

The Link Magazine

June 2016

Rev'd Dr Daniel Mwaitu
Tel: 0113 2681757
Emails: dkm308@aol.com

Editor: Stan Pearson
Tel: 0113 2736463
sbpearson@gmail.com

MINISTER'S LETTER

GENERAL CHURCH MEETING MINISTER'S REPORT

It is common practice when one takes a new appointment to ease into it by taking the first year to study and learn what it entails. This is a luxury I could not afford. I had to hit the ground running coming in the midst of the review known as the Five Year Plan. The Psalmist exalts us thus: *"Behold how good and how pleasant it is when brethren dwell together in unity....For there the Lord commanded the blessing ..."* Psalm 133 verses 1 and 3. The psalmist makes direct link between blessings and having or doing things in unity. My initial observation as I mix and integrate at LPMC is a feeling of love as well as acceptance of each other in unity and where such exists God promises His blessing. Therefore I am starting with optimism as I explore the potential there is for mission and ministry both in the church and community.

My modus operandi is one in which I tend to prioritize visiting those in need, whether at home or in hospital, and in the last seven months over 80 visits have been made. Secondly mission, and so far three missional initiatives have been made starting with revamping the Sunday school, followed by connection with the wider community who use the premises in which a successful approach has been made to engage with the play group. Following careful prayerful consultation it is now agreed for me to go in and interact with the play group reading stories and playing my guitar to the children. It is my plan to do this as a team work with the leaders of the junior church, that way engaging the church with the community and enter into a partnership rather than the landlord – tenant relationship. My key thinking in this is that there is no I in the word-TEAM. The first engagement took place on Thursday 28 April and is ongoing. The third initiative which is still being worked on is an ecumenical venture into partnership with CTR in engagement with Youth work.

Finally what about the Five Year Plan? The preference is to form a Think Tank Team to take this forward. A few simple things have been identified and expedited. The property and finance committee are looking into the possibility of a mini-project to deal with the front entrance and resolve the need for toilets during services. I have done some listening and a lot of views have been generated ranging from cynical to

serious searching. The other day I was listening to a football match between Aston Villa (not my team!) which this season has been relegated from the Premier League and another team. I heard the commentator talk about placards from the fans: GLORIOUS PAST –WHAT FUTURE? This resonated with what I feel is at the heart of the matter. We have a glorious past at LPMC but what is the future? Doing nothing is not an option, but what can we do to secure our future? That is the question isn't?

Daniel

WORSHIP IN JUNE

5th June	10.30 am	Mrs Susan Howdle	
	6.30 pm	<i>Chapel Allerton Methodist Church</i>	
12th June	10.30 am	Mr Grenville Jensen	
	6.30 pm	Revd Dr Daniel Mwailu	<i>Holy Communion</i>
19th June	10.30 am	Mr John Clay	
	6.30 pm	<i>Christ Church Halton</i>	<i>Circuit Service</i>
26th June	10.30 am	Revd Dr Daniel Mwailu	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Revd Dr Daniel Mwailu	<i>Ecumenical Service</i>

THANK YOU FLOWER LADIES

Our son Lester always asks William to take the camera to photograph the flowers for him whenever we come to Lidgett Church! So now you know why. He has to photograph them for Lester who loves flowers. The flower ladies do a magnificent job, reminding us “The Lord made them all” as we view the beautiful flowers and “Come near to God and he will come near to you.” (James 4:8 NIV).

Joyce Wood

Look down upon thy servants with a patient eye, even as Thou sendest sun and rain:
look down, quicken, enliven; recreate in us the soul of service, the spirit of peace;
renew in us the sense of joy. ***Robert Louis Stevenson.***

PRAYER FOR CHANGE

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

Creator God,

Why are our brains wired to ignore climate change?

Why can we not accept global temperature rise is happening?

Why can we not register the harmful effects of greenhouse gases?

Why do our state leaders sign deals only to fail to see any urgency?

Why does government subsidise fossil fuel and not renewable?

Is it because we enjoy a better lifestyle from fossil fuel products?

Or the pleasures of strawberries or flowers out of season?

Or our pension fund is in fossil fuels?

Or recycling has become a way of life?

We acknowledge there are essentials that come from fossil fuels

- medicines or medical equipment that saves countless lives,

- a global economy that has brought millions out of poverty.

We pray for your guidance to distinguish more clearly what we need from that which we want.

To recognise your world as fragile and we as stewards of it in accordance with the responsibility you gave us.

Amen

LIDGETT PARK LADIES' GROUP

Meets alternate Thursdays at 7.45 pm in the Community Hall. Refreshments provided.

9th June AGM Please try to come - the official business only takes a very short time, and then on to the interesting stuff - Daniel, our Minister, will be coming to talk to us.

23rd June Our Annual Lunch this year will be at The Deer Park on Street Lane. Any problems with transport, please let one of the Committee know.

Lynne Pulein

JOINING THR WRINKLIES

An item in the April Link about ageing prompted some reflections on our own experience of moving up to the “wrinkly” stage. This term can be found in the dictionary (Chambers – “an elderly person”) but we first heard it many years ago at a family gathering. I remember asking where a certain person was, to be told by a young niece that he had joined the wrinklies. At such gatherings the more senior members present tended to congregate in one corner of the room or in a separate room and to have their own agenda for discussion. In the past we have heard several times from people approaching the wrinkly stage “It’s no fun getting old” and we can see what they meant. Some simple physical tasks are harder or are no longer within our capacity and mobility generally becomes more restrictive. However, there are compensations and we are often impressed by the helpful and understanding reaction from others. From our experience there is a strong element of courtesy and consideration present in those with whom we wrinklies have any sort of contact. In the cafe offers to carry our tray where it appears we could have difficulty, giving up a seat on the bus or according priority in queues are common examples. A few months ago Muriel and I were checking tyre pressures at a filling station when a car drew up behind us and the driver hailed us with “let me do that for you mate”. We don’t check pressures too regularly but on the next occasion believe it or not just the same thing happened again from another ‘mate’. Then a sequel provided some balance. Weeks later we were just finishing at the air pump when the driver of another car stopped and asked “could you please check my tyres for me?” Of course we could.

Fred Langley

MATTHEW 6: 19-21

There was a miser who worked all his life and saved every penny. He loved money more than anything in the world and said to his wife, “When I die I want you to take all my money and place it in the coffin with me so I can take it into the afterlife”. When he died, his wife produced a shoe box and placed it in the coffin before it was closed. Her friend, who had been watching said, “I hope you weren’t crazy enough to put all that money into the coffin.” “Yes, of course, I am a good Christian.” the wife said. “I promised him I would and I so I got it all together, put it in my bank account and then I wrote him a cheque.”

FRED'S QUIZ (answers on page 23)

Each of these two groups of British towns includes a town that could be regarded as the odd one out in that it does not have a characteristic common to all the others. The reasons are not the same for the two groups. Can you identify the two 'odd' towns?

A	B
Birmingham	Braintree
Cambridge	Gateshead
Lancaster	Leeds
Lincoln	Liskeard
Manchester	Liverpool
Newark	Portsmouth
Portsmouth	Rochester
Reading	Shipley
Rochester	Warminster
Washington	Washington

ED DODMAN'S COLOURS QUIZ (answers on page 10)

This quiz is to do with colours. All the answers have a colour in them.

1. Cluedo's Minister of religion.
2. Snoopy's owner.
3. France's national football team.
4. Mick Hucknall's group.
5. How do you sail out to the sun to find a sea of green?
6. G.K. Chesterton's sleuthing priest.
7. Hi-Yo ----- awaaay.
8. Anna Sewell's horse.
9. Fifty reasons why you won't admit reading this book.
10. Brat in the chocolate factory, ----- Beauregarde.
11. Colour of the cord Rahab hung from her window.
12. Colour of Dorothy's slippers.
13. The third man.
14. The colour of the yellow-legged seagull's legs.
15. It's one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, then go cat go but don't you -----



THORNER BROADSHEET

Many thanks to all who came and supported our coffee morning held on Sat May 14th in aid of Martin House Children's Hospice. The final total raised will appear in next month's July/Aug edition. We are grateful to all who supported us.

Our next event is our **Summer Fayre** in aid of Thorner Church Funds.

This will be held on **Sat June 25th, in the morning, 10-12 noon.**

Please make a note of the date in your diaries! We are holding our Summer Fayre this year in the morning again as last year it was such a success! Do please support us if you can. Admission, as usual is £1.

There will be strawberries and cream and cream scones so you're assured of a delightful time as well as our delicious bacon butties!! There will also be our usual cake and produce stall and a *bric a brac* stall. If the weather's good, we may have stalls and seating outside in our lovely, peaceful garden! We look forward to seeing you!

Ann Johnson Thorner Senior Church Steward

Tel. 0113 289 3532

COMMENTS ON MORNING SERVICE

After church one Sunday morning a mother commented, "The choir was awful this morning".

The father commented, "The sermon was too long!"

Their seven-year-old daughter added, "But you've got to admit it was a pretty good show for 10p." *With thanks to 'A Box of Delights', Monarch Books.*

A THOUGHT TO PONDER

Christians are supposed not merely to endure change, nor even to profit by it, but to cause it. **Harry Emerson Fosdick**

NSPCC

Plant & Gift Fair

QUALITY PERENNIALS & BEDDING PLANTS
AT REASONABLE PRICES

Saturday 4 June 2016

10.00am – 1.00pm

St Edmund's Church Hall

Lidgett Park Road

Roundhay, LS8 1JN

Entrance: Adults £1.00 – Children FREE



GIFTS · CARDS · CAFÉ
CAKES · NEW 2U TOYS
TOMBOLA · RAFFLE

Registered charity England and Wales 216481, Scotland SC037717.

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Charity Fun Day

12 Montagu Place, Leeds, LS8 2RG

Saturday 18th June 2016

2.00pm to 4.30pm

Free Admission but all donations gratefully received



Bouncy Castle, Strawberries and Cream, Plant Stall, Cake Stall

Bring & Buy / Bric-a-brac

The day is organised to help raise funds for the Leeds **Chernobyl Children's Project**. The charity enables **vulnerable children** to have a recuperative break with hosting families in the UK.

It is now 30 years since the disaster, children and their families are still being affected.

Offers of help with contributions to the stalls or helping to run one of them greatly appreciated.

Tel:0113 4400736 or e-mail: germ.buster@phonecoop.coop.

PROJECT NEWS: *SUMMER WITH THE PROJECT!*

Friday June 17th : Young Musicians Evening – David Wilks introduces us to a variety of talented musicians. Last year's event was a fantastic success so we look forward to another inspiring evening.

Saturday July 16th @ 7pm : Summer Swing Dance Night with Rebecca Todd and The Little Big Band with dance demonstrations and inspiration from the Swing Dance duo. At the Queen's Hall, Immaculate Heart Church. Licensed bar.

Dave and I went to see the band and the Swing Dancers “in action” at an event at Morley Town Hall earlier in the year. We are not great dancers so were watching from the sidelines, but even so, we enjoyed the atmosphere and the music was fantastic. So even if you may only be a spectator, why not come along for the entertainment, a chat with friends and a chance to see Rebecca and friends work their musical magic. Tickets are £10 and are available now.

Thursday July 21st to Saturday July 23rd : Festival of Flowers, in Church, when our “Flower Ladies” will be displaying all their skills and artistry on the theme of Countries of the World. Tea, coffee and scones will be served in the Chancel and donations gratefully received.

The last three events will be advertised as widely as possible to try to encourage members from other churches, the local community and across Leeds to join us. If you have a local shop, community notice-board or other means of advertising these events, do please let me know and I will let you have some display material. Thank you.

Margaret Farrer on behalf of the project committee

PROJECT 2016-2017 : LEEDS AUTISM SERVICE

Due to time limitations at the General Church meeting on May 1st, there were one or two omissions in the presentation I made on behalf of L.A.S.

Firstly, may I say thank you to the Church for agreeing to endorse Joyce & Bill Wood's request that L.A.S be adopted as part of the project for next year. (As this year, one third of the funds raised will be for Christian Aid and two thirds will be for L.A.S, replacing Christians Against Poverty).

One idea for the use of the money we raise is to put it towards the purchase of a “pool” car, so that staff can give lifts to users of the Service who are unable to use public transport, either to community activities or to one of the L.A.S bases in Armley and Hunslet. No decision has yet been made on this and it may become apparent during the project year that there are other needs to be met.

I have mentioned the next point in a previous article in the Link but it perhaps needs

making again. The majority of this year's Project Group have been members of the group for several years and feel that it is time for others to take over for the next year. Heather Fry is willing to stay in the group for the next year, as representative for Christian Aid ,but does not feel able to be Chair. So we are looking for a number of people to join her, please! The current group will be very happy to advise and assist in events if that is wanted.

Do please give this some thought. Though planning and hosting events can be hard work, it can also be fun and very rewarding, both in the raising of money for the charities and the entertainment it offers Church members, their friends and families.

As always, thank you.

Margaret Farrar.

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.

ANSWERS TO ED DODMAN'S COLOUR QUIZ

1. Reverend GREEN
2. Charlie BROWN
3. Les BLEUS (The BLUES)
4. Simply RED
5. In a YELLOW submarine
6. Father BROWN
7. SILVER
8. Black BEAUTY
9. Fifty shades of GREY
10. VIOLET
11. SCARLET
12. RUBY
13. Harry LIME
14. YELLOW
15. Step on my BLUE suede shoes

FILM REVIEW

The other week I was persuaded to go and see the recently released film **Eye in the Sky** starring Alan Rickman and Helen Mirren. The film is about the use of modern technology to 'take out' terrorist cells on the other side of the world (Kenya) using surveillance and missile-firing drones. The operation is British under the immediate command of a British colonel (played by Helen Mirren) but in collaboration with the Americans and using American hardware. (One is reminded of the recent British operation to kill the terrorist Mohammed Emwazi (Jihadi John) in Syria using similar technology). Initially prosecuted as a capture operation, the terms of engagement change to that of a kill mission when the terrorists base turns out to be in an area under the control of al-Shabaab and inaccessible to the local Kenyan forces who are to do the capturing.

The dilemma that arises is that the house contains five dangerous and wanted killers, two of whom are about to embark on a suicide mission with explosive vests and many potential casualties. Although the weapons deployed are highly accurate there is still a limited area around the target where there is a risk of innocent people being killed or injured, in this case a small child selling bread, who can be seen on the satellite images. Much of the film is taken up with permission to get the rules of engagement changed to allow a strike on the house, involving many phone calls from the military commanders to law officers and senior politicians, who pass the questions even higher up the chain to various Secretaries of State. The moral question is to what extent can innocent lives be sacrificed in order to prevent loss of even more innocent life. It is made more dramatic by the ability to witness every detail on the ground from the other side of the world and the emotionally charged use of an attractive and happy little girl as the victim.

The technology is truly amazing and, one assumes, an accurate representation of what is actually possible. One of the points made is that those conducting the operation do so in safety from thousands of miles away. In fact, this is not quite the whole story because the operation also depends on local agents who operate with great bravery in extremely dangerous circumstances.

Although the moral question is presented as something new, the result of highly sophisticated weapons of war, it is not new but one which is as old as warfare itself. One has only to think of the decision to drop nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and

Nagasaki or to bomb major cities with conventional bombs, or, currently, to bomb and shell Syria. In fact, one could argue that the accuracy of guided missiles with reduced areas of collateral damage make the question less acute. Of course this is to imply that the moral question of innocent suffering can be quantified, which I am not sure is the case, but I disagree with most of the reviews of the film that this is introducing a new category of moral dilemma. War is a nasty business and always has been no matter what weapons are used

I won't tell how the film ends. **Stan Pearson**

BOOK REVIEW

"Mornings in Jennin" by Susan Abulhawa

Are you looking for a good book to read during the long hot summer days (!) in the garden? *Mornings in Jennin* received a warm reception by all at my book group.

This book is a novel but is based very much on the author's experience. Susan Abulhawa was born to refugees of the Six Day War in 1967. Her family land was seized when Israel captured what remained of Palestine. She eventually moved as a teenager to the USA and established a career in medical science. In 2001 she founded Playgrounds for Palestine, an organisation dedicated to upholding the right to play for Palestinian children.

The book follows the lives of four generations of the Abulheja family who lived in Ein Hod, a tranquil village of olive farmers. Their idyllic life was shattered forever in 1948 when the entire village community was forced to move to a refugee camp in Jennin.

As the young mother Dalia Abulheja guides her sons through the chaos of their lives something happens to her which is so devastatingly life changing that the consequences affect her sanity in later years.

The reader mainly follows the lives of the second and third generations of the family and this book unveils the humanity behind one of the most intractable political conflicts of our time, revealing the universal desire for a homeland and safety. Although the book speaks mainly of the wrongs done to the Palestinians and makes no mention of the retaliatory steps taken there is a healing end to the story through the actions of Sara the fourth generation daughter.

As our thoughts are focused on the present refugee crisis, there was little publicity given recently to an incident of retribution taking place in Jennin, but it is encouraging to know that organisations on both sides of the divide are working together towards a peaceful outcome. **Barbara Holmes.**

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

South Island New Zealand

I don't just dislike the sea, I loathe it. Just watching the waves lapping the shore makes me feel queasy. As for getting on a boat, I avoid them at every opportunity. However, with a hire car there was no alternative. I had to bite the bullet and use the ferry to cross from North to South Island.

Up at 5.00 am to the sound of cheers from our New Zealand friends who had just watched their team reach the final of the rugby world cup. God must have been a New Zealander that day as we saw the most glorious sunrise on our journey to the ferry. There was no wind, nothing but a glorious blue sky and the sea as calm as a mill pond. I even ate breakfast on the ferry – the first time ever on a boat.

They say South Island is very different from the North Island and this was immediately apparent as we saw our first snow-capped mountains. The main road followed the coast, which is famous for its sea life. Seals, whales and dolphins. All along the highway there were lookout areas filled with tourists (usually Far Eastern) taking myriads of photos.

Our destination was Kai Koura, a small seaside resort that was something out of 1950s Britain. No arcades, kiss me quick hats, just shops selling buckets and spades etc. cafes and ice cream parlours. So we were unprepared for our hotel bedroom to match the most sophisticated of London hotel bedrooms. There in the middle of the bedroom was a large, freestanding, Victorian size bath with clawed feet. It was we were told an 'eco-friendly' bath. If by any chance the bath overflowed, the water would flow into the water tank below and be recycled. We didn't put this to the test.

Our room had one of those views to die for, snow-capped mountains visible on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other. It room was situated in the main building but there were some lodges in the grounds among the trees – proper tree houses with ladders leading up to them. The grandchildren would love them.

We had arrived in Kai Koura on a holiday weekend, so the little seaside town was full of visitors. The town is famous for its large colony of seals. They are a protected species and as such have no fear of humans. They laze in the sun all day and allow you to get up 'close and personal'. As well as the seals you can see whales and dolphins and even go on a half day tour of the town riding on the back of a llama –

we passed on that one.

We saw a sight in Kai Koura that, sadly, you will no longer see in England. Unaccompanied children heading to the beach, either walking with fishing nets in hand or riding bikes along the bike path. It was, indeed, another world!

Whilst the mountains add greatly to the beauty of South Island, any journey from east to west takes a long time. There are very few mountain passes and so tomorrow we have a drive of 300 miles or so to Mount Cook, which perhaps explains our indolent afternoon enjoying the sunshine and view in the garden of our hotel.

Today is the longest drive on our trip, 320 miles. We had intended to share the driving but we found when we took over our hire car on the South Island it has a pedal brake rather than hand brake, so Haydn had to drive all the way. The weather was the worst we had seen on our trip, heavy rain and low cloud, yet even long drives have their moments. How many times when travelling down a major highway do you see a van coming in the opposite direction and watch disbelievingly as a hand shoots out of the van window holding a sign saying, "move over to the left, house being moved". There behind the van was a large trailer on which was a complete house. Seeing really is believing.

As the day wore on we noticed a change in the kind of settlements we passed through; less midtown America, more gentle England. Once we turned off the main highway we began the long, slow climb up the road leading to Mt. Cook. The weather had improved and the sun had begun to shine as we entered the small settlement surrounding Mt. Cook. It is not so much a village as a tourist centre, the main buildings being the Hermitage Hotel and the Sir Edmund Hilary museum and climbing centre. The Hermitage was a disappointment. It owed much to 1960 developers. It had no character, its only plus point being the wonderful views of Mt. Cook.

The next morning, we got up early and watched the sun and clouds battle for supremacy over the mountains. Just when you think one is gaining the upper hand, the other strikes back and all the time the mountain stands defiant, whether bathed in sunshine or covered in cloud.

It is hard to credit but they are resurfacing the road entrance to the hotel; the equipment has been arriving all morning. It is 35 miles to the nearest highway and it's a long twisty climb with very few passing places. Imagine being behind one, maximum

speed 5 mph – Haydn would have been driven demented.

The Edmund Hillary Museum and Alpine Centre was fascinating and we spent a good part of the morning there. Mt. Cook was where Hilary learnt to climb and where he practised before leaving for Mt. Everest. Hilary almost missed out on going on the expedition as its leader, Sir John Hunt, had never seen Hilary climb and didn't think he was up to the task. However, the other British climbers on the expedition pleaded with Hunt to allow Hilary to join and the rest, as they say, is history. The sad part of the story was how differently Hilary and Tensing dealt with the aftermath. Although Hilary disliked being a public figure he dealt with it far better than Tensing who, sadly, became an alcoholic and died alone in squalor in Pakistan wishing he had never climbed Everest. A very different ending awaited Hilary who died surrounded by his family and was given a state funeral.

In the afternoon we explored the village which seemed to be mostly given over to tourist accommodation, although there was a small school and a petrol station selling incredibly expensive petrol. We arose early the next morning to find Mt. Cook completely clear of cloud, a rare event. Haydn couldn't get out his camera quickly enough and snapped away to his heart's content until breakfast time.

A shorter drive today to Queenstown where, joy of joys, we have 5 days – time to relax, launder and **paraglide**.

Jennifer

Next time Jennifer paragliding (what next!) Ed.

SELF DISCIPLINE

Dear Lord, so far today I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, lost my temper, been nasty, greedy, overbearing or obnoxious. I'm really glad I've accomplished all these things on my own. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to have to get out of bed— and from that point on I'm going to need all the help I can get from you. **Amen**

A THOUGHT TO PONDER

A cold church is like cold butter. It fails to spread very well.

With thanks to and permission from A Box of Delights, Monarch Books.

**Tea Cosy+ Café in Roundhay welcomes
people with dementia and their carers**

On the 4th May 2016, Lidgett Lane Community Centre opened The Tea Cosy+ Café, specifically for those affected by dementia and their carers. *It will be open the first Wednesday of every month at their Centre on Lidgett Lane.*

The Tea Cosy+ Café is a place where people with dementia are made welcome and will feel cared for. It provides a comfortable and supportive environment for them and for their carers to socialize and there are activities such as Singing for the Brain, reminiscence, sharing stories, games and maybe dancing.

Please spread the news to anyone you know who is caring for someone with dementia or knows someone who is. Not only does the Tea Cosy+ Café offer activities for people with dementia but equally offers the carers who accompany them support and an opportunity to meet others in a similar situation.

For £2.50 per person you will be greeted by gingham table cloths, hot tea and coffee served in old fashioned teapots with hand knitted tea cosies, handmade sandwiches, a selection of home-baked cakes and a very warm welcome.

**The Tea Cosy + Café, Lidgett Lane Community Centre, LS17 6QP
(next to Moor Allerton Primary School), open the first Wednesday of every
month from 11am -1.30pm.**



WHAT IS THE POINT OF METHODISM?

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

5. Methodist outreach

Methodism was, from the outset, a missionary movement that sought to spread the gospel to all. Once John Wesley had overcome his distaste for outdoor preaching he discovered he was good at it. So was Charles, who was actually a better and more fervent preacher than his brother. The growth of the movement during their lifetime was phenomenal, but the greater growth was in the 19th century. The Sunday School movement thrived. Methodist missionaries were sent in ever greater numbers to Africa and Asia, not only from Britain but from America, where Methodism became (and remains) even more successful than in Britain. As the 20th century developed, however, Methodism lost much of the confidence in mission that it had had in earlier days. Efforts at public evangelism at home produced small returns and did not stem the decline in membership that has continued for a century. Mission overseas drew back from exporting British Christianity and culture and sought more humbly to recognise that in other lands people needed to be assisted to develop their own indigenous ministries and ways of expressing their faith.

Mission has become a problem area for contemporary Methodism in Britain. Efforts to revive it through Fresh Expressions like café church and alternative worship have not had much success. The idea that Methodism grew in the past principally through conversions at public evangelical events is probably a myth, except for a brief period at the beginning of the Methodist Revival. As in other churches, most of the past growth came internally from the nurture, education and evangelical targeting of the young. Apart from the very popular 'messy church' in some places, the youth and children's work that was once so prominent a part of Methodist life has all but disappeared from most Methodist churches, mainly for reasons beyond their control. Methodists worry about it a lot and do not know what to do. Efforts to engage with organisations that meet on church premises, or to reach out to people in the neighbourhood through literature or visits, have generally proved so fruitless that most churches have given up trying. One-to-one personal evangelism requires complete confidence that one has a vital truth that others need and personal contact with someone in need who is prepared to listen. Methodist discouragement of bigotry interferes with evangelism by undermining that confidence, and the more one's life is taken up with church-based activity the fewer unchurched people one knows. No amount of urging Methodists to be more active in mission is likely to be effective if the opportunity, means and will are lacking.

Methodist social outreach, however, has grown in confidence. John Wesley saw the mission and task of Methodism as being to spread 'scriptural holiness throughout the land.' The encouragement of faith and piety, though certainly part of that goal, was by no means all of it. Holiness was, for the Wesleys, associated with love for God and neighbour, finding its expression both in worship and in practical help for those in need. John Wesley's school at Kingswood, orphanage in Newcastle and dispensary in London were institutional ways of providing help. His championing of the anti-slavery movement expressed a concern for social justice. These and other examples have

always been an encouragement to Methodists to have a strong social conscience and to see their religion as something that absolutely must affect their everyday life. Holiness is conceived as the practical expression of faith and love in life and relationships. It affects choice of career, the use of one's earnings, the way one spends one's leisure, time and talents. Methodists are reminded in the Covenant Service that 'Christ has many services to be done', and the membership ticket includes as one of the four callings of a member (along with worship, learning and caring, and evangelism) 'service, by being a good neighbour in the community, challenging injustice and using my resources to support the Church in its mission in the world'.

Methodist moral attitudes have changed significantly since 1932. On alcohol, gambling and Sunday observance—issues that have both a personal and a social dimension—the once strict attitudes have weakened. On matters of social justice, particularly in relation to poverty and race relationships, Methodist commitment has been continuous. A glance at the Methodist Church website, for example, provides a glimpse of some of the wide range of issues in which Methodists are currently engaged, with pages on peacemaking, politics and elections, environment and climate change, social justice, international affairs, ethical investment and social issues. High on the agenda are concerns about the welfare of refugees and asylum seekers. A section on Public Issues points to a wide range of policy statements—many of them very detailed and closely reasoned with reference to scripture, theological principles and expert advice—on issues of the day. And for Methodists theology and politics **must** mix. The Methodist Church does not support one political party and there are Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat Methodist MPs, all of whom would see their political commitment as an outworking of their faith.

It is impossible to say to what extent individual Methodists are practically involved in social outreach. Undoubtedly a significant proportion of Methodists choose careers in education, social work, medicine and health care as fields in which they can give practical expression to the values in which they believe. Undoubtedly, too, there is an enormous Methodist involvement in a wide range of voluntary organisations, on magistrates' benches, in trade unionism and in local and national politics. A survey of some 6000 Methodist Local Preachers found that three quarters claimed to be involved with other voluntary, national or community activities.

There are still puritanical elements in modern Methodism, but Methodists are in general much more relaxed than Catholics, Anglicans and Pentecostals about gay relationships, divorce, pre-marital sex, abortion and euthanasia. In general they tend to be liberal or socialist in politics, and it is the left-wing issues that exercise them most, such as anti-racism and support for women's rights and gender equality, evidenced in the ordination of women and a concern for the use of inclusive language in hymns, liturgy and all church-produced documents.

The practical expressions of Methodist social and humanitarian concern are easy to find. Even the smallest and financially poorest Methodist churches raise funds and give generously to such causes as Christian Aid, Methodist Homes and Action for Children. Lidgett Park puts a great deal of effort into raising considerable sums of money annually for charitable causes at home and abroad, and this is one of its

notable strengths. Methodists certainly see it as an essential element in their identity that they exist to be the servants of Christ, doing his work in the world. They have, it seems, taken to heart the words of St Francis of Assisi: 'Preach Jesus, if necessary using words.'

John Summerwill

GET IN THE PASSENGER'S SEAT – A MEDITATION

"Put God in the driver's seat ". It's an old saying, but it has substance. Climb on over into the passenger seat and the ride will become smoother, less stressful.

Imagine yourself the 'driver' in one of those video screen games in an Arcade that places you behind the wheel of a super-charged sports car. With effort and skill you can stay on the road for a time, but the bends come fast and furious, the car accelerates, and sooner or later (usually sooner) you crash into a wall. True, your video car rights itself (unless your 3 minutes are up) and revs up again onto the main road, but the subsequent results are likely to be the same. It's a thrilling ride – perhaps worth the £2 – but it can also leave you stressed and frustrated. That's the fun / not fun of the game.

How many days in our lives have that video game feel? You're racing against a deadline, running up against unexpected obstacles (a demanding and unreasonable boss; a moody spouse; a child who won't get dressed). As you try to motor through the tight curves, you rapidly turn the wheel left or right, push on the accelerator, or slam on the brakes. But sooner or later we have a crash.

How much easier and smoother it can become when we move over into the passenger seat and let God, Spirit, the Inner Voice (whatever we choose to call it) take over the wheel. We can relax and unwind, knowing that the trip is in more competent hands. Instead of racing forward under our own self-will, we pause, meditate, look for guidance. We let a Higher (or is it Deeper) Power influence our thoughts and our actions.

Everything then begins to slow down. The road (of life?) seems a little straighter, its bends not so tight. We experience a calmer ride; and also one with opportunities to stop or enjoy pleasant detours. We are travelling towards our destination, YES, but also enjoying the trip. How different to racing around that Video Game track which, for all its frenetic speed, never got us anywhere.

So, surrender the wheel. Surrender it for the sake of your peace of mind and move over into the passenger seat.

Gerry Leake

WHO'S WHO

Ministers	Rev. Dr Daniel Mwailu	2681757
Church Stewards	Anne Millett	2666910
	Pat Brooke	2678506
	Betty Ashton	2935832
	Daphne Barton	2664999
	Jan Sanders	2933700
	Jenny Dalton	2934588
	Ruth Albiges	2665482
	Val Faint	2663433
Church Council Secretary	Susan Philo	2685204
Church Treasurer	Alan Wittrick	2613392
Treasurer's Assistant	Jackie Bennett	2684914
Senior Property Steward	Peter Bennett	2667380
Senior Communion Steward	Val Faint	2663433
Room Bookings (long term) J	Jackie Bennett	2684914
Room Bookings (one-off)	Patricia Davies	2663090
Junior Church Contact	Peter Bennett	2667380
Pastoral Secretaries	Kathy Benson	2941059
	Val Faint	2663433
Worship Consultation	Patricia Davies	2663090
Organist/Lidgett Singers	David Wilks	2932960
Car Rota Organiser	John Wells	2661952
Church Notices	Pat Brooke	2678506
Editor of The Link	Stanley Pearson	2736463

Benevolent Fund Secretary	Barbara Holmes	2686499
Christian Aid Organiser	Heather Fry	2933784
Churches Together Rep	Barbara Belsham	2737192
Link Distribution Manager	Joyce Toms	2933693
Church Flowers	Margaret Lee	2663876
House Groups	Margaret Mattocks	2668727
	Stanley Pearson	2736463
	Gerry Leake	2664856
Stewardship Envelopes	Paul Nolan	2663160
Gift Aid Secretary	Garth White	2730313
Ladies Group Secretaries	Lynne Pullein	2665303
	Margaret Huskisson	2666781
Badminton	Jackie Bennett	2684914
Church Walking Group	Peter Harper	2662310
Drama Group	Carol Russell	2698341
Simply Stitching	Audrey Gabbitas	2664979
Women's World Day of Prayer	Pat Nolan	2663160
Church Cleaning	Angela Bowers	07749877933
3rd Roundhay Brownies	Jan Ridsdale	2684873
Candy Stripes	Office	2757697
Play Centre Group	Jeanette Bartle	07985569146
Toddler Group (Thursday)	lidgettparktodds@hotmail.co.uk	



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QUIZ ANSWERS

Group A – No town named Manchester in USA – all others are US as well as Brit towns.

Group B – All names include a part of the body (brain; head; ear; liver etc) except for Leeds.

Fred Langley

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