

The Link Magazine

July & August 2016

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MINISTER'S LETTER

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO JUST ONE

Five years ago I was in a group of 24 cyclists comprising five doctors, two ministers and several nurses all from the UK, majority from Scotland doing a sponsored Bike Ride for Charity: Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society (EMMS). We did a total of 327 km in five days in scorching heat to raise funds for a small Christian Mission Hospital called Livingstonia, named after David Livingstone the great Christian missionary and philanthropist, in a remote part of Northern Malawi, which is the 3rd poorest country in Africa and tenth poorest in the world.

On May 20th we finished at Salima Beach on Lake Malawi where we were to chill out for a day before flying back to the UK after five days of grueling cycling through one of the toughest terrains I have ever cycled. As I rested and reflected, churning in my mind were thoughts of beautiful smiling faces of children and the friendly people of Malawi who cheered us along the way and the abject poverty that surrounded them. Seeing children passing time aimlessly who should be in school but will never go to school due to poverty, brought resonances of my childhood fifty years ago growing up in similar surroundings in Kenya. Dominant in my thought was the question: **What can anyone do in light of such enormity of need?** As I reflected I was reminded of baby turtles that would hatch on the beach in their thousands and usually make a run for the ocean where they burst out together. If they don't make it quickly they could die from dehydration or predators. At night some would be swept ashore by strong tidal waves and in the morning they would be found struggling to get back to the water. A story is told that one morning a young boy was found on the beach helping these turtles get back into the water by collecting them and throwing them back into the ocean. A man was walking his dog and observed what the boy was doing. He stopped and cynically challenged the boy: "What on earth are you doing? Why are you wasting your time? What difference will it make there are so many of these turtles scattered

all over?" The boy looked at the man, picked one little turtle and said "it will make a difference to this one, as he threw it back to the water".

What a powerful Christian message, "it will make a difference to just this one". Some years ago I read a book entitled "*All you can do is all you can do, but all you can do is enough*". The gist of the book encourages action and guarding against what some of you have heard me refer to as "Paralysis by Analysis" whereby we analyze problems so much that we are paralyzed by the problems, instead of getting involved in positive action. For instance we may legitimately ask: what could anyone do with the current pandemic of refugee crisis, homelessness, unemployment, teen age pregnancies, sleeping rough and rampant begging in our streets? The simplest answer perhaps is not much, but whatever little we could do to the one that the Lord God places on our path, it makes a difference to just that one. The long summer days give us wonderful opportunity of meeting more people. May God help us and focus our attention on the one "turtle" that we can make a difference to? May the words of Jesus encourage us when He said "*when you did it to one of the least of these. you were doing it to me*" (*Matthew 25:40, NLT*). *The Message Translation puts it thus: whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored that was me...you did it to me*".

I wish you all Happy Summer Holidays.

Daniel

A TRADITIONAL CELTIC PRAYER

God be with thee in every pass,
 Jesus be with thee on every hill,
 Spirit be with thee on every stream,
 Headland and ridge and lawn.

Each sea and land, each moor and meadow,
 Each lying down, each rising up,
 In the trough of the waves , on the crest of the billows,
 Each step of the journey thou goest.



WORSHIP IN JULY & AUGUST

3rd July	10.30 am	Mr David Laycock	
	6.30 pm	<i>Chapel Allerton Methodist Church</i>	
10th July	10.30 am	Deacon Maggie Patchett	
	6.30 pm	Revd Dr Daniel Mwilu	<i>Holy Communion</i>
17th July	10.30 am	Revd Dr Daniel Mwilu	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	6.00 pm	<i>Alwoodley</i>	<i>Circuit Service</i>
24th July	10.30 am	Mrs Patricia Davies	<i>All Age Worship</i>
	6.30 pm	Revd Palo Tschume	<i>Holy Communion</i>
31st July	10.30 am	Revd Dr Daniel Mwilu	
	6.00 pm	St Andrew's URC	<i>Ecumenical Service</i>
7th August	10.30 am	Dr Karen Illingworth	
	6.30 pm	<i>Chapel Allerton Methodist Church</i>	
14th August	10.30 am	Mr John Summerwill	
	6.30 pm	Revd Marion Bright	<i>Holy Communion</i>
21st August	10.30 am	Revd Leslie Holmes	<i>Holy Communion</i>
	6.30 pm	Revd. Robert Creamer	
28th August	10.30 am	Miss Mary Patchett	
	6.30	<i>St Edmund's Church</i>	<i>Ecumenical Service</i>

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.

Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

From Psalm 66 (NRSV)

PRAYER FOR CHANGE

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

Blessed?

We are blessed with more than enough?
 More clothes, more food, more goods?
 Are we blessed?
 Would it be a burden to give it up,
 to make life more equitable for others who, right now, have nothing?

Justice, Lord, is at the heart of your ministry.
 Help us to deal with injustice in a way that leads to fairness for all.
 To deal with change that will bring food to the hungry,
 Water to the thirsty,
 Trade to the marginalised.

Love, Lord, is at the heart of your ministry,
 Help us to see others as you see them,
 To share our resources freely,
 To be the humanity you want us to be
 to our sisters and brothers, globally.

Amen

SOME THOUGHTS OF FRIENDSHIP

Friendship is to be a strong hand in the dark to another in the time of need.

Hugh Black

A true friend unbosoms freely, advises justly, assists readily, adventures boldly, takes all patiently, defends courageously, and continues a friend unchangeably.

William Penn

Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter: whoever finds one has found a treasure.

Ecclesiasticus 6.14

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing: but I have called you friends because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

John 15.15

THE DRIVING TASK – A MEDITATION

This month we will think about the driving task and some lessons that we can derive from it.

First, driving is a lesson in humility. We wish that the roads were built to satisfy *our* every need, don't we? No red lights in our direction, only green! Not too much traffic going in *our* direction to delay *us* and hold *us* up. Unfortunately this doesn't happen in reality. As soon as we begin to drive we must wait at traffic lights, take turns with other drivers at roundabouts, cope with traffic jams etc., etc. Whatever kind of vehicle we are in, we share the road with countless other people. Where else does such democracy rule?

Second, driving is a lesson in self-honesty. We may take pride in our kind and generous nature, but when we put on the cloak of anonymity as a driver, then the beast within us potentially emerges. We may find ourselves honking, cursing and falling into all kinds of sexist, racist, classist and ageist forms of stereotyping and condemnation. Love your neighbour? Not on the highway. A mild form of road rage is more likely. That driver is too slow; that one too fast; and that one – look no signals! Terrible drivers, each and every one. We rarely pause to think that our road neighbours, blessed with the self-same mentality, think that we are bad drivers also.

Third, driving is a lesson in prudence. We have to accept the reality that the road does not belong to us alone – we share it. This means that we must accept our neighbour drivers, adjust to their patterns. In ordinary life we can steamroll over others. Get out of my way! Do as I say! But try that approach on the road and a hospital visit (or worse) for you or others is likely to be the result.

So next time you are in a car, remember that there is not a better way to exorcise your demons of impatience, pride and selfishness. Accept your neighbour; be courteous; forgive the faults of others; be humble about your own skills and tendencies; meet life's red lights and traffic jams with equanimity. And know that it matters little if we arrive a few moments late, but that it matters much that the journey is worthwhile.

Gerry Leake

MORE ON FRIENDSHIP

We pine for a friend to whom we can unbosom our thoughts and emotions and we are disappointed. We think only of ourselves in our discontent. Ought we not to think a little of others and allow some small consideration to the possibility of doing good? The friendship which proceeds from unselfishness will be firmer and more intimate than that which is, after all, mere selfishness refined.

Mark Rutherford

A SUGGESTION FOR RAISING MONEY FOR THE PROJECT

Would you like to help and be able to make a contribution to the church project at the same time? Then you might be interested in 'Luto'. Luto works to make patient information (the leaflet that comes in your packet of medicine) clear and easy to understand. With your help they can test and improve this important information.

If eligible, volunteers help by taking part in a session lasting around 45 minutes and will receive £20 (which you can donate to the church project).

They are looking for people of all ages, genders and educational backgrounds.

They are also looking for people and carers of people who have:

Epilepsy

Psoriasis

Diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2)

Cancer (treated with or without chemotherapy), including leukaemia

They are also looking for:

Parents and carers

People with experience of giving themselves injection

To find out more contact Luto: 0113 384 5893 or at recruitment@luto.co.uk

Howard Clinkard

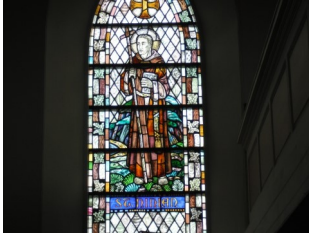
FRED'S QUIZ (answers on page 27)

Each of the following clues leads to two words; one of them is one letter longer than the other. Find the answers then rearrange the extra letters to form the name of a district of Leeds. The number of letters shown applies after adding the extra letter.

For example, Cautious and tired (5) Weary: wary E

1. Almost before time (6)
2. Big fish can perform operations (8)
3. Refrain from being enthusiastic (5)
4. Eliminate part of church (7)
5. Snakes and means of ascending
or descending (7)
6. Clergyman has nuclear equipment (7)

SAINT NINIAN AND THE ISLE OF WHITHORN



I have just spent a week in a cottage overlooking the harbour at the Isle of Whithorn, Dumfries and Galloway in Scotland. Inland, Whithorn is regarded as the cradle of Christianity in Scotland. In 397 AD St Ninian established a Christian mission here, 166 years before St Columba founded his priory on Iona. After his death, a cathedral

was built in Whithorn for his remains.

St Ninian's shrine was one of the most famous places of pilgrimage in Scotland for centuries. In 1329 Robert the Bruce endured a long, painful journey to Whithorn seeking a cure just three months before his death.

The remains at Whithorn today hint at the grandeur of the medieval cathedral.

Where the parish church stands today was once a range of domestic buildings for the priory, housing amongst other things a chapter house, kitchen, refectory and dormitory.



ISLE OF WHITHORN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

On the Sunday of our stay in the Isle of Whithorn I attended the Church of Scotland service.



In the Church of Scotland in the 19th century 'patrons,' who were usually local landowners, had the right to appoint ministers to parishes against the wishes of their congregations.

It all came to a head in 1843 when hundreds of Church of Scotland ministers resigned, they formed the Free Church of Scotland. In 1844 the Free Church congregation at the Isle of

Whithorn solved their problem by building their church out into the bay, below high

water line, and beyond the control of the landowner. The Free Church and Church of Scotland finally healed their rift in 1929 when they were united.

The church service was very similar to the Methodist service and the Minister the Reverend Alex Currie agreed when I talked with him later. The church building was simple inside and the order of service was very straightforward and easy to follow. The only difference was that tea and biscuits were served before the service rather than afterwards. Tea and biscuits at 11 and the beginning of the service at 11.30 (the service lasted an hour).

The sermon was given with light-hearted touches similar to those at Lidgett Park. The Minister asked the congregation if they remembered the television programme 'Are you being served.' He then asked if they remembered who owned the store – the Grace brothers. He then used Grace as the theme for his sermon and the last of the hymns was can you guess? Amazing Grace!

The Isle of Whithorn Church
at high water level.



I was made very welcome at the church and all the people I met on my holiday were friendly and my family agreed it was like going back 50 years as people tended to leave their front doors open. I think this was a reflection of the village being a small isolated community.

John Cross



THORNER BROADSHEET

Many thanks to those who came and supported our last coffee morning which was held on Sat May 14th in aid of Martin House Hospice. I promised to let you know the total collected for this charity which amounted to £280:00. Many thanks to all who made this total possible, we are very grateful to you for coming and supporting us for this very worthwhile cause.

This letter from Thorner for the Broadcast and the Link magazines covers July and August, so I'd like to draw your attention to our Summer Fayre on Sat June 25th 10-12noon if you receive this in time, this event is for church funds and to our September coffee morning in aid of St Gemma's Hospice, which takes place on Sat Sept 17th from 10-12noon. Bacon butties will be served at 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 17th September!

With every blessing

Ann Johnson Thorner Senior Church Steward

Tel. 0113 289 3532

EXCLUSION AND REJECTION.

Joyce Wood was moved by the report Patricia Davies wrote following a meeting in the Leeds District to discuss what the attitude of the Methodist Church should be towards same-sex couples who wanted to be married in church or have their civil partnerships blessed in church. Patricia's group in the discussion felt that exclusion was a rejection of those God loves. Joyce writes:

"I was very impressed and in agreement with what she said. Over the years we have experienced much rejection even in churches due to our son being autistic. So, I have simply put it this way to him, "Every church is God's house and it belongs to Him, and He wants all His children in it, and that means you and me, and all the world". God loves everyone. God is love."

THOUGHTS FROM A HOUSE GROUP

The Thursday House Group shared with Shadwell Methodist Church has now been going for just over 4 years in which time we have concentrated on Bible study. Our discussion is lively and often goes in unexpected directions!

More recently we have changed what we do and are now looking at Christian beliefs and doctrines. To help us in this we have begun by using a book by Rowan Williams, *Being Christian*. The first chapter deals with Baptism and the following gives a few of the ideas from what is a very helpful and thought-provoking account.

The early Christians had three main ideas about baptism. First, for Jesus it was a commitment to the suffering and death that lay ahead (Mark 10:38, Luke 12:50) and from New Testament times it has been associated with a sharing in the suffering of Jesus ("Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into his death" Romans 6:3). Secondly, at his baptism the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus. Thirdly, at the creation the Holy Spirit hovers over the watery chaos from which God created the world, which God says is good, and so baptism came to be associated with the idea of new creation, rebirth as the sons and daughters of God just as Jesus himself is declared God's Son. A restoration of what it is to be truly human, the humanity that God first intended.

From this Williams draws the following conclusions.

To restore humanity Jesus has come into the chaos of our human world where things are shapeless and meaningless.

The new humanity created around Jesus (the baptized) are, like Jesus, to be found in those places where humanity is most at risk, most disordered, most disfigured and needy.

The baptized is someone who is not afraid to look with honesty at the chaos inside themselves.

Baptism means being with Jesus in the depths of human need, including the depths of our own selves in our need, but also in the depths of God's love where the Spirit is recreating and refreshing human life as God meant it to be.

Finally, baptism also brings us into the community of all those who have been baptized and from this community we receive the prayers and love of others as we give the prayer and love that others need.

So, the baptized are not a privileged elite with a status that marks them off from everyone else but a group who have accepted what it means to bring the love of Jesus into a needy, contaminated and messy world. However, like Jesus we can call God Father and like Jesus we open ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit.

There is much, much more in this chapter but this, hopefully, gives a flavour of what is to be found in this helpful little book.

Stan Pearson

PLEASE SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Holiday Club for young people

St. Andrew's are hosting a holiday club for young people in the area. It will be held from Monday August 1st to Friday August 5th. This is part of our ecumenical mission to our area.

There will be a charge for each young person who attends to cover costs.

It would be appreciated if any adults would like to help at any or all of these sessions.

Donations of food would also be appreciated.

Please look out for further details.

Big Day Out at Flamingoland September 10th 2016

Please see the notices about this in the church lounge.

Coach travel is being organised by St. Andrew's.

This is an event for families: parents and children; grandparents and grandchildren or the whole family unit. Everyone is welcome.

Please contact me for more information.

Patricia Davies

CONGRATULATIONS TO LESTER.

We featured the art work of Lester in an issue of The Link last year when it was shown in an exhibition at Leeds Beckett University. Marianne Springham who helped Lester with that was invited to make a presentation to a conference on the subject of "Collecting Outsider Art" in Katowice in June this year and used Lester's work as the basis for her presentation. Not many people get the opportunity to have their work shown and discussed in an international forum so well done Lester. **Ed.**

Lidgett Park Methodist Church Roundhay



**Festival
Of
Flowers**
21st July
to
24th July
10:00
-
4:00



In glorious and lasting memory of those from this church who have died here and there since the 18th (18c. 1770-1824). Erected by the congregation



**Free
admission**
**Donations
shared
between
Christian
Aid
&
Christians
Against
Poverty**



PROJECT NEWS SUMMER 2016 : THE PROJECT NEEDS YOU!

The final two events in the project for this year are ambitious ones that we hope will attract a wide community participation. You will have read about them many times already so I hope you will bear with me when I remind you of them.

Summer Swing Dance. Saturday July 16th at 7pm at the Queen's Hall, Immaculate Heart Church, Harrogate Road.

Rebecca Todd has wanted, for a long time, to hold a dance in North Leeds to raise money for one of Lidgett's projects. Her dream has come true this year, as she and Jean celebrate decade- busting birthdays. The band need a bigger hall and stage than our own and the dancers need a larger floor space. So we have booked the Queen's Hall which is a super venue and also offers a licensed bar. We hope to attract as many people as possible so can we ask for your help in this? We have flyers that you can give to friends, family, neighbours, club members etc and the project group is advertising as widely as we can. The dance is a big financial commitment for us and the hall will hold up to 150 people. We would love to see it filled! If you don't (or can't) dance, do come along for the fun of it, see Rebecca's band in action and watch the Swing Dance duo as they perform their twists and turns. The music will range through the decades and will offer a variety of dance types. **Tickets £10 from any committee member.**

Festival of Flowers. Thursday July 21st – Saturday July 23rd. 10Am – 4pm each day.

The previous Festival of Flowers was a huge success and drew people from all across Leeds and beyond. We are extremely grateful to the Flower Ladies for offering to hold another one this year. The project group will advertise this as widely as possible and, again, we would be grateful if you could offer people you know a flyer or put a poster up in your local shop window. These are available from committee members.

We also need your help in stewarding the church during the Festival, in serving refreshments and to greet our visitors. To this end, I will be putting up a list on the Noticeboard in the foyer to ask for volunteers to help us. The Flower Ladies and Project group do not have enough people to do this on their own. The shifts needed will be 10am – 1pm and 1pm – 4pm. Would you please think about offering your help and sign on the request list. We would be very grateful and cannot manage without assistance!

These two events bring to a conclusion the 2015 – 2016 Project. The group has valued your support all through the year and we hope we have provided you with some fun and entertainment along the way. These last two events will be just as enjoyable – and hopefully end our fund-raising year with a flourish.

Margaret Farrar On behalf of the Project Group. (Kathy Benson, Pat Brooke, Heather Crosby, Jenny Dalton, Ed Dodman, Heather Fry).

Swing Dance



With the Little Big Band and the Swing Dance
Duo

Summer Swing Dance Night

Saturday 16th July at 7.00pm

Queens Hall

Immaculate Heart Church

Harrogate Road, Moortown, LS17

Licensed Bar

Admission £10

All profits to Christian Aid and
Christians against Poverty

Mrs D'S DIARY – a trip around the world continued.

Queenstown

Legend has it that Queenstown is a town within New Zealand but where not New Zealanders live. It is populated by foreigners. Certainly, all the customers in the restaurant last night were foreign and our waiter came from Northampton. It is popular with foreigners mainly because it is an all year round sports resort; water sports in the summer and winter sports in the winter.

On our first full day there we drove along what is said to be the most scenic drive in New Zealand, Queenstown to Glenorchy. The lake is on one side of the road and snow-covered mountains on the other. The road is very narrow and twists and turns up hill and down dale for upwards of 20 miles. Accidents are frequent and, on telling the hotel manager where we were going, he gave us some 'sage' advice. He told us that if it was a question of hitting the mountain's many outcrops or going into the lake, we should try for the lake. Hitting the mountain would almost certainly mean ending up in the lake so we "may as well try to get there as easily as possible".

We survived somehow and found ourselves in Glenorchy, a very small hamlet consisting of one hotel, about 20 cafes and, as far as we could ascertain, about 10 houses. We turned NW past Glenorchy and followed the lake as far as the 'unsealed', i.e. unmade, road would take us. It was very picturesque, which is more than I could say for our car, which will definitely need a wash before we return it to the hire company.

The sun shone all day and being Saturday the lake was a hive of activity. Oh, how I begged to be allowed to go paragliding (*this is the bit we have been waiting for Jennifer – Ed.*). For the uninitiated it is like sitting on a swing with a parachute canopy on top. You jump off a cliff and glide gently down to water to be collected by boat and taken back to land. "Laughter" was Haydn's first response. "Don't be daft" came second. "They won't let you do it" third and, finally, the clincher, "Our travel insurance doesn't cover dangerous sports." So, no paragliding for me.

Tonight we ate in 'The Bunker', so called because it has no windows and just one door. It seats only 20 people. However, the food was exceptional and more evidence of 'the legend', our waitress was from Ireland and the Bunker is owned by a couple from France.

Milford Sound.

This is one of those places travel agents strongly advise you to visit if you are going to New Zealand. I am sure there are some geological terms to describe it – basically it is an area of water surrounded by high cliffs, full of all sorts of sea birds and at the end of which is the ocean. We could have travelled there by various routes but chose to

fly in a small plane from Queenstown to Milford Sound, a journey lasting about 40 minutes and one of the most magical experiences of my life. Being up close and personal to the tops of mountains was incredible. The pilot also flew low over the river valleys below us and it was just the most amazing experience. The boat trip along the sound was rather pale in comparison. Our fellow passengers on the plane said later that they would have rather had a longer flight and short boat trip.

We flew back to Queenstown and our pilot apologized on landing for the slight turbulence we had experienced on the trip home. On taking our leave of him I suggested he look up the dictionary definition of 'slight' as his definition and mine were somewhat at variance. Apparently, it was due to 'thermals', that is when hot air and cold air come together causing disturbance, in other words, 'bumps'! However, nothing could spoil the wonderful experience of flying among the mountain tops which was definitely one of the high points of our trip.

I really can't take two days of heaven. Today was spent cruising the lake on a hundred year old steamer. High on my bucket list is to take a trip along the Mississippi river in an old fashioned steamer. This steamer was built in the same year as the Titanic, though perhaps this wasn't the most comforting thought with which to begin our trip. They still use coal and shovel it into the fires as they did way back in 1913. They reload with coal every trip. I am sure the voyage was very scenic, but I was too fascinated by the workings of the boat, which were left open so you could see the steamer's mechanisms. It was only later when I saw the many photos Haydn had taken on the trip that I realized that perhaps I should have been a little more interested in the outside and less in the inside.

Tonight we head for Oamaru for a 2-night stopover before heading for our last top in New Zealand, Christchurch.

Oamaru

What a gem it was, a totally unexpected delight. It has quite a history. It was surrounded by woods that provided the high quality wood needed for timbers in coal mines and its small port thrived until around the mid 1930s. Its decline was swift and little remained of the port area until it was rebuilt as part of a renovation project to develop the area as a precinct. Whilst only covering a small area, they were able to renovate and preserve some of New Zealand's finest Victorian commercial buildings.

We visited the precinct on a cool and damp morning, which gave it a very Dickensian feel. The precinct is awash with antique shops, galleries, vintage clothing shops, cafes and restaurants. It even has its own mini brewery. The main street in Oamaru is the widest street in New Zealand and owes its 'expansive girth' to the need to accommodate the minimum turning circle of a bullock cart. Many of the buildings in its main street are constructed from milky local limestone. We visited its tiny (and free)

museum which was full of items and reminders of Oamaru's past.

Its main claim to fame, however, is the visit each evening of a large penguin colony. They arrive in clumps just before dark in midwinter and about 9.30 pm in summer. They are a great tourist attraction. People line up (and pay exorbitant fees) to watch them come ashore, something which takes about half an hour. They stay for a few hours and then leave again. Nobody knows why they come ashore at these particular times or in this particular place and if the penguins know they aren't telling.

Christchurch.

So we head for Christchurch, our last stop in New Zealand. Our journey takes us alongside the coast; it is pleasant but nothing special. They say everybody is connected to somebody famous – this was our moment – we were upgraded to the Park Suite occupied a few months earlier by Prince William. I hope they changed the sheets. The only thing 'more exciting' than that is that tomorrow the winning New Zealand rugby team will pass by in front of our hotel room on the way to a victory parade in the nearby park. All roads around will be closed off, so a good opportunity to do the laundry.

Christchurch was, of course, hit by an earthquake about 7 years ago so we spent the morning in the city centre. Naturally, there was a lot of rebuilding going on, but that, sadly, does not include the city's cathedral. The state and the church have spent much of the intervening years arguing about whose responsibility it is to pay for the rebuilding and whether it should be renovated or a new cathedral built in a different place – so sad.

The financial district, which was the most badly damaged area, came up with the ingenious solution of using cargo containers as offices until new offices were constructed. Smaller businesses moved out to the suburbs. It is only by walking through the centre of Christchurch that you can appreciate the damage caused by the quake. Yet our hotel, which was only a quarter of a mile from the centre, was undamaged. One of the few buildings to survive in the epicenter of the quake was the law courts – even nature knows better than to tangle with lawyers.

We arrived back at our hotel to find our entry barred by security men. Of course, we couldn't remember our hotel room number but a passing member of staff recognized us and we were allowed in. There they were, the All Blacks, boy are they big! I can't say the same for the Trophy, it's either a replica or they have been short changed. The All Blacks have just left the building and will shortly pass in front of the hotel any minute. We have a front row seat as our room overlooks the parade route. We were watching the buses carrying the All Blacks pass by when one of them looked up at our window and waved. I can't believe I actually waved back. I have no idea who he was and I still haven't done the laundry.

Today is November 5th and there is a firework display down by the beach but we have decided not to go as there is only so much excitement one can take in a day.

You are never far away from home wherever you are. Here at the Christchurch museum in a gallery given over to early New Zealand furniture we found the following inscription: "Vase, Burmantofts Pottery (Wilcox and Sons), Leeds, England". Adjoining the museum are the botanical gardens with plants from all over the world. Once again we saw how localized the damage caused by the earthquake had been. The museum and the gardens are only a mile from the city center but were left undamaged. The art gallery nearby has over 2000 panes of glass yet none were damaged while a few hundred yards away the cathedral was left windowless.

Tonight we fly to Sydney – look out Australia, here we come!

Some thoughts on New Zealand.

Everybody asked us if we liked New Zealand. My one-word answer was No. It is a beautiful country and the people treated us with kindness, civility and a willingness to try and make our trip as enjoyable as they could, so why 'No'? I found the country lacking in vitality, vibrancy and colour (in every meaning of the word). Not once in our stay did we meet or see anyone of Afro-Caribbean descent and the only Asian couple we came across were on honeymoon. Whether correct or not we were told that New Zealand's immigration policy is stricter than Australia's. As for the Maoris, yes there were lots of signs to Maori art galleries, Maori museums and Maori villages but it was as if they were a different people living in a different country. Nowhere in any of the museums did we see any sign of a joining together of the two cultures as we did in Canada. For me all my misgivings were summed up by the sentence we saw in every tourist brochure concerning Mount Cook. It went as follows:

Mount Cook is proud of the fact that it is the only place in New Zealand where its Maori name 'The Aoraki' precedes its English name, Mount Cook.

Jennifer

FOOTNOTE BY JENNIFER

I have been taken to task for my comments regarding Sherpa Tenzing's last few years. My source for my comments about his sad decline were based on information available in the Hillary museum in Mt Cook. However mentioning that his place of death was Pakistan was my mistake alone. He did in fact die in India, Mea Culpa. History will always record his achievements, in particular the conquest of Everest

it has been interesting looking more closely at his life. While there is a huge amount of information about Hillary's life after Everest there is very little about Tenzing. One comment in an Asian history magazine says that Hillary and Tenzing did not become

close friends until later in their lives. It was in this context that the comments about Tenzing's later life and his alcoholism were mentioned. Hillary admitted in an interview shown at the museum that he had also had problems. After the death of his wife and daughter in a plane crash he began to drink very heavily and need help to curb his drinking.

It would be very interesting to have an article about Tenzing for the magazine. There is an interesting take on why he wasn't given a knighthood in 1953 contained in an article in the Guardian 29 5 2013

Jennifer

BIRTHDAY DITTY

I woke up one morning in May to the realisation that today I would be seventy five years old , which failed to be an occasion for me for celebration!

As I was preparing for the day a little ditty came into my head and I wondered perhaps I could share it with you, with apologies to the more literary amongst us.

I'm seventy five today, seventy five today
 I've lost the key of the door
 Never been seventy five before
 Dossett boxes, pills and potion
 Line the kitchen top
 Teeth a wobble, eyes a goggle
 Feeling fit to drop.

I've turned the numbers round, turned the numbers round
 Now I'm fifty seven today
 Feeling bonny, blithe and gay
 Dancing, skipping, swimming, yoga
 Feel that I'm in heaven
 Life is magic, far from tragic
 Now I'm fifty seven!

Barbara Holmes

The faster you move Barbara, the slower time goes. That, at any rate, is according to someone called Albert Einstein. If we could rush around at the speed of light time might even stop altogether. It seems as if you might be having a good attempt at that.
 Ed.

WHAT IS THE POINT OF METHODISM?

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

6. Methodism and other paths of faith

Methodism's catholic and universalistic outlook is fundamental to its understanding both of the gospel and of its mission as a part of the universal Church. Among John Wesley's sermons that all local preachers are required to study are two very notable ones that have the titles 'A Caution Against Bigotry' and 'The Catholic Spirit.' In them John warns Methodists against thinking that they alone are true Christians. They must work with, pray for, love and support all people, and particularly others who follow Christ. In the 19th century Methodists lost some of that catholic outlook as they fractured into different denominations, unable to get along with each other, let alone with Christians in other churches. In the 20th century they found it again and played a notable part in the development of the Ecumenical Movement. Twice the Methodist Church voted, after long discussion, to join the Church of England, which rejected the proposal. Yet the process of ever closer cooperation with other churches, through national and local covenants, has gone on, and in many places local ecumenical partnerships have worked. In the Leeds North & East Circuit we have joint churches at Christ Church, Harewood, Oakwood and Trinity, and at Lidgett Park we are in covenant with St Andrew's and St Edmund's.

As Britain has become more pluralistic and multi-cultural, Methodists have been at the forefront of interfaith dialogue. A Methodist local preacher from Chapel Allerton, Dr Peter Bell, was one of the founders of the Concord Interfaith Fellowship, one of the first in Britain, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2016. Methodists remain a disproportionately large element in its membership.

The 1983 Methodist Conference recommended Methodist engagement in interfaith dialogue. It adopted guidelines on dialogue published by the British Council of Churches written by a Methodist minister and scholar, Kenneth Cracknell. A key statement sums up the openness that needs to characterise relationships with people of other faiths:

'Conversation or dialogue is an integral part of loving another person. It is not a technique to break down the other's defences and win his allegiance to Christ more easily. In dialogue both partners have much to learn: the Christian must want to know what the God of the universe has been doing in the life and heritage of his partner as well as to share his own experience of God-in-Christ. There must be respect for the integrity and contribution of the other partner as well as freedom to witness what rings true for oneself.'

A further report in 1994 went further, displaying some enthusiasm for such dialogue.

'We commend a theology of providence which believes that God has created the whole diverse human race and wants all human beings to live together in justice and peace whatever their religious belief or ethnic origin....

Like other Christians, Methodists believe that it is only by the grace of God that people of different faiths and ethnic origins can do that.

'If we believe that a multi-faith society is within the gracious purposes of God, then Methodists must display the attitude commended in John Wesley's sermon on *The Catholic Spirit*, and extend the hand of friendship.

This can happen at the workplace, over a garden fence at home, or by joining an inter faith group.'

(From *Principles for Dialogue and Evangelism among people of other faiths*, adopted by the Methodist Conference of 1994)

Of course, not all Methodists would share exactly the same views about other faiths and what they would hope for as the outcome of dialogue. There remain among Methodists those, particularly of conservative evangelical views, who hold that there is no salvation except through a conscious faith in Christ, who are committed to evangelical mission, and whose purpose in dialogue is to seek ways of persuading others to become Christians. That is no longer the position of the Methodist Church as a body. One of the notable principles that was evident in the editing of the 1984 hymnbook, *Hymns and Psalms*, was the removal of hymns or alteration of lines that patronised 'the heathen'. Recent decades have seen much close cooperation between Methodist churches and mosques, especially when the latter have faced Islamophobic attacks. One striking example is in South Leeds, where Trinity Tempest Road Methodist Church has worked with Muslims to create the Hamara Community Centre.

Serious involvement in interfaith dialogue is a journey very much into the unknown and not without challenges and tensions. There is considerable enrichment in discovering the spirituality and insight of people of other faith traditions where it is compatible with our Methodist perspectives. But what do we do and say about aspects of other faiths that are objectionable? Must we abandon the idea of mission? Can we still sing 'Jesus shall reign where'er the sun doth his successive journeys run'? There are more questions than solutions and some are endeavouring to find answers. Notable Methodist scholars and ecumenical leaders who have written on the subject are Kenneth Cracknell, Martin Forward and Wesley Ariarajah. It is significant that all of these have lived in multi-religious environments and have felt deeply uncomfortable about an inheritance of Christian triumphalism and a claim to uniqueness that conflicts with what they have known at first hand of the wisdom, spirituality and depth of faith of Muslims, Hindus and others. Ariarajah, for example, felt no tension at all as a Methodist child growing up in Sri Lanka alongside his Hindu friends and neighbours. They celebrated religious festivals together. It was when he

went to theological college and was told that Hindus could not be saved that he became aware of Christian exclusiveness and rebelled against it. His book *Not Without My Neighbour* is based on the idea that if Heaven is closed to Hindus he does not want to go there.

Our engagement with other Christians and with people of other religious traditions is a necessary and vital one as we Methodists become more of a minority in a society that is, paradoxically, both increasingly secular and increasingly multi-religious. Methodists, with their universalist outlook and confidence in the leading of the Spirit, are perhaps uniquely placed to build bridges, which is why there has been so significant a contribution from Methodists to ecumenism and interfaith dialogue. A theology of interfaith dialogue can be developed from our Arminian belief that Christ died for all, our conviction that God wills that all should be saved, our belief that God is perfect love and our conviction that the Holy Spirit moves where it wills. Methodists still seek, as John Wesley put it, to 'be the friends of all and the enemies of none.' This is another distinctive mark of Methodist identity.

John Summerwill

ANDREW'S STORY – MY FIRST ENCOUNTER

This early morning was unusually cloudy for this time of year as Reuben and I made our weary way home after another hard night's fishing. As we reached the brow of one of the hills which overlooked a small section of the River Jordan I could just make out a familiar figure by the water's edge. "John is out and about early this morning", I remarked to Reuben. "Can't imagine many people will be braving the water this early."

I had seen John on many occasions over the last few months and both Reuben and I had found his teachings illuminating and thought provoking. We both looked upon him as someone worthy of being associated with, even to the extent of being baptised by him.

As we continued our homeward trek along the hilltop, a man suddenly appeared in view from the cover of the hills and approached John. The stranger and John were too far away to be clearly visible or to hear any conversation but, as the other stranger got closer to John, it appeared that there was some disagreement between them.

From my position the argument, if that was what it was, did not seem too confrontational and, besides, I had seen John handle crowds before some of whom

were hostile, especially when roused by questioning priests and Levites. How could one man damage John? Intrigued, we stopped, sat down and watched from our safe distance to see how John would react. To my amazement the stranger, who up to this time had been standing on the bank of the river, started to take off his outer garments and was led by John into the cold waist deep water. Another convert for John I thought as, with John's guidance, the stranger immersed himself in the steel gray water.

As we watched, the water around John and the stranger was transformed as the early morning clouds were parted by a shaft of amazingly blinding light momentarily illuminating the two men. However, almost as quickly as the light appeared the clouds closed in and returned the scene to its earlier dullness. As my vision returned to normal I was apprehensive as to what effect such a concentrated light would have had on John and the newly baptised stranger. Evidently very little as the stranger returned to the river bank, redressed and without any apparent further discourse with John, who had remained almost transfixed in the water, walked away from the Jordan and disappeared from my view as suddenly as he had appeared.

"Shall we go down and see what that was all about?", I asked Reuben although I was so weary from our night's exertions the thought of the detour down to the river was not appealing. I could have hugged Reuben when he said that he could wait until later for John's account of that particular baptism. After all, he said, John was nearly always there and we had more fishing to do.

I returned home, tired and wondering but with a firm arrangement with Reuben that we would make that detour and talk to John on our way to work.

The following day I did make that detour and for me it was the beginning of a wonderful relationship with that stranger.

Colin Watson

PROJECT PENNIES

Margaret Lee would like to remind you that she is still collecting pennies and loose change to add to the project funds. You can collect these in whatever type of container you wish - the bigger, the better! Please let Margaret have your collection at any time.

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	Pat Brooke	2678506
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	Daphne Barton	2664999
	Jan Sanders	2933700
	Jenny Dalton	2934588
	Ruth Albiges	2665482
	Val Faint	2663433
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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
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	Val Faint	2663433
Worship Consultation	Patricia Davies	2663090
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Car Rota Organiser	John Wells	2661952
Church Notices	Pat Brooke	2678506
Editor of The Link	Stanley Pearson	2736463

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Churches Together Rep	Barbara Belsham	2737192
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	Stanley Pearson	2736463
	Gerry Leake	2664856
Stewardship Envelopes	Paul Nolan	2663160
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	Margaret Huskisson	2666781
Badminton	Jackie Bennett	2684914
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Drama Group	Carol Russell	2698341
Simply Stitching	Audrey Gabbitas	2664979
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FRED'S QUIZ answers.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|
| 1. Almost before time (6) | Nearly: early | N |
| 2. Big fish can perform operations (8) | Sturgeon: surgeon | T |
| 3. Refrain from being enthusiastic (5) | Avoid: avid | O |
| 4. Eliminate part of church (7) | Chancel: cancel | H |
| 5. Snakes and means of ascending
or descending (7) | Ladders: adders | L |
| 6. Clergyman has nuclear equipment (7) | Rector: reactor | A |

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