

The Link Magazine

May 2015

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends

I know I have already said this in several other places, but I do want to say it again here and it sets me up nicely for the remainder of my letter to you.

As a family we have been so touched by the response to the illness and subsequent loss of Vicky's mum (my mother-in-law, for the benefit of our wider readership). Thoughts, prayers, cards, flowers, food and too many offers of practical help to be named here. We are hugely grateful and even if we haven't needed to take you up on your offer of help, just knowing the offer is there means a great deal. Thank you to you all!

Towards the end of this month (May) we celebrate Pentecost. Now, there are two very different accounts of the story of Pentecost. Luke, writing in Acts has it almost as a Bish, Bash, Bosh story, the swift moment in time event. John, however, is a much more sedate and tells it as a longer span of time event. In John 14, as he retells the story of the last supper, during Jesus' long conversation with the disciples, he tells his friends that God will send the Spirit to be with them after he has gone. The word he uses in Greek is *paraclete*, and it is one of those wonderfully rich words that would probably take all of my space in this letter to translate adequately into English. Jean Vanier (the Canadian Catholic philosopher, theologian and founder of the *l'Arche* community) reminds us that *'etymologically, the word paraclete means "the one who answers the call."*

Jesus was a *paraclete* for so many people he met during his short ministry, but I am reminded especially of the woman caught in adultery in John's Gospel, he spoke up for her and answered her call, even though it was a silent call. I am all too aware that you have been a *paraclete* for me and the family over

these past weeks. And as we look to celebrate Pentecost again on May 24th, either as a sudden, whirl wind event, or slow drip feeding of the Spirit, regardless of how we understand the story, regardless of whether we attend church, are Christian, other faith or none, all of us have the God given ability to be a paraclete for someone else in their hour of need, and I hope too that none of us are too proud to accept the love and support of a paraclete when we need it.

Till next time

Andrew

WORSHIP IN May

May 3rd	10.30 am	Revd Andrew Atkins	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	<i>Chapel Allerton</i>	
May 10th	10.30 am	Prof Peter Howdle	
	6.30 pm	Revd. Andrew Atkins	Holy Communion
May 17th	10.30 am	Mr Paul Spencer	
	6.00 pm	<i>United Service at Crossgates</i>	
May 24th	Pentecost		
	10.30 am	Revd. Andrew Atkins	
	6.30 pm	No Service	
May 31st	10.30 am	Revd. Andrew Atkins	
	6.30 pm	<i>Ecumenical Service St Edmund's Church</i>	

Thank you to Andrew for some very moving services over Good Friday and Easter. On Maundy Thursday he had to use *Hymns and Psalms* for hymn number 42 as this much loved hymn "*O love of God how strong and true*" has not been included in *Singing the Faith*. This is a pity because for me it says much more than some of the ones that have been included. Thank you for using it Andrew. Ed.

PRAYER FOR CHANGE

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

Watching the News

Lord, I've been watching the news.
 The eyes of a child look blank,
 Dulled by war,
 The flights, homelessness, the camp.
 Innocence stolen.
 Lord, my spirit cries out:
 'Can't someone do something?'

Lord, I've been watching the news.
 People weeping, families broken
 By the death of a loved one.
 Not able to hold them close,
 An epidemic run riot.
 Lord, my spirit cries out:
 'Can't someone do something?'

Lord, I've been watching the news.
 Loneliness, homelessness, weakness,
 hopelessness,
 Another night sleeping rough
 Surrounded by the debris of others'
 living.
 Lord, my spirit cries out:
 'Can't someone do something?'

Someone, Lord, someone should
 Cry out for the injustice that surrounds
 us.
 Use love, compassion, skills
 To change this morbid course.
 Who is this someone, Lord?
 What, Lord! You mean someone is ME?

Bronwen Robinson

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

This Christian Aid Week, you can help transform the lives of people less fortunate than we are. From 10-16 May, churches the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland will come together to pray, campaign and raise money to improve the lives of people struggling to provide for their families. Every year, 100,000 volunteers demonstrate God's love for the poor by taking part in house-to-house collections for Christian Aid. This fantastic witness is a chance to take the mission of the church into your community. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/Images/Christian-Aid-Week-2015-church-magazine-article.pdf>

LINK DEADLINES

I am aware that many feel that the deadline is too early in the month. The deadline for receipt of material by me is now to be put back to the 12th of the month. This then leaves me 3 days to put the magazine together and get it to the printers by the middle of the month. This should guarantee that it is available in church by the beginning of the new month.

Late submission of material causes some difficulty. Apart from the alterations needed to layout to include it, the magazine has to be put together in blocks of 4 pages. Once the magazine is in its final stages, last minute material cannot be included unless we can expand the whole by 4 pages, which is not always possible. I hope that people will understand this and see why I will not usually be able to accommodate things sent to me after the 12th.

Editor.

CONCERT BY THE ELYSIAN SINGERS

You missed a treat if you weren't at Lidgett Park on Saturday 21st March when The Elysian Singers entertained us with a Spring Concert in aid of the Church Project (Oxford Place Children's Centre). Because of their generosity we made a profit of £390.

The Elysian Singers is a chamber choir for mixed voices and has been in existence for over forty years. The programme was varied from Baroque music by Henry Purcell to the Romantic music of Felix Mendelssohn and then on to more modern composers like John Tavener, known for his extensive output of religious works. There were Negro Spirituals (from 'a Child of our Time') by Michael Tippett and a toe tapping arrangement of 'Anything Goes' by Cole Porter.

Gareth Millward sang three Folksongs in a rich baritone voice and a quartet of ladies (Charlotte Watson, Heather Marsh, Helen Crowther, Marie Leavett) sang Pie Jesu accompanied on the piano by Michaela Pritchard.

Apart from one of my favourites, 'Cantique de Jean Racine' by Fauré, which was beautifully sung and accompanied by our own David Wilks on the organ the choir sang unaccompanied throughout under their musical director, Jonathan Power who has an amazing ear and was able to give each section their starting note! It was obvious a lot of rehearsal time had gone into making a pleasant and entertaining evening.

Pat Brooke



THORNER BROADSHEET

Many thanks to all who attended our coffee morning on Sat March 21st, which was in aid of Home and Overseas Missions for the Methodist Church . We raised £244:00 in total, which will be shared equally between Home and Overseas Missions of the Methodist Church. Many thanks to all who came and supported us from Lidgett Park Methodists, we really

appreciate everyone giving their time to come to our Missions Coffee Morning on a very busy day in the Circuit !

Please don't forget to come to our next Coffee morning which will be held on Sat May 9th. There will be Bacon Butties as usual , our lovely cake stall with lots of home baked cakes and buns and also an assortment of bric a brac for sale in the church sanctuary – so no stairs to climb ! This is a bonus for many.

Our May coffee morning is in aid of Martin House Children's Hospice, I am sure you'll agree, a very worthwhile local cause.

Do support us if you can ! We look forward to seeing you all on Sat May 9th

Ann Johnson

Senior Church Steward

0113 289 3532

LIDGETT PARK LADIES' GROUP

Meetings held on alternate Thursdays in the Youth Hall at 7.45pm. (However, note the time and venue for the Coffee Evening)

7th May from 7.30 pm in the Community Hall COFFEE EVENING (OPEN TO ALL). Please come along and support the Church Project. There will be various stalls - cakes, books, plants and scarves. All donations gratefully received, especially plants. Refreshments will be provided.

21st May. Our last Speaker this season will be Christabel Davey - 'An Evening With A Difference". And your guess is as good as mine as to what it's all about! (That's a clue, by the way.).

Lynne Pullein

CELEBRATE VE-DAY

ON SATURDAY 9TH MAY, 2015



The NAAFI canteen (commonly called the Scout Hut) will be open between the hours of 4.30pm and 6.00pm, where you will be able to experience the joys of a niffti, naafi meal.

**TICKETS £7 EACH, LIMITED
AVAILABILITY**

NSPCC

Plant & Gift Fair

QUALITY PERENNIALS & BEDDING PLANTS
AT REASONABLE PRICES

Saturday 30 May 2015

10.00am – 1.00pm

St Edmund's Church Hall

Lidgett Park Road

Roundhay, LS8 1JN

Entrance: Adults £1.00 – Children
FREE



GIFTS · CARDS

BOOKS · CAFÉ · CAKES

NEW 2U TOYS · TOMBOLA

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR BRIC a BRAC

CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (31st May after morning service)

PROPOSALS FOR NEXT YEAR'S CHARITY

Leeds Autism Services

Leeds Autism Services, operating in the Leeds area was founded in 1988 as a Christian foundation charity.

Specific services for adults are offered aiming individually tailored packages of support, in order to assist people to achieve their goals.

They offer support and advice to individuals in a holistic and non-judgmental framework from 2 hours per week to 24 hours per day 365 days a year to their 64 service users. This is in their own homes, community settings or one of their own facilities. LAS are needing sensory equipment, new computer equipment, laptops and a vehicle to transport the people supported to activities which would otherwise be inaccessible to them.

LAS are currently trying to raise funds but have no patron and will be so grateful for your consideration of Leeds Autism Services as a church charity project next year.

Joyce Wood

We are all know Joyce and William's son Lester and all the work that Joyce puts in to promoting the cause of autism. If the church decides to adopt this charity Joyce and William would not be able to lead the fund raising because of their age and so we would need to nominate a leader and fund-raising committee. Ed.



I am sure you all remember the article in the November Link which featured Lester's exhibition of his pottery at Leeds Metropolitan University.

Here is one of the pictures taken on that occasion as an example of the way in which people with autism can be helped to develop their talents. Ed.



Oasis Relief Zambia

Regd. Charity No: 1000179



What makes our charity worthy of your support?

- We never use donated monies for administrative costs
- We pay our own expenses to travel, and visit our projects on a yearly basis
- We take money out with us and can see exactly how much things cost
- We deal directly with people on the ground who we trust
- We empower communities to make their own decisions, thus instilling self-worth and confidence
- We pay locals to work for us, and encourage community ownership of all projects

Water...



We dig boreholes

We use a manual digging method to provide a borehole for approximately £1000. After travelling to Zambia to teach the technique these are now dug entirely by the local community in need of water, who then take ownership of it and maintain it. We employ a foreman to oversee each project to its completion. We currently have 8 functioning boreholes in the Zambian Copperbelt and one in the capital, Lusaka.

Education...

We support three schools

We have worked in Zambia since 2005, and have adopted three schools along the way which we continue to support. All are in local communities where we have dug for water. They each have their own needs and are all at different stages in their development. We have had the privilege watching them grow from aspirations to realities, and every year we witness the joy in the children's faces as they continue to develop.



We offer **O E...**

Local purchasing...Local decisions...Local workers

Oasis Relief

Oasis Relief is the charity I suggested last year. Maureen and Bernie went out to Zambia in October and dug 6 water bore holes and installed pumps. They left sufficient money for building to this stage. They have since sent another £2,500 and anticipate it will need a further £5,000 to finish building these blocks for teachers to live in. Offering accommodation in lieu of some wages to help retain staff who can earn more in government run school.



Fresh **running** water costs £1,000 to put in place.
Paid for with Money raised by 3 people.



Maureen, Bernie and their friends work tirelessly and give generously to help these children in Zambia have fresh, running drinking water, go to school, and have uniforms to wear. They provide grants so the schools can buy equipment for income generation empowering them to work proudly towards being self-sustaining. Local workers are

employed to do the work. Materials are purchased locally and prices negotiated by the local church pastors. They seek to empower the local communities, and avoid the tangles of interventions by officials, by overseeing all spending and works personally on their annual visits. Every single last penny raised goes to Oasis Relief and is spent in Zambia. All administration costs, travel costs, and all incidentals are paid for by Maureen and Bernie personally. I am sure we could help them.

Mary Patchett

Making Christian Aid Our Charity.

The suggestion is that we commit ourselves to the **Christian Aid Community Partnership Scheme**.

The community partnership scheme gives churches the opportunity to support specific projects. To take part in the scheme the church would commit to raising £5,000 over the next two years for one of the Christian Aid projects. The European Union will then match fund this amount by at least three times - turning our £5,000 into £20,000! If the money is given through a church and Gift Aid is claimed by the church, then the entire donation, including the reclaimed Gift Aid, will be eligible for matched funding.

All of Christian Aid's partners are carrying out work that will have a huge impact on poor communities around the world. Its partners are trusted, experienced, local organisations that have the knowledge and the ideas to help communities lift themselves out of poverty.

Lidgett Park will be connected with a real community of real people who we can get to know as we fundraise for the project. We will get detailed information about the country and the project, but more importantly we will get to know the people involved. Christian Aid will send us updates on how the project is going and stories of people whose lives are being transformed through the work of our partners, so that you can see the difference that your support is making as the project develops.

The projects are new additions to Christian Aid's work and only made possible by these partnerships. Christian Aid uses 90 per cent of the funds raised through Community Partnerships to support the projects on offer, and 10 per cent to support the work of all of our teams based both in the UK and overseas.

If a church chooses to sign up, Christian Aid sends resources packed with information about the country and the project. They also send promotional materials to inspire and motivate people.

Heather Fry

Christians Against Poverty

I would like to propose that our next project year supports the Bradford based charity Christians Against Poverty.

I attach a short article about CAP and will be taking delivery of some leaflets and dvd's in April which will explain their work more fully.

CAP is a well respected and deserving charity that could benefit from our support.

I am happy to chair a fund-raising committee and have approached a number of people who have expressed a willingness to join the committee.

Margaret Farrar.



Christians Against Poverty is a national charity, founded in Bradford, tackling debt, poverty and their associated causes. They do not receive any government funding and are

supported by thousands of individuals and hundreds of local churches, meaning that they have great flexibility to offer their services free of charge and to expand rapidly to meet growing needs. All their services are offered through the local church and in such a way that people can experience and respond to the love of God.

Last year they were able to help over 29,000 people through debt counselling, financial education, back-to-work initiatives, and their work with those looking to break free from addiction and dependencies. Nearly 12,000 people learnt how to budget, save and manage their finances wisely, ultimately preventing debt. Over 6,000 new clients were visited in their homes through their debt help service, with more than 2,500 people becoming debt free. Once a client becomes debt free, 96% become debt free for the long-term. They have also helped over 300 people find work since the launch of the CAP Job Clubs in March 2013 and are also seeing some fantastic early results from the CAP Release Groups, with people becoming free from dependencies such as smoking, drinking and gambling.

All of these services are offered in partnership with the local church, allowing them to offer practical solutions to their communities, and engage at the forefront of social change. This means that across their

range of services, 792 people were able to begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in 2014, and are able to be supported by their local church.

However, despite all CAP is able to do, they are still getting calls from those outside their catchment areas, so it is vital that they expand to meet this need. Support from Lidgett would help them to do this.

REPORTS FROM ORGANISATIONS

CHURCH WALKING GROUP REPORT 2015

The Church Walking Group continues to function attracting between four and 14 people at any one time. We walk each month except December and generally, but not always, on the third Saturday. Daphne Barton, Andrew Benson, Stan Pearson and Ian Russell have all joined me in leading walks around Conistone and Kettlewell, Baildon and Saltaire, Thixendale, Nidderdale, Denby Dale, the Washburn Valley and nearer home, Farnley, Pudsey, Thorner and the Meanwood Valley Trail. Mostly we take a picnic but it's happening more frequently now we have pub lunch – though that does tend to slow us down afterwards! We welcome anyone to join us on any, or all, our walks. We've not got lost yet!

Peter C. Harper

DRAMA GROUP REPORT

One of the most satisfying things we do in the Drama Group is taking the murder mysteries (written by Irving Theaker) around to other churches and charities. We have visited some new venues this year- Kippax for the Soroptomists and the Oakwood Festival, along with Wakefield Samaritans and other regulars and we have helped all these organisations raise a total of £3405 this financial year. We put on a Revue last Spring entitled *This, That And Some Senior Moments*, we have just finished this years pantomime *Jack And The Beanstalk* and are currently rehearsing an evening of Alan Bennett plays to be performed on 24/4/15 and 25/4/15. **Carol Russell.**

A PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE

If you can laugh everyday, especially at yourself, you've found the best joke in the world. **Loretta Laroche**

FAITH IN DARK PLACES

In the last issue we reported the conference on this theme held at St Edmund's Church in March with the impressions of one of the participants. There were several workshops and different people went to different ones. Here is the report of another person who made different choices. Perhaps as we go to vote this month, these impressions might be of help as we make our choices? Ed.

I recently joined over a hundred other people at a conference at St Edmunds to find out more about poverty and those who are affected; the myths propagated about benefit claimants and how society works better when inequality is minimised. We were given information through talks, workshops, conversations and questions. So what did I learn from it?

We are constantly bombarded by the media with stories about benefit claimants who are cheating the system and yet, as Paul Morrison's report *'The Lies we tell Ourselves: Ending Comfortable Myths about Poverty'* shows, the evidence has been misused and manipulated to create untrue accounts of poverty. The myths we seem to accept about the poor are : they are lazy and don't want to work; they are addicted to drugs and drink; they are not really poor-they just don't manage their money properly; they are on the fiddle; they have an easy life; they caused the deficit. All these statements can be refuted. In fact, 5 billion a year is lost in tax evasion while 18 million pounds a year is unclaimed in benefits.

I knew from my experience with Foodbank that withdrawal of benefits from people who have missed appointments-sometimes because letters have arrived late or not at all- can cause severe problems and this was shown by stories from those who are suffering. We learned that electricity costs can be very high because landlords have their own metres, so having to make a choice between heat and food is common. If bills are not paid they may be taken to court and many people don't know where to get help or advice. There is now no social fund to help in emergencies. Yet, on a more positive note, we met Andrew who is working with civic and business leaders to understand what poverty means in Leeds and how help can be given. We also heard about projects in Cross Green where people in difficult situations are working together, so attitudes are changing. One very successful project on gardening even earned them a spot on

'Gardener's Question Time.'

At a workshop on Poverty, Inequality and Children led by Dr David Cundall, I learned that Leeds is the third most unequal city in the country and that in 2007 the UK was at the bottom of the table of child well-being in rich countries. Inequality has a strong relationship with a child's well-being, not because poorer children have fewer resources than richer children, nor because of its effect on family life and relationships, but because children are aware of their position in society and their status at the bottom of the pile.

Homelessness was another area of concern and from Roger Quick, chaplain at St Georges Crypt, I learned something of the essential work done by St George's - things don't seem to have changed much since 1930 in Leeds. The popular places to find homeless people are: the skateboard block at Hyde Park, The Dark Arches, Royal Armouries Tunnel and the Laundry at the General Infirmary. Leeds Council will not house people who are nominally resident in another part of the country so, although there are only six persistent homeless people in Leeds, the Crypt has about sixty different people through its doors each week needing accommodation. About 87% of these will move on to find housing but we were told that the average life expectancy of these people is 47 for men and 43 for women. Roger told us some of the tragic stories of the people he meets at the crypt. They now have a service on Sunday afternoon and there is an average of 40 people attending and everyday people ask him to pray with them.

David Rhodes is probably familiar to many of you as he developed the One City Project and he spoke about the ministry of Jesus and that if we look closely we shall see that the gospel message is dynamite when dealing with poverty and injustice. He talked about how 2000 years ago society was similar to ours with an abuse of power at the top by a few, and many being homeless and hungry. Labour was cheap with an informal system of slavery. Into this society Jesus came preaching 'the first shall be last and the last first.' David also pointed out that while the Roman Emperor was at the top, women and children were at the bottom, as they still are in many countries today. He used the story of the woman with the haemorrhage to show how Jesus put her needs before the needs of the daughter of the president of the synagogue, an impoverished, despised woman before the wealthy and powerful. He also showed how the words of the Lord's Prayer would appeal particularly to the poor with its longing

for a kingdom of peace and justice and daily bread.

So we were bombarded with information, some of it uncomfortable, and we were challenged to look at what we should do. It is important to listen to the stories of those who have little and are struggling with a system which seems to take no notice of their feelings or situations. We can also write to local councillors, MP's and all who have positions of power and influence. We can question candidates at the hustings and we can question our own attitudes to and beliefs about those whose lifestyles are so different from our own.

Barbara Belsham

TOWN TRAILS

Many of us are familiar with the interesting walks around West Yorkshire towns organised by Margaret Summerwill. Below are some memories of the latest of these, Ed.

In March we went on the Baildon Village Walk. After two loops of the trail we were welcomed at Wesley's Cafe in the Methodist church for lunch. In the afternoon we completed the trail at the Community Gardens where we met the Flowerpot Man.

Margaret Summerwill.



LEEDS ARTISTS COMBINE TO REFLECT EASTER JOURNEY

Artists from Leeds' thriving art scene are joining with St Edmunds Church, Roundhay in April 2015 for a unique exhibition of reflections on the Easter journey.

The Stations of the Cross will feature work from fourteen Leeds-based artists, each focusing on a different stage of Jesus' path to the cross. The show will include sculpture, painting, video, installation and drawing, and hopes to open up some fresh insights on a familiar narrative.

The featured artists come from a range of Christian traditions, as well as those from other faiths or with no religious faith. Sculptor Jon Vogler, one of the featured artists, is a long time member of the St Edmund's congregation. He explains the significance of the Stations of the Cross:

'Art seeks to visualise the unimaginable. Since the Middle Ages, the Stations of the Cross have helped believers imagine how one man confronted agony, despair and the finality of death to redeem broken humanity. I am thrilled and fearful to follow great artists who have tackled this awesome subject.'

The Exhibition will run from **26th April to 20th May 2015** at St Edmunds Church, Lidgett Park Road, Roundhay LS8 1JN

It is curated by Si Smith, a Leeds-based artist and illustrator. He has previously exhibited work in St. Edmund's church and curated shows and events at the Left Bank venue in Burley and the Greenbelt festival.

Issued by Stations of the Cross. For more information, contact Si Smith

si@simonsmithillustrator.co.uk. 07833 308971

<http://stedmundsstations.blogspot.co.uk>

QUIZ (answers on page 26)

Can you identify twelve capital cities from these anagrams?

Mail; Solo; Units; Louse; Quoit; Animal; A train; Large bed; Plane mob;
Cool mob; Mob flee to inn; Go Persian.

Fred Langley

100 NOT OUT!

In the last issue of the Link we featured the thank you note from Margaret to those who organised her birthday party at church. Here are some more details of that happy event. Margaret asked people not to give her presents but instead to give donations to the church project. This raised £450 after gift aid. Ed.

On Thursday 20th February 2015 Margaret Barraclough became 100 years old. On that day the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire visited her in his splendid uniform and presented her with a card from the Queen. The next day Margaret celebrated with her family and thoroughly enjoyed herself (did champagne have anything to do with it?).

On Saturday 28th February Margaret hosted a tea party for the church members. The hall was full and buzzing and Margaret spoke to everyone. She was in fine form. After blowing out the candles on her cake and making the first cut, Margaret recited "Leisure" by W.H. Davies. It was a wonderful afternoon for a remarkable lady.

Val Faint.



PROFILE

After 14 years as a fully accredited local preacher Garth White is stepping down from regular peaching. We have all appreciated Garth's work and I thought people would be interested in the following (with apologies to Desert Island Discs) Ed.

Lidgett Park has a reputation of being a friendly church. However, many of us perhaps don't know a lot about each other's lives, what we do or did when working or how we became members. A few weeks ago it was suggested to me that it might be a good idea for some of us to consider contributing to the Link in a kind of 'Desert Island Discs' fashion with brief personal details and a choice of a few favourite pieces of music and the reasons for their choice. So here goes as 'victim' number one!

I have no Yorkshire connections but my mother was born at Wath upon Dearne moving to Bristol when a child. Following their marriage my parents moved to Bournemouth where my father had found employment. I was born and brought up there and we were members of the local Baptist church where I was baptised in my early teens two days before Christmas 1945. As youngster I helped with Sunday school and was a member of the cubs and scouts where I was later an Assistant Scout Master. Following school years I joined the staff of Midland Bank Executor and Trustee Co. Ltd. and after two years National Service continued my career with them. I also became a Deacon and Church Treasurer.

Jean and I married in 1958 and moved to Swansea in 1963 where we lived for a little under a year before our move to Leeds in 1964. We had two children, Nicholas and Cheryl. Initially we were members at South Parade Baptist Church where Jean helped in the Sunday school and I was a Deacon and Assistant Treasurer. In 1970 Nicholas wanted to join cubs and activities nearer home so we transferred to Lidgett Park where I helped with the Cubs/Scouts parents committee and soon became Group Scout Leader. Later Cheryl too joined Brownies and Guides. It was in Rev Philip Blackburn's time as minister. Thus we continued our service in various capacities here.

Some will know that I was privileged to represent the Bank as Trustee at the start of the Anthony Nolan Appeal Charity in 1974 and saw its growth to great things over the years. After retirement in 1989 I continued as a member Trustee and director for 10 years. Both Jean and I enjoyed walking, music, theatre trips and after retirement, travel to various far flung places. We had over 36 happy years together until sadly Jean passed away suddenly and unexpectedly

I was blessed again by meeting Joyce at church and we have recently celebrated

18 happy years together continuing a joint love of walking and travel. As they say, 'the rest is history'. God continues to pour His blessings upon us for which we never fail to praise and thank Him.

And now for the musical choices:

Fingal's Cave Overture – Mendelssohn. My first 45 record. A recent visit to Staffa Cave brought the music to life.

Beethoven's 9th Symphony (The Choral). We sang this with the Bournemouth Municipal Choir at the St Cecilia Festival at The Festival Hall before the Queen Mother.

'Marigold' Played by Billy Mayerl its composer pianist. I played it once upon a time!

Turn to Stone by ELO (Electric Light Orchestra.) Used to have it on in the car!

Guantanamo by 'The Spinners' Jean and I followed the group assiduously when they visited Yorkshire.

'Memories' from 'Cats'. A great musical. I had the principal cat sit on my lap in the performance in London some years ago!

Something from one of the James Last Orchestra albums. It's good easy listening classics.

A rousing Welsh choir perhaps singing Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah and Morte Christe. Both are very moving and the last used to be sung by the men of our Lidgett Park Choir.

Garth

A THOUGHT TO PONDER—Religion

British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge (1903 – 90), who moved in a public and articulate way from atheism to Christian belief, was always cautious when questioned about what he believed and what church he had joined:

" Religion is an experience, rather than a theory. It is something that people live, rather than something they can express as a theory of life. People who live the Christian faith seem to me to convey the reality of religion much better, more fruitfully, than any theoretical abstraction, any set dogma. One of the reasons that I don't in fact belong to any denomination is because I would resent very much being cross-examined about dogma."

From **Stepping Out With The Sacred** by Val Webb (ISBN 978 14411 96422)

THE DESIDERATA

When I read the December /January copy of the Link and all the questions of inter faith relationships that were raised by the Inter Faith Dialogue I have to confess that my reaction was "Oh dear!". It turned my thoughts to a piece of paper that turned up on my office chair one morning in the 1970s. I was impressed by the wonderful philosophy of the writing in a peculiar script. At the bottom of the paper were the words "Old St Pauls Crypt Baltimore. It was not found there but was written a Max Ehrmann in 1927. Whatever, the following could read by anyone of any faith and give comfort in these disturbed times

Ron Gelsthorpe

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste,
and remember what peace there may be in silence.
As far as possible, without surrender,
be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly;
and listen to others,
even to the dull and the ignorant;
they too have their story.
Avoid loud and aggressive persons;
they are vexatious to the spirit.
If you compare yourself with others,
you may become vain or bitter,
for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.
Keep interested in your own career, however humble;
it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.
Exercise caution in your business affairs,
for the world is full of trickery.
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is;
many persons strive for high ideals,
and everywhere life is full of heroism.
Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection.
Neither be cynical about love,
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment,
it is as perennial as the grass.
Take kindly the counsel of the years,
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.
But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.
Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline,
 be gentle with yourself.
 You are a child of the universe
 no less than the trees and the stars;
 you have a right to be here.
 And whether or not it is clear to you,
 no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.
 Therefore be at peace with God,
 whatever you conceive Him to be.
 And whatever your labors and aspirations,
 in the noisy confusion of life,
 keep peace in your soul.
 With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,
 it is still a beautiful world.
 Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

The Desiderata has been widely copied and circulated. The copyright is disputed. Max Ehrmann was granted a federal copyright in 1927. A claim that copyright had been infringed was rejected by the federal district court in 1975 on the grounds that it had been widely and gratuitously distributed. The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed that decision, and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case. Ed.

Passion Flower (from Pat Webb)

The passion flower is an exotic plant which was used by Roman Catholic priests to illustrate the story of the crucifixion to the Indian tribes. The symbolism is as follows:



The leaves – the five fingers of Christ

The tendrils – the lash

The petals – the 10 apostles (omitting Judas and Peter)

The blue feathery part – the crown of thorns

The yellow stamens – the 5 wounds

A bigger copy of this in colour is on the church notice board Ed.

NECESSARY DETAIL FOR OUR TIME?

In recent Lenten morning services we have had, quite naturally, two or three references to the temptations of Jesus. All longstanding regular church goers can, I imagine, recite quite easily the majority of this earliest episode in Jesus' ministry and can envisage major works of art depicting various elements of his 40 days and nights (numbers again) in the desert.

For many years the temptations, as almost identically described in Matthew 4: 1-11 and Luke 4: 1-13, have progressively appeared to me relatively far-fetched, especially for 21st century 'question answering'. Mark 1: 12 & 13 would be completely adequate and in keeping with other occasions when Jesus ventured off on his own to a solitary place in order to commune, without distraction, with God for guidance and strength to prepare himself for the continuance of his earthly ministry.

Reading 'Simple Helps ----- to understanding of the Bible' at the back of my copy of the 1952 edition of the Revised Standard Version suggests that Matthew's and Luke's gospels were written around 60 -63 AD for Jews and Gentiles respectively. It would appear that the Romans could cope with the less flamboyant account in Mark's gospel! If the date of the writing of the gospels is correct, why did the writers consider it necessary to over-elaborate Jesus' solitary stay in the desert? The Notes within my Bible also suggest that Peter furnished material for Mark's gospel. This to me has a more authentic and believable ring to this 40 day period. I cannot imagine Jesus recounting such a detailed account to his earliest disciples or to anybody, in fact. It does not fit with my understanding of the character of Jesus. He certainly had no need to bolster his authority or power as a simple 'Follow me' was sufficient for his earliest followers.

I cannot understand why this expanded piece of possible fiction still commands such an important place in 21st Century theology. Surely witnessed accounts within Jesus' ministry from his baptism and culminating in his death and resurrection should be both challenging and instructive enough as a basis for faith without resorting to hypothetical musings written (thought up?) thirty years after the basic event. Even the Transfiguration had witnesses – but that's another story.

Colin Watson

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QUIZ ANSWERS

Can you identify twelve capital cities from these anagrams?

Mail (Lima) Solo (Oslo) Units (Tunis) Louse (Seoul) Quoit
(Quito) Animal (Manila)

A train (Tirana) Large bed (Belgrade) Plane mob (Belmopan)

Cool mob (Colombo)

Mob flee to inn (Bloemfontein) Go Persian (Singapore)