)

STOPGAP

A boss asked one of his employees, "Do you believe in life after death?" "Yes sir", replied the employee. "I thought you would", said the boss. "Yesterday, after you left early to go to your brother's funeral, he stopped by to see you."

PROJECT NEWS. FEBRUARY 2016 (*The latest news from the Project Committee*).

Christmas Concert: We were delighted with the donation to the Project of £1,002 – a fantastic amount. Very many thanks to Joe & the Wendel Singers and Rebecca & the Brass Ensemble. As always, this was a superb concert and a wonderful start to Christmas.

Money raised so far : the total raised this year is £3, 790 including the January Coffee Morning. Our sincere thanks to you all for your amazing support.

2016 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday March 12th : Mad Hatters Tea Party to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the publication of Alice In Wonderland. Watch this space for more details of a unique event!

Sunday May 15th at 1pm : Family Sunday Lunch. Invite all the family to join us for a deliciously different lunch – a hog roast from Sedgefields Butchers, followed by home-made desserts from the Project Group and friends. If it has stopped raining by then, we will eat this outside but with the option of using the Community Hall if not.

A Friday evening in late June : David Wilks presents an evening with young musicians : the date will be confirmed when David knows the exact availability of his musicians (after exams. etc.) .

Saturday July 16th : Dance to Rebecca Todd and her friends “The Little Big Band”. 7pm at the Queen's Hall, Immaculate Heart Church, Harrogate Road. Including demonstration and dancing by the Leeds Swing Dancers, we hope you will join us to make this a huge success. Licensed bar and refreshments.

July 21st to 24th : Flower Festival in Church : another demonstration of flower arranging skills by our “Flower Ladies” and the opening of our Church to the wider community.

(The Italian Evening previously advertised for the end of April will now take place in next year's programme.)

You will see that we are trying some new and bigger events this year and hope that you will give us your usual continuing support whilst enjoying some different experiences. If are able to offer further ideas or offer to host a small event, please contact one of us. Thank you.

Margaret Farrar.

On behalf of Kathy Benson, Pat Brooke, Heather Crosby, Jenny Dalton, Ed Dodman & Heather Fry.

LIDGETT PARK DRAMA GROUP

presents



in the Community Hall at Lidgett Park

on Friday, Saturday
12,13 February, 2016
and
Friday, Saturday,
19,20 February, 2016
at
7.00pm

Adults £6

Children £3



Tickets 0113 267 8506

You have seen the advert for the panto. There follows two reviews of the last production of the drama group to whet your appetite ED.

A COMPLETE MYSTERY

We entered the church hall and looked at the programme which told us we were to see “Murder at the Mansion”. Before long the curtains parted and we weren’t in a mansion but in another church hall. There we met a drama group, not the Lidgett Park Drama Group but a different one. Well actually they were the Lidgett Group but acting as a different group. Are you with me still?

We soon got to know this group and a pretty odd bunch they were (the ones in the play not our own dear Lidgett players). But after a lot of arguing they finally got down to rehearsing their latest production, a murder mystery set in (you’ve guessed it) a mansion, which they were going to perform in the actual mansion of the local squire. The whole thing seemed very amateurish and was brought to a very sudden stop by a murder by poison which took place on stage. The previous sentence refers of course to the play within a play as our Lidgett Group were very convincing as bumbling amateurs (I’m not sure that actually sounds complimentary) and no actors were actually harmed in the presentation.

At this point, with the audience totally bemused, Act 1 finished and we paused for refreshment and to ponder on how Irving Theaker, the author, could possibly explain away the mystery. Many were the ingenious explanations put forward from the audience and prizes were duly awarded for the most ridiculous.

But to our astonishment all was explained logically in Act 2 and the mystery solved to everyone’s satisfaction (except the victim’s, but even she had a role to play as a ghost).

Well we expect good stuff from our drama group but this surely was one of their best. Irving came up with a really witty script and it was excellently performed by the cast putting on a brilliant team performance. I can hardly bear to wait for the pantomime.

Ed Dodman

MURDER AT THE MANSION

If you want an evening of laughter, tragedy and confusion I would recommend being entertained by Lidgett Park Drama Group with a performance of a murder mystery play by Irving Theaker.

‘Murder at the Mansion’ begins with the arrival at the church hall of members of Pendon Players. They are there for a rehearsal but the discord among them is apparent, especially when targeted at Brenda (Marion Colbeck) a lady full of her own importance. David (Ian Russell) is particularly aggrieved as she has criticised his ability as producer in a letter to the local newspaper. Have we a victim and murderer here? The repartee between The Players is entertaining and an effective way of introducing genial Tom (Irving) cynical Fred (Peter Harper) bossy Janet (Carol Russell) and ‘prima donna’ Charlotte (Catherine Johnston). A further source of amusement is when Debra (Mary Patchett) appears in the full regalia of a villain to audition for a part in the play. She carries a bottle of poison. Is that significant?

The lively arrival of Florence (Pat Brooke) with her new play for the group to perform at the birthday party of Algernon Carstairs-Flint (David Homewood) adds more complexity as we now have a play within a play and were not sure where the murder will take place. Algernon, slightly inebriated, and his daughter Alice (Alison Yorke) come to oversee the rehearsal which does not please the Players as Alice is a professional actor who is quick to make critical comments on the performance of the cast. The rehearsal begins with some melodramatic speeches and some entertaining problems encountered with the various weapons, or lack of them, as we learn about a love child of Lord Dashwood and the cook , an affair between Sir Gregory Farthing and Lady Dashwood, a sneaky butler and a rejected Amelia. A number of threats are uttered suggesting a variety of possibilities as to who will be the victim and who the murderer.

A break for tea is suggested and all seems well until Brenda storms in because someone has used her beaker and it is discovered that Alice, by drinking from it, has been poisoned. Who is the culprit?

This was the question the audience had to wrestle with while enjoying an excellent supper efficiently provided and served by Val and her team of helpers. In the Act Two Algernon appoints himself as detective to solve the mystery

assisted by interjections from the ghost of his daughter in ethereal form-a clever plot device. Is the guilty person Janet who made the tea? Or Fred, her husband, who served it? David, who was exasperated by Alice's involvement with the play or Debra who had made the poison. Alice had drunk the tea from Brenda's mug- was Brenda the intended victim? Each character had a motive and opportunity so the audience were able to produce some wildly incredible and outrageous solutions to the mystery. It was a very enjoyable evening.

We are very fortunate at Lidgett to have such a talented group of people who are generous with their time and energy and happy to entertain us in this way. They also visit many other churches in and around Leeds providing a high standard of drama and enabling money to be raised for many different causes. Thank you Lidgett Park Drama Group!

Barbara Belsham

SOME MORE THOUGHTS ON HOPE

For if you find hope in the ground of history, you are united with the great prophets who were able to look into the depth of their times, who tried to escape it, because they could not stand the horror of their visions, and who yet had the strength to look to an even deeper level and there to discover hope.

Paul Tillich

Anything that is found to stimulate hope should be seized upon and made to serve. This applies to a book, a film, a broadcast, or a conversation with someone who can impart it.

Hubert van Zeller

Hope is a completely confident expectation; that sureness and certitude with which the awakened soul aims at God and rests in God. It is the source of that living peace, that zest and alertness, that power of carrying on, which gives its special colour to the genuine Christian life.

Evelyn Underhill

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Psalm 33 . 22

LIDGETT PARK LADIES' GROUP

Meeting alternate Thursdays in the Community Hall at 7.30 pm. Refreshments provided, along with a warm welcome.

4th Feb. Jenny Paton-Williams (of St. Edmunds) is coming to talk to us about "The Inter-Faith Quilt". Obviously, people of different faiths were involved with stitching this and I understand that some of our Ladies worked on it too. Come and share your experiences with us all.

18th Feb. Pat Gerwat and Edwina Beier tell us "There's more to Quakers than Oats & Chocolate". Some of us have met Pat on the Town Trails and we look forward to welcoming her and her friend to our Meeting.

The Carol Service made £220 from donations and the group made this up to £250, which was given to Age UK.

Lynne Pullein

MAKE THE MOST OF LIFE

*You may remember a piece in an earlier edition of the Link about a book written by the mother of one of Pat Webb's visitors who is a young woman with cystic fibrosis and who has recently graduated. The book finishes with a poem written by the mum, **Karen Dohren** for her daughter. **Olivia**. I think this has something to say to all of us. Reproduced with permission – Ed.*

CF VS US

Wake up, wake up sleepy head,
Time might not be on your side.
Do things, make things happen,
See things before the incoming tide.
Love someone, hate someone.
Fly, float, sink, and rise.
Live your life, be wise.
Be happy, be sad, and definitely be bad.
Don't miss the experiences to be had.
Dance, get drunk, kiss, have fun.

Sing in the rain, bask in the sun,
Float on the sea, climb the highest
tree,
Jump the stream, swim the sea,
Sail on a yacht. Oh! I forgot,
Drink cocktails by the pool.
Most of all don't be a fool,
To let your life pass you by and
Regret it when you eventually die.

Live life to the full Olivia, as life is too short. All my love, always and forever. **Mum.**

WOMEN AT THE WELL – THE DAILY GOSSIP COLUMN

An ordinary hot and dusty morning to talk about as Hannah, Esther and Miriam drew sufficient water for the day from the communal well.

Conversation was flagging and the women were missing Ruth, who usually joined in this morning chore and, if they were honest, always brightened up their chatter with some morsel of news which seemed to evade others. Water drawn, the three were just about to disperse reluctantly back home to more daily chores when who should come striding quickly towards them across the square but a pitcherless Ruth.

As Ruth got nearer, the three women could not only see but also sense the excitement coming from their friend. What story (gossip) they thought are we about to hear?

“They’ve returned”, an almost breathless Ruth managed before she was told to sit, calm down and get her breath back. “Whose back?” asked Esther when Ruth was more composed. “The carpenter Joseph and the woman he was engaged to, you know, Mary. I saw them not an hour ago with the little lad in tow”.

“What’s so exciting about another family moving into the town?” Miriam enquired. “It’s not an uncommon occurrence”. “Sorry Miriam. I had forgotten that you are a recent incomer so you were not here when it happened. It was quite a scandal at the time. Don’t you agree, Hannah?”. “Well, yes, at the time”, responded Hannah, “but it was a few years ago now, but I am sure Ruth you are going to remind us all of the story”.

Ruth needed not further encouragement. “If my memory is correct, and for scandal it usually is, Joseph and Mary’s families had agreed that the two of them would make a good match and had agreed to their engagement. Although Mary was younger than Joseph, he was considered very suitable as he had already established his own carpentry business. Then calamity. Before the wedding could take place Mary became pregnant. The shock and disgrace felt by both families transferred itself thought a large proportion of the town. What could the couple do as neither of them was prepared to admit to any wrongdoing, if you know what I mean? Fortunately, our Roman masters provided them with an opportunity to get away from wagging tongues and sordid speculation. If you remember, Esther, about seven or eight years ago there was that great census

and Joseph was obliged to leave for, where was it, Bethlehem? Off they went, Mary heavily pregnant by this time, under a dark cloud and nothing has been heard or seen of them since. Whether they had contacted their families over the years and the families had kept their whereabouts and their return secret, time alone will tell, but it was a shock to see them this morning”.

“Are you sure it was them?”, asked Hannah. “It’s been sometime”. “I am sure it was them but I only caught a glimpse of the boy. They were in Rehar Joshua looking at that unoccupied property. I suppose Joseph has to start again as his previous business premises were let go by the family a few years’ back when it looked like they had gone for good”.

“Didn’t you try and have a word with them?”, asked Esther. “It would have only been polite seeing you did recognize them”. “A bit early yet ladies, even for inquisitive me. I’m going to see what the families’ reactions to the return are before I get too neighbourly. Joseph and Mary have one good thing going for them, however. The families wanted a boy”.

Ruth turned to the well and smiled. A return journey for the pitcher was a small price to pay for being first to her friends with the news.

“Same time tomorrow”, said Miriam as the four friends made their ways home, each wondering who would have the best story the next time they met.

Colin Watson

THOUGHTS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (and beyond!)

Stagnation in thought or enterprise means death for Christianity as certainly it does for any other vital movement. Stagnation, not change, is Christianity’s most deadly enemy, for this is a progressive world.

Harry Emerson Fosdick

Don’t search for the answers live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.

Rainer Maria Rilke

THUNDERSTORMS – A MEDITATION

Have you ever stood in the midst of a thunderstorm? The effect is (literally) electrifying. Bolts of lightning suddenly illuminate the sky. A pregnant pause follows an uncanny stillness – then the **boom** of thunder crashes over the rooftops, rattling the windows. Sheets of rain pour down as if Noah's flood has come to wash away the world.

Although a thunderstorm can be frightening, it can also be exhilarating. We can be galvanised into action by its sheer power. A sunny day gives us steady energy. On an overcast day, clouds cuddle the world like puffy pillows. Spring lulls us gently with birds trilling. Autumn nestles us under its multicoloured quilt. Every day and season has its quiet and subtle charms. But sometimes we need something powerful, like a thunderstorm, to change things.

When a thunderstorm comes, we tend to run and shelter, close the windows, muffle the noise. Maybe we look to Julie Andrews singing “My Favourite Things” as she does during a thunderstorm in “The Sound of Music”. We thus struggle to restore/maintain the familiar.

But what if we did the opposite? What if we used every thunderstorm as a stimulus for change in our lives? As we all know a thunderstorm develops in conditions of atmospheric instability. Electric tensions build up and when these tensions become too great, the pent-up energy is released as a lightning bolt.

Aren't our lives often something like this? **Between** our spiritual longings and our everyday pursuits. **Between** different aspects of our personalities which cannot easily be reconciled. **Between** ourselves and our loved ones, **ourselves** and our culture. It's like the murky, humid air that precedes the thunderstorm, filled with irresolution.

So, when a thunderstorm occurs next, throw open the windows and let it in. Seize the moment to re-organise your life. Destroy what must go. Light up what is of value. Shout forth the truest needs of your heart.

For the weather that follows the thunderstorm is peaceful and renewed. The oppressive heat has been cleared away, the soil made moist by the rainfall. The song of the birds is a little sharper, and everything smells refreshed.

So, too, can our lives be after the storm, can't they?

Gerry Leake

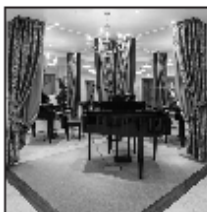
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	Jenny Dalton	2934588
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Senior Communion Steward	Val Faint	2663433
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4. Hike: hake (F) 5. Dream: bream (F) 6. Corset: cosset (A)
7. Impale: impala (A) 8. Culture: vulture (B) 9. Harp: carp (F)
10. Scrimp: shrimp (F) 11. Boson: bison (A) 12. Manager: tanager (B)
13. Shack: shark (F) 14. Cinch: finch (B) 15. Cameo: camel (A)

Fred Langley



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