

The Link Magazine

July & August 2017

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Facing Uncertainty.

"If the Foundations Be Destroyed, What Can The Righteous Do? (Psalm 11:3)

The three institutions that have given stability to society are: Home, Church and Stable Government. Across the world today, however, these institutions have been shaken. Divorce is at an all-time high; many homes are not a place of refuge but a battlefield. The Church is in decline as well as losing its credibility with long-held moral values being jettisoned in favour of new morality, making it no different from the rest of society. Stable governments are a dream of the past with the disintegration of USSR, constant warfare in post independent Africa, endemic religious rivalry and warfare in the Middle East and now Brexit and government turmoil in the USA. Not to mention the financial seismograph predicted by Larry Burkett, in his book, *The Financial Earthquake*, Moody Press, 1991 realized a few years later unleashing the current world economic financial meltdown.

Psalm 11 was written by King David. Scholars suggest that it was either written when he was trying to resist being overthrown by his own son, Absalom (2 Samuel chapters 13- 20); or when Saul chased him in the Wilderness (1 Samuel 23). What is certain, however, is that it was written at a time of great distress, turmoil and uncertainty. The question posed in Psalm 11:3 is poignant and resonates with the time we are living in today. *What can the righteous do when the foundations are being destroyed?* We may rephrase the question and ask what is the response of Christians when faced with the turmoil and uncertainty of our times? What does it mean to live as Salt and Light in our society today? In Psalm 11, the Hebrew word translated foundations refers to "moral and spiritual underpinnings of any society". In answer to his question, David finds the answer is Trust in God, the realization that whatever the circumstances, **God is**. This allusion is a reference to God on the throne.

In the same way, Christians today should respond to the current crisis with confidence and the affirmation that whatever, **God is**. The scriptures point to four unshakable foundations. First, the Throne of God can never be shaken (Psalm 45, 46, Isaiah 34). Secondly, the power and promises in the Word of God (the Bible) cannot be shaken;

we can fully depend on the estimated 30,000 promises in God's word. Thirdly, the Church of God can never be shaken; Jesus made this promise when He founded it (Matthew 16:18). Fourthly, nothing can separate God's people from His love in Christ (John 10:27-29 and Romans 8:37-39). Therefore, the Christian ultimate response amidst turmoil and uncertainty is twofold, Love and Trust. First, to show confidence in trusting God who is and always will be. Secondly, showing tenacious, courageous, winsome Love. Tenacious in the sense of not giving up, but keeping on praying. Courageous in the sense of love that does what needs to be done, taking a stand on the truth, speaking out instead of wimping, a love that is bent towards serving others. In the words of Mother Theresa, "I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world." But above all a willingness to take a stand as in the old saying "If you were arrested for being a Christian would there be enough evident to convict you?" Winsome in the sense of facing life with a smile not a scowl, not losing our temper or saying something stupid, being cheerful even when under attack and displaying grace under pressure.

Such a response is not triumphalist or corky but is one marked by meekness and humility, a response that lives out the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-8). In exercising the eight attributes or attitudes, it goes counter to modern culture and populism. As A.W. Tozer described Christians in his book *The Road of the Righteous*: "A real Christian is an odd number anyway. He feels supreme love for One whom he has never seen; talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see; expects to go to heaven on the virtue of Another; empties himself in order to be full; admits he is wrong so he can be declared right; goes down in order to get up; is strongest when he is weakest; richest when he is poorest and happiest when he feels the worst. He dies so he can live; forsakes in order to have; gives away so he can keep; sees the invisible; hears the inaudible; and knows that which passeth knowledge."

What can the righteous do in the midst of turmoil, crisis and uncertainty? Trust God and show tenacious, winsome and courageous Love

Daniel.

THE LINK— Comments on the following please.

The Link is gaining a wider distribution to public places in Roundhay, Harehills and Thorner, as well as to associated churches and contacts of individual church members. We believe it is a valuable and effective way of letting people know what our church stands for and what it is doing. The magazine has always been free. ***This will remain the case.*** However, it costs about 80p per copy to produce after income from advertising. The suggestion is that if anybody would like to make a voluntary contribution we could put a basket out each Sunday in the lobby. ***Editor.***

PRAYER FOR CHANGE

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

An estimated 8 million tons of plastic end up in our oceans each year, poisoning food chains and damaging ecosystems. In June, the Marine Conservation Society invited people to take the Plastic Challenge to see how long they could go plastic free to help save our oceans and marine life. Could you give up plastic?

Father, we thank you for the new awareness, among many people, of the need to care for and heal your world. Show us, we pray, the actions we each can take to play our part in the healing process, to lead by example and to be prepared to give reasons for what we do .

Green Christian

STEWARDSHIP

Our new stewardship team is Val, senior steward, Daphne ,Jennifer and Malcolm, who we are very pleased to welcome on board. However, we cannot serve the church adequately on a Sunday morning with just four of us. We have had some volunteers to help as “deputies” but we desperately need more. The duties as a “deputy” would not be as onerous as being a steward but very necessary. It would be a big help if this person could come about 10.00a.m. and be a presence in the foyer to welcome the preacher, alert the steward on duty of any queries they could not answer and take tea/ coffee to the people counting the money.

Gilbert is training to help with the sound system. Could YOU help with this thus relieving the stewards of a job? It involves ensuring the system is working and closing it down after the service. No technical knowledge is required – just the ability to press the right buttons!

If you can help with either of these jobs (and the more of you who help the fewer Sundays you will be called on to help) please contact Daniel or any of the stewards mentioned above.

Thank you,

Val Faint.

WORSHIP IN JULY & August**LIDGETT PARK**

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|---|---------------------------|
| 2nd July | 10.30 am | Mrs Patricia Davies | |
| | 6.30 pm | <i>Chapel Allerton Methodist Church</i> | |
| 9th July | 10.30 am | Revd David Hall | |
| | 6.30 pm | <i>Chapel Allerton MC</i> | <i>Holy Communion</i> |
| 16th July | 10.30 am | Prof Peter Howdle | |
| | 3.00 pm | <i>Seacroft</i> | <i>United Service</i> |
| 23rd July | 10.30 am | Revd Dr Daniel Mwaile | <i>Holy Communion</i> |
| 30th July | 10.30 am | Revd Robert Creamer | |
| | 6.30 pm | <i>St Edmund's Church</i> | <i>Ecumenical Service</i> |
| 6th August | 10.00 am | Revd Dr Daniel Mwaile | |
| | 6.30 pm | <i>Chapel Allerton MC</i> | |
| 13th August | 10.30 am | Mr Roger Richardson | |
| | 6.30 pm | <i>Chapel Allerton MC</i> | <i>Holy Communion</i> |
| 20th August | 10.30 am | Mrs Susan Mason | |
| | 6.30 pm | <i>Chapel Allerton MC</i> | |
| 27th August | 10.30 am | Revd Philip Chilvers | <i>Holy Communion</i> |

THORNER

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2nd July | 9.30 am | Dr Edmund Marshall | |
| 9th July | 9.30 am | Mr Roger Richardson | |
| 16th July | 9.30 am | Revd John Mason | <i>Holy Communion</i> |
| | 3.00 pm | <i>Seacroft</i> | <i>United Service</i> |
| 23rd July | 9.30 am | Deacon Jenny Jones | |
| 30th July | 9.30 am | Revd Dr Daniel Mwaile | |
| 6th August | 9.30 am | Mrs Hazel Featherstone | |
| 13th August | 9.30 am | Mrs Anne Johnson | |
| 20th August | 9.30 am | Revd Dr Daniel Mwaile | <i>Holy Communion</i> |
| 27th August | 9.30 am | Mr John Summerwill | |

Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God: for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. *Psalm 147 verse 1 (NRSV)*

LOOK UP

On Sunday evening (*Sunday after Ascension Day – Ed*) we received much blessing during the Ecumenical service led by Daniel at Lidgett. Daniel was very inspirational and spoke about the ‘Ascension’ of Jesus. In these difficult times, I feel that such positivity is helpful and much needed. Thank you, Daniel.

I was reminded of my childhood and how my mother regularly bought *The Christian Herald*. I looked forward to reading the children’s section. I joined *The Golden Star Brigade*, was sent a badge and the motto was ‘Look up and aim high’.

During my sister-in-law’s funeral this year, her son, Peter, told us that Doris had always exhorted everyone to ‘Look Up!’ Doris was godly and from childhood had loved the Lord. She was privileged to have the wonderful example of her parents and her father was the pastor in the Pentecostal Church.

Charles Wesley puts it well in his hymns:

O glorious hope of perfect love,
It lifts me to the things above,
It bears me up on eagle’s wings,
It gives my ravished soul a taste,
And makes me for some moments feast
With Jesus, priests and kings.

Joyce Wood

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE? (Answers on Page 23)

1. According to Acts where were the disciples first called Christians?
2. What was the name of Cleopas’s companion on the road to Emmaus?
3. Who rebuked David when he had Uriah killed?
4. In Matthew what three things are said to destroy treasures on earth?
5. What type of fungus did Solomon pray for deliverance from at the dedication of the temple?
6. After Elisha cursed them how many youths were killed by bears?
7. What did Balaam’s ass see that stopped him in his tracks?
8. In Revelation how many seals did John see?
9. Who rescued Lot and all his possessions from captivity?
10. When Cain left Eden where did he go?



THORNER BROADSHEET

Many thanks to those of you who came and supported our last coffee morning which was held on Sat May 20th in aid of Martin House Hospice. I promised to let you know the total collected for this charity which amounted to £325:00. Thank you for making this total possible, we are very grateful to you for coming and supporting us in this very worthwhile cause.

This letter from Thorner for the Link magazines covers July and August, so I'd like to draw your attention to our Summer Fayre on Sat July 1st 10am to 12noon if you receive this in time. This event is for church funds. An early reminder too about our September coffee morning, which is in aid of St. Gemma's Hospice, and takes place on **Sat Sept 16th from 10-12noon**. Bacon butties will be served at both these events and we will have our usual cake, produce and bric a brac stalls. Do please support us if you can. We look forward to seeing you !

It just remains for me to wish you all on behalf of everyone here at Thorner, a very blessed and restful Summer and we thank you for your wonderful support during the past Methodist Connexional year. We hope to see you on Saturday 1st July and on the 16th September !

With every blessing

Ann Johnson Senior Church Steward

Tel: 0113 2893532, Mob: 07949809375, Email: vanceann@btinternet.com

THORNER CHURCH Fund Raising Events Programme for 2017 (all Saturday events)

| Date | Time | Event |
|-----------|------------|---------------------------|
| 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 |

SHADWELL METHODIST CHURCH CAFÉ MORNING 10.00 am– 12.30 pm

Dates and specialities as follows:

18th July Bacon Butties

15th August Cake Selection

19th September Toasties

17th October Baked Potatoes

DISABILITY – some see a problem, not a person

I agree with Gerry Leake's meditation in the June Link when he wrote, 'No barriers must be introduced or allowed to continue, which result in anybody being excluded whatever their social standing.'

Over many years we, the parents of an autistic man, have experienced both rejection and discrimination. Gerry referred to the Parable of the Good Samaritan, but our favourite text is Mark 2, verses 1-5 about the four friends of a man sick of the palsy. This man stood no chance without the intervention of his four friends, who took him to Jesus, carried him on his bed, even broke up a roof to let the bed down to Jesus, who then healed him and sent him away rejoicing.

Once, while on holiday in Bridlington, after the Sunday morning service the minister said that we and our son were an embarrassment and they would rather we didn't come. We were not deterred by this and continued to worship in God's house knowing that Jesus would want us to forgive him.

We feel that Lidgett Park's Project Group had made a wonderful and compassionate response to Leeds Autism Services, responding to a need in Leeds just as the four people in the gospel did for their friend. I am glad the gospel is for the whosoever and I like this verse by John McAlonan:

Whosoever will may come,
And who comes to him shall never
Disappointed turn away.
Praise the Lord tis whosoever.

And this word it reaches nations.
Not the rich or learned or clever
Only shall by him be rescued.
O praise God tis whosoever.

Joyce Wood

LIDGETT PARK ENTRANCE

How ironic that Christian Aid Sunday should follow immediately after the Sunday of the Annual Church Meeting when the church opted for cosmetics over need.

Colin Watson

REFUGEES

They have no need of our help
 So do not tell me
 These haggard faces could belong to you or me
 Should life have dealt a different hand
 We need to see them for who they really are
 Chancers and scroungers
 Layabouts and loungers
 With bombs up their sleeves
 Cut throats and thieves
 They are not
 Welcome here
 We should make them
 Go back where they come from
 They cannot
 Share our food
 Share our homes
 Share our countries
 Instead let us
 Build a wall to keep them out
 It is not ok to say
 These are people just like us
 A place should only belong to those who were born here
 Do not be stupid to think that
 The world can be looked at another way.

Now read from bottom to top!!

Brian Bilston (with thanks to CONTACT, the magazine of Colton Methodist and Christ Church Halton – used with permission).

A THOUGHT TO PONDER

Probably no word summarises the suffering of our times better than the word 'homelessness'. It reveals one of our deepest and most painful conditions, the condition of not having a sense of belonging, of not having a place where we can feel safe, cared for, protected, and loved. **Henri Nouwen.**

Swing Dance



With the Little Big Band & Swing Dance Duo

Queens Hall, Immaculate Heart Church, Harrogate Road, LS17

Saturday 8th July

Doors open at 7.00pm

Swing Dance Show at 7.30pm

Dancing for all 8.00—10.00pm

Licensed Bar

Admission £10

All profits to Christian Aid and

Leeds Autism Services

THOUGHTS FROM A HOUSE GROUP

The Shadwell and Lidgett discussion group has been using a book written by the theologian Alistair McGrath to guide our thoughts. The title of the book is *Why are we here?* In many ways the book is a defence of religion against the secular view that the only truth is to be found in science. McGrath is someone who was once an atheist and who trained as a molecular biophysicist before becoming a leading Christian theologian. He has been one of the main protagonists in the debate with the atheist Richard Dawkins, author of *The God Delusion*.

He begins with an analysis of the foundations and scope of science, quoting the scientist Thomas Huxley, namely, that science is based on an article of faith that there is a universal order and a law of causation, both of which are unprovable. He goes on to make the point that science cannot be said to explain the world but only the phenomena that are observed within the world. Science addresses the mechanism but not the purpose or meaning. Furthermore, scientific models and theories act in the same way as religious metaphor. They provide a useful insight but are not themselves truth. By their nature they cannot be proved but stand only until some new discovery requires them to be modified.

He then notes that we dream of better worlds. Mankind is the only creature that is struck with the difference between what things are and what they ought to be. Our longing for significance and meaning is a marker of something that lies beyond the thresholds of our experience, a pointer that we are destined for something better than the world we know. We found a lot in this section that was helpful to our understanding not simply of Christianity but also the other major religions.

The final section deals with Christianity as a transforming vision, one that addresses four important questions that enable us to make sense of things.

The question of identity, who am I? Personal identity is an ability to exist in relationships. We are defined by our social and personal relationships. It is something given not achieved. God who has chosen to relate to us gives us our identity as a person of significance.

The question of value, do I matter? Our value does not depend on or reflect our achievements but lies in the esteem in which God holds us. We possess value because we are valued.

The question of purpose, why am I here? From a Christian perspective life is a journey of growth and maturation. Everything that is good and beautiful points to God and finds its fulfillment in God and to be with God is the culmination of all human desire. The process of traveling through life allows us to grow in insight and wisdom and service to others.

The question of agency, can I make a difference? The heart of a life of faith lies in a trusting orientation and attitude towards God. God does not just illuminate but also transforms our lives. Christianity does not just enable us to make sense of things but it offers to transform our situation. The Christian believes that we are empowered by God to live the sort of lives that do make a difference to the world in which we live. There is so much more that can be said about this little book. We have found that its value lies as much in the discussion and sharing of thoughts that it provokes as in what it says.

Stan Pearson

A GOOD CELEBRATION.

David Wilks has completed a notable sixty years as organist at Lidgett Park Methodist church in Leeds and is still using his talent, enthusiasm and loyalty in full measure. Recently the congregation acknowledged his devotion with a presentation to him. They shared a suitably decorated cake after the morning service. David responded by reading the letter of invitation sent to him in 1957 by the Secretary of the church Trustees. **Margaret Summerwill.**



DR & MRS ERIN DALY

**an audio-visual presentation of their recent visit to
Jerusalem from the perspective of Muslim historians.**

LIDGETT PARK METHODIST CHURCH

23RD JULY FROM 2.00 –4.00 PM

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION FOLLOWED BY TEA, SCONES
AND SAMOSAS.**



Concert

With a Voice of Singing, St Chads,
Headingley, 16th September

Alan Horsey will lead our **Summer Season** with
Tuesday rehearsals starting on **6th June** at
Oxford Place Methodist Centre.

All singers welcome, particularly Tenors & Basses

Excellent mixed selection of works inc. **Suite from The
Armed Man, Easter Hymn from Cavalleria Rusticana
& John Rutter's Feel The Spirit**

Contact dudleymax34@gmail.com or 0113 2370389 or
William on 2684723

WISH YOU WERE HERE.

Lidgett Park Drama Group always provide excellent entertainment so it was with eager anticipation that I went to see 'Wish You were Here' –four plays not one.

Two of the plays had a similar setting –the seaside – and both involved two women having a conversation. The first, 'Theatrical Digs ' introduced Pascaline Holbein (Mary Patchett) and Maggie Festoon (Marion Colbeck) sitting in front of some rather attractive looking beach huts. Pascaline was eager to boast to her new acquaintance that she was appearing in a play in the theatre at the end of the pier and in a rather patronising manner spoke about her successes in the world of theatre. Maggie at first seemed to be an unassuming character but it soon became obvious to the audience if not to Pascaline that she also had theatrical contacts and knew a lot about the stage. As the dialogue proceeded it became clear that they were both actresses, both hopeful of starring in a new film and both waiting for news as to whether they had been successful. There was a frenzy of phone calls and some rather caustic comments as the two women both thought they would be the better choice for the part but in the end there was a united cry of despair as both were unsuccessful and they finally left the stage to console one another.

As is necessary in short one act plays, both Mary and Marion established the characters they portrayed very quickly and effectively so the audience could enjoy the conversation and wait for the outcome.

The same was true in 'Day Trippers' where Carol Russell and Pat Brooke played two friends, Beryl and Doris, who were on a day trip with their workmates but were on a quiet beach away from the rest of the group. The play began with Beryl having great trouble setting up the deckchair and she was rewarded with applause from the audience when she finally was able to sit down. This set the tone for the play in which their gossip about their work colleagues, especially the men and particularly foreman Sam, was humorous and revealing. Their conversation ranged from funfairs and land mines on the beach to hens, bats and the Minister for Food as well as Beryl's assumption that the men, especially Sam had 'the hots' for her. Doris was subjected to derogatory comments from her friend and was called a prude but she got her own back at the end of the play when she noticed a crowd of people going swimming. She commented that they were all wearing the same pink costumes until she realised that they were in the nude and that the beach they were sitting on was a nudist beach.

When Beryl remarked that the swimmers couldn't possibly be anyone they knew Doris inadvertently commented that she recognised Sam!

'Mistaken Identity', written by Irving Theaker, was set in a store room at a hotel where an Old Boys' reunion was being held and where two characters, played by Ian Russell and Irving, met. The interesting point about the play was that both were trying to conceal their real identity from one another and from the audience by pretending to be someone else and it wasn't until the end of the play and the entry of a third character played by Pat Brooke that we discovered the truth. Through the conversation Ian used an affected manner and references to wealthy and titled people to suggest that he too belonged to that society while Irving said that he had not been to a reunion before and was not familiar with anyone there. The two characters cleverly circled round one another in their conversation as the audience tried to work out their identities, largely unsuccessfully I would think, until Pat revealed that Irving was her husband and the owner of the hotel while Ian was a wine waiter.

The action of the final play 'There's No Business' took place in a rehearsal room where actors were rehearsing for a play due to be performed in three weeks time. I am sure the drama group are very familiar with such a situation but I hope their rehearsals never end in the chaos which erupted here. The leading lady (Carol Russell) and the leading man (Irving Theaker) are performing their roles in a rather over dramatic fashion much to the despair of the playwright (David Homewood). The leading lady makes disparaging comments about the play while the prompt girl (Danielle Steggles) makes uncomplimentary comments about her performance so the producer (Ian Russell) announces they will perform a different scene in the hope of something better.

In this scene a juvenile (Jerram Bishop) is standing in for his older brother who is playing the part of a student artist starving in a garret. The boy's father (Richard Bishop) comes to the garret to persuade his son to give up his life as an artist resulting in an entertaining struggle in which the father falls and hurts his shoulder. (I trust they practised this at home). The scene fails to be played with the intensity the producer demands and in his despair he states, 'I feel my sanity slowly slipping away.' The leading lady walks out refusing to wear the costume the wardrobe mistress (Mary Patchett) has made for her; the prompt girl, supported by the wardrobe mistress, pleads to be allowed to play the part; the juvenile lead does a song and dance act; the father refuses to do the fight again and the producer is at the end of his tether when he realises that the prompt girl, who knows the part by heart, could play the leading

lady. Everything seems fine until the leading lady reappears and attacks the prompt girl; the wardrobe mistress joins in and the caretaker (Peter Harper) appears to announce that their time is up. The producer has had enough and tears up the script.

The four different plays were a wonderful way of displaying the skills of all members of the drama group and everyone there had a very enjoyable evening-actors included I hope. It was particularly good to see new faces on the stage and I hope we will see them again. A successful production also relies on people behind the scenes who help with lighting, stage management and properties and those who serve at the front of house and with refreshments. Thank you to everyone.

Barbara Belsham

TRAVELLING TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC

2. Indonesia

We embarked on the *Aurora* on a sunny day in February. Our cabin was on deck 11 and it had a balcony. We soon unpacked and settled in. That's the best thing about cruising, no more packing until we leave the ship. We departed in the early evening and watched the Singapore skyline gradually slip away, then out to sea.

Our first destination was the island of Samarang. We arrived early morning and, after breakfast, got ready to go ashore. Samarang is located on the north coast of Java. There are many places to visit but, of course, being there for one day only limits what you can see. Harry and I took a tour of highlights and buildings. There was the oldest Christian church at Genega Brenduk with its wonderful choir to welcome you. Then there was Lawang Sewu or Thousand Doors, a building from the Dutch era located in the downtown area of Samarang. There is also a beautiful park in the centre called Simpang Lima featuring restaurants and a market place.



The Avalokitesvara Temple features 20 statues of Kwan, the goddess of mercy and love. They face every direction so that love can be spread and kept away from hatred. Finally, at the Jamu Nnyonya Meneer museum you can learn about janu (herbal

medicine). The temperature was very high so we were relieved to go back to the ship for a cool dip in the pool, but feeling we had learnt a lot that day.

After a sea day, we arrived at Bali in the early morning. Some call it the crown of Indonesia's 17,000 islands. There are wonderful unspoilt beaches, great scenery and the people are very friendly. Because the ship could not go into the harbour we had to go in by tender. These are small boats to get you to the shore. Sometimes it is quite tricky getting aboard them, especially if the sea is choppy! We managed to get on and off without mishap. In Kemenuh, the tour included a visit to a family of skilled carvers who turned slabs of teak and ebony into masks, religious figures and intricate wall decorations. There was then refreshments of tea, coffee, sandwiches and Balinese cakes. Finally, a visit to Ubud, an artists' colony famous for painters, galleries and museums, There was also a large market in the centre of the town.

Harry and I both feel we have learned a lot about Indonesia and its people and would love to return sometime to see more of this beautiful country. We departed early evening viewing a lovely sunset.

We now had 3 sea days before our next landfall. There are many things to do on board ship. Most mornings many people exercise, either by using the well equipped gym or walking the promenade deck, which takes you round the ship. There are lectures on subjects from marine life in the vicinity to life working for the Royal Family to TV personalities talking about their lives and work. There are also daily illustrated talks about things you can do at the next destination. The ship has 3 swimming pools with Jacuzzis, which were always popular. On the top deck there is golf, deck quoits and various sporting activities organised for those so inclined. Of course, it's always nice to relax in the sun or chat to people from places all over the world. Lots of lasting friendships are made whilst cruising. We were now looking forward to our next destination on our travels in the South Pacific (to be continued).



Betty Ashton

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

It has been an eventful few weeks with the election campaign and the terrorist incidents in Manchester and London. No doubt we will be hearing much more about this in the months to come.

On a completely different topic I came across an article in The Times (16th May) by Emma Duncan writing about her feelings following the death of her husband. It was, I felt, a very moving article and I reproduce an extract of part of it below. **Stan Pearson**

The second thing I learnt was to be grateful for religion. I am a convinced atheist — not a wishy-washy, bet-hedging agnostic, but a card-carrying believer in the nonsensical malignity of religion — as was my ex-husband, and I was inclined to go for a handmade, humanist, cardboard-coffin funeral. In the event, though, I bought a plot in a cemetery and we held a service in a church.

How did we end up there? Because I came to realise that religion provides some of the things that you need at a dark time. Beauty, for instance: the country's loveliest buildings have been erected to the glory of God, and spending a little time in a church, with the light falling through a mullioned window on to the altar, and the columns drawing your eye to the fan-vaulted ceiling, is a balm to the spirit. Try feeling uplifted in a municipal crematorium.

Death also brings the need for a sense of continuity — the feeling that we're not just a transient collection of atoms but part of something that has been here before us and will go on after us. Religion, which has been around for so much longer than any of our other institutions, binds us to the past as nothing else does; and there's comfort in sharing your grief with those who have sat, over hundreds of years, in the same pew that you're sitting in, bowed by the same loss.

You need transcendence, too, when somebody dies. Even if you're convinced that there is no life hereafter, at the moment of mourning you need the poetry and the music that lift us above the dust and ashes. Since most of what our culture has to say about grandeur and glory has been written in praise of God, you must turn to religion for it.

Emma Duncan in The Times 16th May 2017

POTATOES, BEANS AND COFFEE BEANS.

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter, moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing.

After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup. Turning to her he asked. "Daughter, what do you see?" "Potatoes, eggs, and coffee," she hastily replied.

"Look closer," he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face. "Father, what does this mean?" she asked.

He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity— the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently. The potato went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

"Which are you," he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean? "

Moral: In life, things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is what happens within us. Which one are you?

With thanks to Ray Mounsey

ANOTHER THOUGHT TO PONDER

Prayer is an exercise of the spirit, as thought is of the mind. *Mary Smith (Quaker)*

WHO'S WHO

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Minister | Rev. Dr Daniel Mwilu | 2681757 |
| Church Stewards | Val Faint | 2663433 |
| | Daphne Barton | 2664999 |
| | Jenny Dalton | 2934588 |
| | Malcolm Speed | 2689506 |
| 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 Secretary | Vacancy | |
| 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 | 273719 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 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 | |

For the fulfilment of his purpose God needs more than priests, bishops, pastors and missionaries. He needs mechanics and chemists, gardeners and street sweepers, dress-makers and cooks, tradesmen, physicians, philosophers, judges and shorthand typists.

Paul Tournier (Swiss physician and author 1898—1986)

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BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS (with thanks to Ed Dodman)

Ed says he hopes you are better than him—he only got 5 out of 10.

1. Antioch
2. We don't know
3. Nathan
4. Rust, moths and thieves
5. Mildew
6. 42
7. An angel
8. Seven
9. Abraham
10. The Land of Nod

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