

The Link Magazine**July & August 2020**

Minister: Revd Tanya Short

Tel: 0113 266 6791

tanya.short1@btopenworld.com

Editor: Stan Pearson

Tel: 0113 2736463

sbpearson@gmail.com**MINISTER'S LETTER***The Summer Garden in July*

I never get over the miracle of July! All the tiny seeds my brother planted in his greenhouse during the winter are now filling his garden with vivid colour. 'Isn't God clever' remarked my young niece. She is right, but not yet old enough to realise how much human hard work is involved in making a garden beautiful! My brother certainly played his

part in the miracle!

If we were God's garden, I suppose keeping our spiritual lives beautiful is also a partnership and often hard work on our part. I remember once helping my son move into a 'student house'. It was clean enough inside, but the garden had not been touched in years. As I fought my way through the jungle of weeds I realised someone had once filled that garden with roses but bindweed had wound itself round the bushes, strangling their beauty, while giant nettles stole their light. I shuddered as I realised how easily my own little back yard, at that time, could look like that. I'd pounce on weeds as soon as they show their ugly heads because they are so easy to pull out when they're small. Surely it's the same with 'spiritual weeds'? Those resentful thoughts, discontented grumbles and negative self-pity can be removed comparatively easily if we 'yank them out' quick! If we ignore them or even 'water them' with encouragement they soon 'take over' and start spoiling everything that is beautiful and valuable in the rest of our lives.



We thank the Lord that we don't have to clear all these weeds from our life on our own. We may pull them out but you Christ, burn them at your cross.

Every blessing,

Rev Tanya

MAGNETS – A MEDITATION

All of us, at some period in our lives, have played with magnets. Do you remember them? They were usually small and horseshoe shaped, which we either bought with our pocket money from one of the local shops, or they tumbled out of a cracker at Christmas. And when we played with them we made an important discovery. If we put a nail on the table and brought the magnet close to it, the nail was suddenly attracted to the magnet by a force that we could not see or feel and became attached to it. In addition, if we continued to play with the nail, we found that it had also become slightly magnetised. The magnet had transferred some of its energy to the nail. But enough of physics!!! Let's move on.

For good or ill, we have an influence on those around us, and this is particularly evident in the case of those individuals described as having a **magnetic** personality. Such people have a strong influence on those around them, similar to the way a magnet attracts a nail (although history shows us that it is not always beneficial, e.g. Hitler). They are deemed **magnetic** because of their ability to attract people to their cause and convince them of the rightness of their way of looking at things.

From the gospel records, it is clear that Jesus had a **magnetic** personality, and this resulted in a significant number of people being attracted by his teaching and being transformed by it. They became his followers, and many of them went further and took his message about the Kingdom of God (which the eminent

Methodist preacher of the mid 20th century Dr Leslie Weatherhead preferred to call the Kingdom of Right Relationships) out into the wider world.

And we can be magnets. As small magnets have the capability to attract and magnetise a nail, so do we, in our small way, have the power to attract and influence the lives of those around us. In such a simple manner does the power of Love, of Compassion, of Kindness, spread. **Gerry Leake**

WORSHIP IN JULY & AUGUST (Covid-19 willing)

LIDGETT PARK

05 July	10.30 am	Revd Tanya Short	<i>Bible Study</i>
12 July	10.30 am	Revd Tanya Short	<i>Holy Communion & Bible Study</i>
19 July	10.30 am	Local Arrangement	
26 July	10.30 am 6.30 pm	Revd Robert Creamer <i>St Edmund's ecumenical service</i>	
02 Aug	10.30 am	Revd Tanya Short	<i>General Church Meeting</i>
09 Aug	10.30 am 3.00 pm	Mr Grenville Jensen Thorner	<i>United Service</i>
16 Aug	10.30 am	Mrs Janice Green	
23 Aug	10.30 am	Revd Tanya Short	
30 Aug	10.30 am	Local Arrangement	

SHADWELL

05 July	10.30 am	Lidgett Park	
12 July	10.30 am	Lidgett Park	
19 July	9.30 am	Revd Tanya Short	<i>Holy Communion</i>
26 July	9.30 am	Revd Tanya Short	
02 Aug	10.30 am	Lidgett Park	<i>General Church Meeting</i>
09 Aug	9.30 am 3.00 pm	Mr Ted Britton Thorner	<i>United Service</i>
16 Aug	10.00 am	Tent Service	<i>Ecumenical</i>
23 Aug	9.30 am	Mr Steve Jones	
30 Aug	9.30 am	Revd Tanya Short	<i>Holy Communion</i>

A PRAYER FOR CHANGE

This prayer is also published in the magazines of our sister churches, St Edmund's and St Andrew's'.

A fast-changing tapestry

Creator God, what a complex tapestry your creative fingers have woven; we delight at the daily reminders of your creative power.

This tapestry is closely interwoven, fragile, changing; changing too fast.

Scientists confirm what our hearts already know – and we are fearful.

We are fearful of seasons that have lost their pattern; of all the uncertainties that climate change is bringing.

Politicians bend and bow to meet national priorities while greenhouse gases build, oceans acidify and air streams shift.

Forgive us for our lack of response; for seeing the scale of this crisis as reason not to engage.

Grant that through our prayers your Holy Spirit may give wisdom, inspiration and resolve to our politicians, leaders and negotiators, enabling them to make the tough decisions necessary for all people to live, to hope and to shape a greener world.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

Pray and Fast for the Climate

A THOUGHT TO PONDER

If you put a small value upon yourself, rest assured that the world will not raise your price. *Anonymous*

EARTH FROM SPACE

A few days ago, I saw a documentary programme on BBC4 with the above title. It was a repeat of a previous series, which I hadn't seen so I recorded it to watch later.

The programme was fascinating. It had been made over a period of time to show the changes to our planet. It was not only fascinating but illuminating also. Over time small villages had spread their boundaries until they had become huge conurbations, driving away the indigenous fauna and vegetation. The emphasis was on the Far East.

In one of these areas of China, one man had noticed a pair of parakeets scratching for food among the concrete buildings and felt sorry for them as they suffered from the changes in the area. He started to feed them. Very soon the birds were joined by others, so the owner of the house put up a long strip of wood on which to put the food. Gradually, more and more parakeets joined the throng until 4,000 birds were coming, twice a day to be fed. He prepared 25kg of rice each day, spending half his income on it. He rose at 5 am to prepare and lay out the rice on multiple parallel strips, ready for the arrival of the parakeets at 6 am. This amazing splash of colour among the dull surroundings could be photographed by the satellite in space. People in the street craned their necks to see this sight.

The day after I had seen this programme, BBC radio 4 had an hour-long offering which they said would be 'Your Desert Island Discs'. They invited listeners to participate and reportedly had thousands of emails in response. To my mind the chosen ones were not really symptomatic of the ordinary listener as the ones I heard mostly held some important post, even if not widely known. If I had chosen one it would have been a song which would almost complement the previous TV programme. Some years ago, when John Gilyead was our Minister, a choir formed from young African children was becoming known and as a part of a foreign tour they came to Leeds. The African Children's Choir came to the Grand Theatre (some of you will remember it) so a

party from Lidgett Park was arranged and I was pleased and grateful to be given a lift from John. Our seats were quite high up, behind the stage so we looked down on them, all these excited young people. This is the song which I would have chosen, sung here by an artist with a good clear voice, and with the lyrics displayed....'From a distance the world looks blue and green'.

[Nanci Griffith - From A Distance](#)

Rachel Mounsey

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As 8pm approached on Thursday, 26th March 2020, people appeared at open doors and windows some holding a pan and a spoon. On the hour they started to clap, some banging the pan with the spoon. It was very different from the ringing of church bells and the lighting of beacons. And the reason was different too. The nation was in lockdown, household isolation, to prevent the rapid spread of coronavirus, COVID-19, the cause of a pandemic.

In hospitals, National Health Service (NHS) staff were working day and night, fighting to save the lives of patients infected with the virus and at risk of losing their own life. And the nation was showing its gratitude.

For many the televised scenes and the accounts by hospital staff would be the enduring image, end of life scenes of patients dying with no family or friends at their bedside, instead, caring and understanding hospital staff forming this last link.

The pandemic came to a much divided world, and to a British society losing social cohesion and with many disadvantaged. Yet the world is otherwise a global village: climate change, pollution,

electronic communication, trade, movement of people. And what of our response?

We saw the best in people and we saw the worst. There was no hiding place. Tarnished images were exposed, the good in others revealed, and it is the latter which will be first remembered, perhaps with a little surprise, where neighbours had been strangers.

We saw more clearly the disadvantaged: the homeless; the homes without the internet or without information technology (IT) skills to enable working from home, communication and home schooling; the homes without gardens or with multiple occupancy of rooms; the homes threatened with loss of employment.

But we also saw more clearly the many who give generously of their time, talents and possessions: the elderly who telephoned someone isolating alone; the young who gave electronic communication advice under the supervision of a responsible adult; the large number of people who acted as a delivery service. The Queen broadcast words of comfort and hope.

We saw in practice the second great commandment of Jesus, 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.'

It was a time for Christians, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to be visible as under-shepherds of Jesus, caring for his flock, to be ambassadors of Christ bringing the Gospel message, the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and so to bring comfort to those who are alone, to those who suffer, to those who mourn and so be like Jesus when he walked on this earth.

Written on 1 June 2020, the pandemic in the United Kingdom was in decline but not over and with the risk of a second peak.

Tom Alexander



SELBY ABBEY

Last summer our friends June and Peter came to stay for the weekend and June was eager to visit York Minster. Unfortunately, June cannot walk far and even with a disabled badge we could not get close enough to the Minster.

Instead we went to Selby Abbey where we managed to park next to the Abbey. At the entrance to the Abbey we were met by a guide. The guide said that we should be aware that a wedding blessing was taking place in twenty minutes and that certain parts of the Abbey would be closed off.

Selby Abbey is an extremely popular destination for Taiwanese couples to come for weddings and provides healthy income for the Abbey after probably doubling the number of weddings in a year. The Taiwanese pop star Jay Chou held his wedding in the 1,000-year-old abbey and his reception at Castle Howard in 2015.

Jay Chou has sold more than 30 million albums. The wedding clips on the Chinese equivalent of You Tube run to over a hundred million hits.

As we walked down the aisle an oriental girl asked us would all four of us take part in her friends reenactment of her wedding so that the wedding could be videoed and taken back to Taiwan to show friends and family. June was thrilled. We were given fabric confetti to throw over the married couple as they were walking down the aisle after their wedding blessing from the clergy.

The wedding was an hour late and we talked to the organist who had been reading a book. She said that Taiwanese weddings were always late, hence her bringing a book to read. The music was exceptionally good. I read that the organ was built in 1909 by William Hill & Son and was considered the best organ the Abbey could have obtained at the time.

After the wedding ceremony we visited the Abbey. The Abbey was founded when a French monk Benedict saw three swans on a lake in Selby. He saw this as a sign of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. This is why the official crest of Selby Abbey contains three swans. The Abbey was founded in 1069 and subsequently built by the de Lacy family.

We were shown the Washington Window by an Abbey guide. John Wessington, Prior of Durham (1416-1446) is the most distinguished ancestor of George Washington. The shield was probably made to commemorate Wessington. The Washington Window, containing the Heraldic arms of the Washington family is original 14th century glass.

Three red stars above two red bands on a white shield are thought to be the model for the American flag. Because of the Washington connection, Selby Abbey is on the 'American Trail' of attractions around the UK.

I bought June a guidebook to the Abbey. She said she couldn't wait to get home and tell her niece that she had been involved in a

Taiwanese wedding and that somewhere in Taiwan we were all on the wedding video.

John Cross

When I was looking at my photograph to put with this article, I noticed that the Abbey was at an angle and I looked on the Internet for a photograph with a horizontal base. I was told by an academic that my photograph is a true representation as the slope of the Abbey is due to subsidence.

THE BOOK OF RUTH

For the last year or so, the Methodist Church has chosen a book from the Bible to be the focus for preaching for a month and this year it is the book of Ruth. Ruth has the form of a short story with a plot and characters designed to hold the attention of those listening and, in that respect, has similarities with other books in the Bible such as Jonah and the whale, Esther, a Jewish girl who married King Xerxes and then used her position to save her people, and the story of Joseph and the multicoloured dream coat in Genesis 37-50. In all these cases the stories are designed to capture the imagination and hold the attention of those listening while they explore important human relationships, our relationship with God and how we develop as human beings.

The importance of these stories is that the themes that they develop are not simply ancient history but ones that are highly relevant to our world today. Ruth is a story about women making their way in a man's world, but also about all people who are socially and economically weak. It is a story about the treatment of those who are foreign and outsiders. It is a story about disaster outside human control, the vulnerability of us all in the face of forces we can't control, but also one which looks forward with hope despite the odds. It is a story about loyalty and compassion, devotion and courage that go beyond the bounds of law or duty. So, there is a lot to think about.

Exactly when the book was written isn't known. Some opinions put it early, between the period of the Judges and the start of the monarchy; others put it later after the exile possibly as a counter to the instructions in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah forbidding intermarriage with foreigners and forbidding the acceptance of outsiders into their community. Ruth was a Moabite and relations between Israel and Moab were rarely cordial. Like Israel they were a Semitic people but worshipped their own god, Chemosh, rather than Yahweh. Nevertheless, it was to Moab that the Israelite, Elimelech, took his wife, Naomi, and their two sons from their hometown of Bethlehem to escape the famine that was affecting Judah. Elimelech then died and his two sons married Moabite wives, Orpah and Ruth, but within ten years both the sons had died so that all the three women were widows with no man to support and protect them. Two disasters, first the famine and then the deaths of the men had left them vulnerable.

It is not difficult to see the relevance of this to our situation today. Covid-19 has come out of the blue and has turned our world upside down. Many have died as a result, families have been disrupted, the economic consequences for individuals and the nation as a whole are extremely serious and will be with us for years to come and, as always, it is the poorest people in the world that are likely to be affected the most. There is much about the disease that we don't yet understand, and we don't yet know the best way forward, but it is clear that without cooperation and a willingness to help one another it will be that much more difficult. Covid-19 has brought all this to our attention in a dramatic way but it is just one example of the way that things can spin out of our control both on a personal level and on a global level. On a personal level we are always vulnerable to unexpected changes in our circumstances, an unexpected illness, a change in our material circumstances through loss of job, disappointment and let down in those we thought we could trust and rely upon. On a global scale we already seemed to be living on the edge with changing weather patterns and a lack of willingness when it comes to international cooperation to work together to solve problems.

In the case of Naomi, famine forced her husband to seek refuge and a better life in a foreign land as it had Jacob and his family when famine drove them to move from their home to Egypt. Does that ring any bells? Certainly, the refugee problem is a large one in our world today with people fleeing war and danger and trying to make a better life for their loved ones in a safer place and in many cases they have been made far from welcome. In Elimelech's case, his sons married local women and there was every expectation that they would succeed in their new home. Then the second tragedy struck, and Naomi lost first her husband and then her two sons so that the women were left alone and vulnerable in a patriarchal society where women depended on the men of the family for protection and income. Furthermore, Naomi was an outsider and feels that she would be safer among her own people and so decides to return to Bethlehem where there may be people willing to help. She tries to persuade her daughters in law that they too would be less vulnerable if they stayed in Moab and returned to their families. One, Orpah, eventually agrees but the other, Ruth, goes beyond what is required of her as a daughter in law and chooses separation from her homeland and her own family and so risking her own life and future. Her words to Naomi are some of the best known in the Bible.

"Where you go, I will go;
Where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God"

It is an oath made before Yahweh that she is putting her hopes for the future in his hands.

Apart from the actions of Ruth we have the kindness and compassion of Boaz. Ruth on her arrival in Bethlehem and despite her 10 years of marriage to an Israelite is still considered an outsider referred to as the Moabite. Boaz has no legal requirement to intervene to help but he recognises and appreciates the cost of Ruth's loyalty to Naomi. Although he is referred to as a kinsman, his status was that of a friend of Elimelech rather than a brother of Ruth's deceased husband. He

is a member of the clan, which is an intermediate grouping between the smaller family unit and the larger tribe and, indeed, the story refers to a closer kinsman not named but who is willing to give up his responsibilities to the family and his rights to Elimelech's strip of land to Boaz. Boaz acts out of kindness rather than as a duty. The story portrays Ruth, Boaz and Naomi as models of what the Hebrew calls *hesed*, that is, of loyalty and commitment that goes beyond the requirements of law or duty.

In our world today the reactions to tragedy and the needs and requirements of others can provoke attitudes of selfishness and self interest where people take refuge in what they are required to do rather than responding with goodwill and understanding, but it can also result in people acting with compassion and self-sacrifice as we have seen so many times in the current pandemic. People, often of lowly status in the eyes of society as well as professional groups such as doctors and nurses caring for the ill, who are prepared to put themselves at risk to keep others safe and provided with the things they need.

Finally, one of the things about the Bible is that it places a high value on events of the past, but it also looks always to the future and it is true of Christians also that we live out of the past but into the future. The story of Ruth starts with the tragedies of famine and death, but it ends with the restoration of full harvests and the birth of Obed as a result of the marriage of Ruth and Boaz. Boaz and Ruth might be characters set in Israel's past but out of the union of this man and the foreign woman, Ruth, comes the grandfather of King David. The son is presented to Naomi and Ruth then seems to be forgotten in the story, but her role is recognised in the gospel of Matthew in his account of the genealogy of Jesus where we have, "Boaz was the father of Obed whose mother was Ruth." And similarly our Christian story is rooted in tragedy with the death and crucifixion of Jesus but ends with the triumph of Easter Day when, in the words of Paul's letter to the Romans, "the gospel (or good news) of his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the Spirit by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord".

So, what is the future for our world at the present time? During the current crisis we have seen some hopeful things happen. Pollution has cleared from the big cities. The skies are clearer, and the CO2 output has fallen dramatically, something that the world has been trying to achieve for several years. Can we keep it that way? Well it is quite likely that people will realise that there are different ways of doing things. Perhaps working from home for at least part of the week may now become much more common with less commuting and more time with family at the beginning and end of the day. Perhaps international communications may change with less air travel to conferences and meetings and more interaction by videoconferencing which is becoming increasingly more sophisticated under the stimulus of the pandemic. Perhaps we will think more carefully before we jet off for city breaks and short holidays abroad. It seems an opportunity to look hard at how we structure our health services with more consultations using IT, better access to tests, records and other data and also an honest analysis of what we should be spending on the health and social care sectors to give good quality of care. There has been a recognition that the pandemic has needed international cooperation with sharing of resources and knowledge and a willingness to look at solutions on a global scale. It is important that this is maintained as we move into the phase of looking at achieving economic recovery and at issues such as climate change. Let us also hope that the many acts of kindness and help that we have seen and received from our neighbours is an attitude that will be maintained.

So tragic as the whole pandemic has been there are things we can look forward to with hope for a better future and a better world just as the tragic situation of Naomi and Ruth gave way to a promising future. The alternative is that we simply revert to our old ways where each society, each country, each person simply thinks and does what is best for them with no thought of the wider implications. What a shame that would be and what a missed opportunity to put things right and make a better world in the future. **Stan Pearson**

THANK YOU FROM WYDAN

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to the Wydan request for support these last two weeks by cooking meals, shopping , delivering to Garforth house, prayers, donations and messages of support. The response was heart warming and this was a truly ecumenical response.

Carol Fearn

WHAT IS AN ANTHEM?

When a man from the country returned from a visit to the city, he told his wife Mary that he had gone to Church and that the choir sang an anthem. Mary asked "What's an anthem?" Her husband replied'well it's like this - if I said:

"Mary the cows are in the corn" that would be like a hymn.

But if I said:

"Oh Mary! Mary! Mary! The cows are in the corn,
the Jersey cow, the Ayrshire cow, the Muley cow,
all the cows, all the cows, all the cows
are in the corn, the corn, the corn"

then that would be an anthem!

Rachel Mounsey

WHAT IS A PSYCHOLOGIST?

Someone who explains a problem you never knew you had in a way you don't understand.

BOOK REVIEW

A 1940's Childhood: From Bomb Sites to "Children's Hour" by James Marsh

When exploring a little shop in Meanwood before lockdown I came across this book which provided me with hours of delight during self-isolation. Born at the start of the Second World War the author recounts his experiences of living through this time as he takes a trip down memory lane.

On the other hand I was born in 1941 and have no memory of being placed inside a gas mask (which I'm told made me sick) and taken to the shelter. At the age of two we moved to a rural village outside Blackburn which escaped Hitler's notice. However, one incident I do remember vividly. At the age of four I decided to take a stroll down our main road (Mother, where were you?) Suddenly, round the bend came a tank bearing soldiers home from the war. I froze and started trembling with fright. A lady in a nearby house saw me, ran out, scooped me up and took me inside, later returning the prodigal where, in safety, I received a smacked bottom! I also grew up with home-made clothes, ration books, and my great delight was to curl up in a chair and listen to "Children's Hour" on the radio.

This delightful and easily read little book is divided into eleven chapters interspersed with photographs from various sources and written from a child's perspective. The chapters cover topics such as Home Life, School Life, Memorable 1940's Events, Christmas and Food, Drink and Sweets.

"This trip down memory lane will take you through the most memorable and evocative experiences of growing up in the 1940's"

I hope not to cause offence by suggesting that this review may ring bells for many friends at Lidgett so if you would like to borrow this book, please do.

Barbara Holmes

THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

You will be aware of the passage in Matthew's gospel (chapter 22) when Matthew writes of an occasion where someone came to Jesus with a question: 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself.'

It is clear that as followers of Jesus we are called to be people of love; love for God and love for one another. But it is not about love in theory, it must be love in practice, love which is demonstrated. So how do we go about expressing love to others?

I was interested to read some time ago the theory that there are 5 basic "love languages", i.e. 5 main ways in which we can express love. Firstly, we can express love through our words. This could be saying to someone "I love you", or it could be by the way in which we speak words which are encouraging and affirming. Secondly, we can express love through acts of service. We all know the saying, "Actions speak louder than words," and a loving act can speak very powerfully (even something as simple as making someone a cup of tea!)

The third love language is the giving of gifts. The giving of a gift such as a bunch of flowers can mean so much (the ministry of flowers which is part of the life of many churches is one which has enormous value). Fourthly, there is the gift of time. Spending time with someone can be a wonderful expression of love, especially as many of us lead such busy lives. Note in the gospels how Jesus so often had time for the individual.

The final love language is physical touch. There are times when a hug, or even just a hand on someone's shoulder, can mean a great deal, and haven't we missed that these last few months. Again, we

can read in the gospels about the time when Jesus touched the leper and made him clean. Here was a man who had probable not been touched for years; think how much the touch of Jesus meant to him!

Those who have written about these 5 love languages suggest that different people appreciate different expressions of love. For example, there are those people who would love to be embraced, whilst others would shy away from such contact. Of course, we could fall into the danger of making it all sound far too complicated! The main point is that we are called to express love to one another. Is there someone you need to show love to today?

Blessings,

Tanya

THE TEXT FOR TODAY IS

With regard to the Editor's comment following my piece in the June 2020 Link, I cannot see what is "difficult in using the Bible in this way' by quoting an extract from one of the gospels. Surely, we go through a whole church year having very selective verses or whole passages from the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, as a basis for weekly sermons and addresses. Putting aside the differences between the accounts of the Anointment in Bethany (agreement on the village) in Matthew, Mark and John as to whose house, by whom and on to what part of Jesus the perfumed ointment was poured and who were admonished for questioning the waste of such a costly item, there is only one consistent message. "You will always have poor people with you, but you will not always have me." This is extended in Mark's gospel to include "and anytime you want to you can help them [the poor people]."

Although the anointing took place amongst friends and disciples gathered together for a simple meal with no miracles, fine oratory or theological arguments, the essence and simplicity of the passage is as true today as it was then. The poor are still with us but the human, physical Jesus is not.

I would have thought that the Final Judgement passage referred to in Matthew 25 is quite compatible with the sentence regarding the continuing presence of the poor. Hunger, thirst and nakedness can usually be associated with the poor, although stranger, sick and prisoner are not necessarily the manifestation of poverty.

Colin Watson

On another topic, The editor apologises for the error made in the typing up of Colin's article for the June Link on 'Completion of Church Projects 2019/2020' about charitable giving in the lockdown period. The error in the maths is entirely his (the editor's) fault and not Colin's. The total should have been £84 and not £100.

BIBLICAL MISINTERPRETATIONS TAKEN FROM EXAM ANSWERS

The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day but a ball of fire during the night.

It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.

In the first book of the Bible God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.

Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.

LIDGETT PARK LADIES GROUP

I have been asked to print the following in the Link. Normally a report would have been presented during the group's annual general meeting, but social distancing prevented this. The account also looks at the way forward in the coming months. Ed.

President's report

Ladies group meets fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.45 pm in the community hall. We are joined by ladies from St. Andrew's and St. Edmund's. As I write we are halfway through our 2019/20 programme. We have invited speakers who have entertained us with talks on a wide range of subjects from Leeds Autism to the work of Marie Curie to name but a few. It is always a pleasure to welcome familiar faces to speak, members of our own church and ministers like Andrew Atkins. Our annual carol service was an open meeting with contributions from David Wilks, the Lidgett singers plus readers from our local churches. A collection was taken for my chosen charity Brain Tumour Research and Support. We enjoyed a New Year lunch at Del Verde which was as usual well attended. Special thanks go to all members of the committee who work hard to ensure our fortnightly meetings run so smoothly and are enjoyed by many. **Jan Sanders.**

Secretaries' Report:

Well, this was a much shorter year than planned due to the advent of Covid 19. Up until mid March we'd had a really good attendance and response to our Meetings. We feel we had booked some outstanding Speakers this year, all of them worthy of independent mention, but that would completely fill up this Report - and if you have a programme you will be able to see and remember who they were. The Speakers arranged for the rest of the year are well worth looking forward to - and they have all indicated that they would be willing to come next year.

A special mention must be made of our lovely Carol Service last December arranged by our President, Jan Sanders, with the inspiring music led by David Wilks, very ably supported by the Lidgett Singers. And a big thank you to all the Ladies of the

Committee who helped to get things ready.

Our New Year Lunch was again held at the Del Verde Restaurant and twenty eight Ladies attended.

We think it highly unlikely that we will be meeting as a group during the rest of 2020, so we look forward into 2021 with the hope that things might return to somewhere near normal by then. Our good wishes to you All. Take care of yourselves.

Lynne and Anne.

Accounts Sept 2018 - August 2019

We started the year with £59.87 in hand and £179.80 in the Bank. Subs brought in £1267.00, the Carol service £278.40, the Project coffee evening £397.96 and the summer coffee evenings £159.90.

We paid out £662.00 for speakers fees*, made donations to Martin House (the Group added £21.60 to the proceeds from the carol service to make the total of £300), the Project £400 (we added £2.04 to the takings from the project coffee evening to make the total of £400) and to the Church of £500 by agreement. Refreshments, meals and sundries amounted to £167.00.

We finished the year with £64.87 in the Bank and £249.06 in hand.

*Speakers donated from their fees £135 to the Project and £150 to their own charities.

Val Faint

MORE THOUGHTS

Do not condemn the judgement of another because it differs from your own. You may both be wrong. ***Dandemis***

In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer. ***Albert Camus***

ARE YOU A DUCK OR AN EAGLE?

I was waiting in a queue for a ride at the airport in Dubai. When a cab pulled up, the first thing I noticed was that the taxi was polished to a bright shine. Smartly dressed in white shirt, red tie, and freshly pressed black slacks, the taxi driver jumped out and rounded the car to open the rear passenger door for me. He handed me a laminated card and said: 'I'm Abdullahi, your driver. While I'm loading your bags in the boot, I'd like you to read my mission statement.' Taken aback, I read the card.

It said: Abdullahi's Mission Statement:

“To get my customers to their destination in the quickest, safest and cheapest way possible in a friendly environment.” This surprised me. Especially when I noticed that the inside of the cab matched the outside. Spotlessly clean!

As he slid behind the wheel, Abdullahi said, 'Would you like a cup of coffee? I have a thermos of regular and one of decaf.' I said jokingly, 'No, I'd prefer a soft drink.' Abdullahi smiled and said, 'No problem. I have a cooler up front with regular and Diet Coke, Lassi (savoury drink), water and orange juice.' I said, 'I'll take a Lassi.'

Handing me my drink, Abdullahi said, 'If you'd like something to read, I have The Star and Sunday Times today.' As we were pulling away, Abdullahi handed me another laminated card, 'These are the stations I get and the music they play, if you'd like to listen to the radio.' And as if that weren't enough, Abdullahi told me that he had the air conditioning on and asked if the temperature was comfortable for me.

Then he advised me of the best route to my destination for that time of day. He also let me know that he'd be happy to chat and tell me about some of the sights or, if I preferred, to leave me with my own thoughts.

I was amazed and asked him, “Have you always served customers like this?” Abdullahi smiled into the rear-view mirror.

"No, not always. In fact, it's only been in the last two years. My first five years driving, I spent most of my time complaining like all the rest of the drivers do. Then I heard about Power of Choice one day. The Power of Choice is that you can be a duck or an eagle. If you get up in the morning expecting to have a bad day, you'll rarely disappoint yourself. Ducks quack and complain. Eagles soar above the crowd. I was always quacking and complaining, so I decided to change my attitude and become an eagle. I looked around at the other taxis and their drivers. The cabs were dirty, the drivers were unfriendly, and the customers were unhappy. I decided to make some changes, slowly, a few at a time. When my customers responded well, I did more."

"I take it that it has paid off for you," I said.

"It certainly has," Abdullahi replied. "My first year as an eagle, I doubled my income from the previous year. This year I'll probably quadruple it. My customers call me for appointments on my mobile phone or leave a message on it." Abdullahi had decided to stop quacking like a duck and start soaring like an eagle.

So, think positively. Stop quacking like a duck and start becoming an eagle today.

With thanks to Rachel Mounsey

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.

Reproduced with the permission of the BBC.

Amongst the various photos from Saturday's protests, one striking image stood out above all others. It was of Patrick Hutchinson, a black man who had gone to an anti-racism rally in support of Black Lives Matter, carrying a white counter-protestor over his shoulder to safety, surrounded by a group of friends protecting him. When asked about their actions in rescuing the individual, Mr Hutchinson said "We did what we had to do". The history of race in the UK is a deeply complex one. From our statues to our street names, and from our museums to our civic

buildings, the remnants of slavery, colonisation and Empire are inescapable. There's a tough debate ahead as to how to educate ourselves about history so that it's holistic, rather than just being told from the victors or oppressor's perspective. As we slowly emerge from lockdown, there is a desperate need for us to reconsider who we are as a nation.

But we also need to recognise that, despite our differences in views and opinions, about what we think is the right way to acknowledge our past in the 21st century, or even addressing issues of systemic racism within society as a whole, the starting point must always be our common humanity.

Jo Cox, who was herself brutally killed by a right wing extremist 4 years ago today: "We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us".

In the early 18th Century, the Sikh community in Punjab was under constant threat from the Mughals. After one particular battle, a Sikh by the name of Bhai Kanhaiya was seen giving water to every injured soldier he came across, regardless of whether they were Sikh or Mughal, friend or enemy. Some Sikhs were annoyed by his actions, and they reported him to the Guru. The Guru called Bhai Kanhaiya and asked him why he was sharing their water provisions with the wounded enemies. He replied that he didn't see friend or foe after the battle, just fellow humans all imbued with the same Divine spirit. The Guru was pleased by the response, and he provided Bhai Kanhaiya with balm and bandages so that he could care for the wounds of the injured as well as quench their thirst.

Acting with compassion for those we vehemently oppose can be challenging, and it isn't always easy to 'do what we have to do'. However, treating a fellow human, someone who hates what you stand for, as a person rather than a villain speaks volumes and says so much about that individual and their approach to fighting discrimination in society.

Jasvir Singh 10th June 2020

A Family Business Since 1965

• SERVICE • KNOWLEDGE • INTEGRITY

ALL MAKES ALL MODELS SERVICE

FROM ONLY

£89

including Oil & Filter!

WE SERVICE
HYBRIDS!



SAVE
£££££

*If repaired on
our premises

MOT

NOW
ONLY

£30

INCLUDING RE-TEST

On production of this voucher.

Claim £10 OFF your next Troy service!

BRING THIS COUPON WITH YOU TO QUALIFY

£10 OFF YOUR NEXT SERVICE!

On production of this voucher.

TYRES

VISIT OUR ONLINE
TYRE STORE



OR TELEPHONE
FOR LATEST PRICES



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
www.troyautopoint.co.uk

55 YEARS
1965 to 2020

Autopoint Troy

HAREHILLS

Harehills Lane, Leeds LS8 5JT.

(0113) 240 4141

HALTON

Selby Road, Leeds LS15 0QL.

(0113) 264 5826

(0113) 260 8464

Robinson's Garden Maintenance

All aspects of gardening undertaken

. Lawns . Weeding . Hedges
. one off garden tidy ups

Free no obligation quotes

Robinsons

07445844354

Colinrobinson121@gmail.com

M J Melling

Painting & Decorating

Matthew Melling

21 Gledhow Grange View
Leeds LS8 1PH

07982 175642

Email :
mjmelling@aol.com



MJMELLING
EST 25 YEARS

Augustus Court

Augustus Court enjoys a wonderful location in the village of Garforth, on the outskirts of Leeds, and provides excellent residential care.



At HC-One kindness is at the heart of everything we do and our care and services are tailored to individual preferences.

To find more information on the care we can offer you or your loved one, please visit our website or contact one of our friendly Careline team.

- Little break – short term care break
- Home from home – long term care and residence
- Things to do and wellbeing programme
- Delicious home cooked meals
- 9.7 carehome.co.uk average user rating

W hc-one.co.uk

T 0333 999 8727

E careline@hc-one.co.uk

A Church Gardens, Garforth,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
LS25 1HG

HC
one *The kind
care company*

Adair Paxton

Property Specialists ■ ■ ■ ■

"Proudly celebrating our 160th Anniversary"

Residential and Commercial Property Experts

- Sales & Lettings
- Property Management
- Surveys & Valuations
- Block Management
- Boundary Disputes & Mediation
- Lease Extensions



Offices:

11 Station Road, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 5PA
 481 Otley Road, Adel, Leeds, LS16 7NR
 1 Oxford Place, Leeds, City Centre, LS1 3AX
 Sanderson House, Station Road, LS18 5NT

Tel: 0113 239 5770
www.adairpaxton.co.uk



Julian Berson
opticians

Telephone: 0113 266 2660

Address: 177 Street Lane, Leeds LS8 1AA

Website: www.julianberson.co.uk

"Individual Eye Care, Quality Eyewear"

Optician of the Year in the YEP Best of Health Awards 2012