November 2012

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MINISTER'S LETTER

FESTIVAL ANGELS AND THE PRAYER TENT REFLECTIONS

"Wow! That's awesome. I wanna write a prayer on a post-it"
THAT WAS THE REACTION OF ONE FESTIVAL GOER AS THEIR
MATE WROTE DOWN A PRAYER ON A POST-IT NOTE AND PINNED
IT UP WITH THE OTHERS FROM OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAD
ALREADY COME INTO THE FESTIVAL ANGELS PRAYER TENT AT
LEEDS FESTIVAL.

This year, for the second year running, I served on a team at Leeds festival working with people from local churches to run a prayer tent . The concept was fairly simple. A tent where people could buy a tea or coffee for £1 (a fraction of the price being charged by the other festival vans), have a free biscuit (or two!), sit down and chat with us and write a brief prayer on a postit note and peg it to the strings up in the tent.

We ran the tent, an idea born out of Thorner's Churches Together group, at Leeds for the 1st time last year and this year made the decision to run it 24 hours a day throughout the festival. We've had a fantastic reception from festival goers as they've found us in the midst of the other festival stalls just outside of the main arena on the walkway between all the night venues.

It's amazing how people came in to the tent and were willing to share so much about their life in a matter of minutes. We talked to people who have lost their faith, people who don't believe in God but still want to stick up a prayer, people who have sung songs from their catholic school to us (including 'Shine, Jesus Shine), one man quoted Anglican liturgy and proceeded to share the peace with everyone in the tent. We met people from all walks of life and all have been lovely. One of the reflections that every team member commented on was the way in which they were blown away by how a prayer tent in the midst of a festival somehow created the most authentic 'church' they had ever experienced.

If only our churches were places where people could be completely open (okay maybe at the festival this was helped by alcohol levels!). If only our churches were places where atheists, humanists, Christians, drunk people, people with drug problems, people who were lonely, people who just needed a cuppa and all sorts of other people could comfortably hang out. I wonder how we can take the openness created by something like the prayer tent and implement it into our society? It seems like people are willing to talk about faith and engage with Christians just not in conventional church.

God Bless Graeme

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

04	10.30	Rev.Graeme Dutton	Holy Communion
		Pastoral Visitors Rededication	
	6.30	Rev.Graeme Dutton	
11	Remembrance Sunday		
	10.30	Rev. Andrew Atkins	Parade Service
	6.30	Moortown	United/Circuit Service
18	10.30	Dr. Karen Illingworth	
	6.30	Rev.Graeme Dutton	Holy Communion
25	10.30	Rev.Graeme Dutton	
	6.30	Rev. George Bailey	

THE CHURCH PROJECT – A REMINDER OF WHAT WE ARE SUPPORTING.

"All rough sleepers get to a point where they feel there is no-one they can turn to. Simon on the Streets provides a vital role of someone who they can turn to by being a group of people who will show interest in them in a respectful, tolerant, empathetic manner aimed at empowering them to improve their self-image and begin to make positive changes in their lives – but not asking for anything in return."

Fred Langley

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group meet fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.45 p.m. in the Youth Hall. All are welcome

01 November An evening with John Gilyead

15 November Demonstration of Flower Arranging

29 November Ted Britton "MHA"

A 100th BIRTHDAY

Hilda Davies celebrated her 100th birthday on September 24th.

Hilda first came to Leeds from Worcestershire in 1944 with her husband, Len, and her children, Gillian and Graham. She began attending Lidgett Park in the early 1950s when they moved to a house close by the church and continued doing so until she moved to a Joseph Rowntree care home, Bedford Court, in 2004.

Shortly after joining the church she ran the church Youth Club and continued to do so for some years. Our own David Wilks was a member of the Youth Club. If the children wanted to come to the Youth Club, they had to attend church on a Sunday evening and they would all sit on the back rows. After church they would go to Hilda and Len's house just a couple of houses down from the church.

The Youth club was thriving and often put on pantomimes, had sleepovers and midnight walks to raise money for charity as well as enjoying their regular activities. They attended the M.A.Y.C. weekends in London. But they didn't just enjoy themselves. When one of their members belonged to a family, which had been given a council house but nothing else, the Youth Club set to and gathered furniture, furnishings and equipment to get them started.

Hilda was also very much involved with W.R.V.S. and helped serving refreshments to patients and visitors at St. James'. She also delivered "Meals-on-wheels" to the elderly and housebound.

In the 1960s, Hilda took up painting, first in oils and later in watercolours. Then she became involved with Age Concern. Hilda taught her "old people" to paint and they exhibited their work in many places. Hilda continued to teach her "old people" until she was well into her nineties. Many of her "old people" were 30 years younger!

Hilda continues to live out her Christian faith at Bedford Court. She never complains and is truly thankful for all the help she gets. She never fails to remind other residents how lucky they are if they ever complain about not being in their own homes. She is fortunate in her pastoral care visitors, Garth and Joyce White, who visit her frequently. She thanks God for her blessings every night. Every morning after she has struggled to get herself dressed, the carers hear her thank God that that exhausting task is over for another day!

Hilda has always been a carer and finds it hard sometimes, and puzzling, to be on the receiving end but her caring instincts are still strong. Hilda keeps a watching eye on all the other residents and if she sees anyone having difficulties she is quick to attract the staff's attention. She continues to be a carer!

Patricia Davies

THANK YOU TO LIDGETT PARK

On behalf of Sylvia, and all the children in her school for the deaf, could I thank everyone at LPMC most warmly for your gift of a new school bus - the first ever and much needed.

I have watched with wonder and admiration the way in which you have gone about your fundraising and I know how much effort and generosity has been involved. It has all been a great encouragement and an inspiration.

We are currently finalising the delivery of the bus and we will let you have some photos as soon as possible. I will be visiting the school in November and am sure there will be great excitement and great gratitude for your kindness.

Tony Allinson, chairman of the Sylvia Wright Trust



LIDGETT PARK DRAMA GROUP presents

'More of This, That and t'Other'

(an evening of odes, sketches, music and fun)

Add to this tea and buns!

on

Friday & Saturday 16/17

November 2012

at 7.30pm in the Community Hall

Tickets £6 from Pat Brooke (267 8506)

LOST FOR WORDS



Mrs. Pat Brooke has sent in this picture which I believe has something to do with the drama group's next production, which I am sure you will all be eager to see.

The picture is calling out for some suitable witty caption, but has left me floundering. So it is over to you – let's have your entries and we will publish the cream of the crop in future editions of The Link.

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

Thank you for donating your small change towards the Church project for the Sylvia Wright Trust. I thought you may be interested in the amounts we have collected over 10 years for our various projects:

2002	Church Chancel	£20.00
2003	Kilimanjaro	£20.00
2004	Music for the deaf	£20.00
2005	MHA dementia centre	£419.07
2006-9	Room for All	£400.00
2010	Belize	£153.00
2011	Caring for Life	£75.00
2012	Sylvia Wright Trust	£118.00

Thank you again and please keep saving your pennies (20p coins would be even better!)

Margaret Lee

THANK YOU MARGARET

In the last issue of The Link I forgot to thank Margaret for raising money for Sylvia Wright. Margaret continues year after year quietly raising money with her "Pennies from Heaven". It is very much appreciated.

Barbara Dodman

CAPTIONS PLEASE REVISITED

With regard to the editor's comment in the September Link under the above heading may I enquire whether he believes miracles could not happen in any Methodist Church or specifically the 'water into wine' one at Lidgett Park? O ye of little faith Ed – or are miracles now confined to a certain rugby team? **Colin Watson**

Well Colin, all I'm saying is that if Jesus had turned water into wine at Lidgett he'd have been quickly asked to leave the premises.

CHURCH TAX

Heather Fry has passed on an article from The Independent. The gist of it is that in Germany if you are a registered Catholic, Protestant or Jew then the state collects a levy of about 8% of your annual income tax and funnels it back to the respective denomination. There is currently a fuss as many adherents are refusing to pay it.

I'm not sure quite why Heather gave it to me. Maybe she is asking whether such an idea would go down well at Lidgett.

OUR QUIZZES SET BY GILLIAN CLEMENTS

I thought you would like two quizzes this month to lead into next month's bumper Christmas quiz issue.

The first one is quite hard – but look carefully at the clue, it's very helpful.

All the clues give rise to two words, the letters of which can be rearranged to form one word. All the solutions have something in common. (Clue: You wouldn't want to be in their house.)

- 1. The first man did not speak this ancient language. (4, 5)
- 2. Do not make a mistake during the ritual. (3, 4)
- 3. A daring ear! (4, 3)
- 4. I will shadow the people who send up rockets. (4, 4)
- 5. Mr Dodman has a kitty. (2, 4)
- 6. Shakespeare's exam. (4, 4)
- 7. I rest in the mountain pass. (3, 3)

I think this one is a bit easier –especially with the clue.

All the clues give rise to two words, the letters of which can be rearranged to form one word. All the solutions have something in common. (Clue: Beauty on the wing in Tropical World)

- 1. The candle fat laments!! (6, 5)
- 2. The male cats don't like salty water. (4, 5)
- 3. Did you see a monkey or a male bird? (3, 4)
- 4. Brad (not Pitt) was one of the pack. (4, 4)
- 5. Cultivate the ground at the convent. (4, 6)
- 6. She went up the steps to get the fish. (5, 4)
- 7. We need a policeman to find the corded cloth. (3, 3)

PRAYER FOR CHANGE



This prayer appears in the magazines of Lidgett Park, St Andrew's and St Edmund's.

Dear Lord

Please help us to take only those things that we need rather than those that we want from the abundant resources that your world provides.

Make us aware that our wants may be selfish and our needs modest. Make us more aware of our personal greed when others are hungry, cold and homeless. Help us to restrain ourselves when choosing from the huge array of goods and resources freely available in this society.

Amen

ANGLICAN INSIGHTS

Richard Harries, who was Bishop of Oxford, had an article in The Times recently on the Church of England's search for a new Archbishop of Canterbury. But there are some interesting points and I've picked a couple for you to ponder (if you feel like pondering).

"Christianity now has become a foreign language for very large numbers of the population and what goes on in church seems strange, if not alien. ...We now have the third and fourth generation growing up .. for whom it is simply outside their world view."

"After 60 years of relentless pursuit of pleasure and money, based on the assumption that things can only get better and better, there is now some sobering up, a coming to our senses."

The first quote chimes in with what Graeme says in his letter and raises the question, what do we do? The second seems to me to be more contentious.

LOVE VERSUS UNSELFISHNESS

We have two replies to date regarding this piece from last month's Link.

In the October edition of The Link, Ed quoted C S Lewis who spoke of the negative "unselfishness" substituting the positive "love". I agree with what C S Lewis was saying. It is far better to have a positive belief than a negative one. Also I think that non-Christians view Christianity as negative rather than positive. If you were to ask non-Christians what they thought the Christian code was would they say "Love God, love your neighbour as yourself" or would they say "The Ten Commandments". I suspect that most would quote the latter (which is very negative – full of "thou shalt nots") rather than the former. Unfortunately, when Christianity gets in the news the reasons are invariably negative and Christians come across as killjoys who get no pleasure from life and are intent on inflicting the same on others. C S Lewis was pointing out the difference between being inward looking and being concerned with our own behaviour (and salvation?) rather than being outward looking and being concerned with the welfare of others.

Gillian Clements

The Editor asked: - Is what C.S. Lewis said about 'unselfishness v. love valid today?

C.S. Lewis said 'I do not think 'unselfishness' is the Christian virtue of love. I am in agreement with C. S. Lewis's sentiments. As followers of Jesus Christ 'the love of Jesus' means far more than 'unselfishness' and someone has said 'Salvation' is free, but not cheap.' People who do not become followers of Jesus, do not understand 'love' as portrayed by the Lord.

Ivy Mawby's (1903-83) song came to mind:-

Like to a pilgrim in an unknown land Seeking the comfort of a guiding hand, Fearing the perils of the winding way, Pleading for strength sufficient everyday, I met my Lord; and though the path be dim, He knows the way and I will walk with him.

Ivy entered the Salvation Army training college at the age of 18. She married Major Arthur H. Mawby in 1929. She retired as a Colonel in 1963 **Joyce Wood**

Church Cleaning:	Mrs Angela Bowers	0774 9877933
3 rd Roundhay Brownies	Mrs Jan Ridsdale	268 4873
11 th Roundhay Brownies:	Mrs Tracy Dickens	07974 802358
11 th Roundhay Guides	Mrs Tracy Dickens	07974 802358
Candy Stripes	Office	275 7697
Playcentre Play Group	Mrs Jeanette Bartle	0798 5569146
Toddler Group (Thursday)	Mrs Jane Morrison	0790 3374352
Bee Sharp	Mrs Heather Pawley	266 2151

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

All the clues give rise to two words, the letters of which can be rearranged to form one word. All the solutions have something in common. (Clue: You may come across these during a country ramble.)

- 1. The man was all over the place. (2, 4) HE, RIFE = HEIFER
- 2. He had good fortune with the high ball. (4, 3) LUCK, LOB = BULLOCK
- 3. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet was just below the head. (3, 4) CHI. NECK = CHICKEN
- 4. Mother is everything. (2, 3) MA, ALL = LLAMA
- 5. For example, look! (2, 3) EG, SEE = GEESE
- 6. Did you notice the Hire Purchase? (3, 2) SEE, HP = SHEEP
- 7. Do not taste the manure!! (4, 4) LICK, DUNG = DUCKLING

Did you get the llamas?

– there are quite a few dotted about Yorkshire.

And here is one of them. Make sure you don't confuse them with alpacas!



A TALE OF TWO BARNS

Whether by design or coincidence Harvest morning worship had stories of two different barn extensions.

In one we were told of the success of the hardworking poor in achieving a major turnaround in their living standards and, as implied by voluntary financial giving, assisting in the furtherance of their efforts to safeguard their future through education and banking/storage of surplus produce. All very laudable and we all hope that they succeed so that in later years they can take life easier, eat, drink and enjoy themselves.

By contrast a rich man (always a dodgy character in the Gospels), who apparently had done nothing wrong other than, in the writer's eyes, being the owner of fertile land is classed a fool for doing precisely what the African ladies' collectives hope to achieve.

I appreciate that the Luke story is open to both interpretation and context but (very tongue in cheek) should we not make the ladies aware of the rich man's foolishness as further funds are distributed?

Colin Watson

Have you heard the tale of the old empty barn? Well there's nothing in it.

SERIOUS SPACE FILLER

Unfortunately we are very short of material from Lidgetters this month - in spite of Colin's gallant efforts. So, in an attempt to arouse interest I print this extract from Bishop Spong as he answers a correspondent who is an atheist.

I understand an atheist to be one who denies the existence of a theistic deity. not as one who denies the reality of anything beyond or higher than the human. That is a crucial distinction. A theistic God is, by definition, a supernatural external deity who is believed to come to our aid in time of need. That is what "theism" literally means. That definition, however, is a human creation, yet we assume that this definition and God are the same. Suppose we think of God, not as a being to whom we have to relate, but as a presence that can be experienced, but not defined, a presence understood as the source of life flowing through the universe, the source of love enhancing life in all its forms and the ground of being discovered when we have the courage to grasp and even to be what we most deeply are. God then becomes a verb, not a noun. Theism, as a definition of God is quite dead, but God, as the source of life, the source of love and the ground of being is not dead, at least not to me. I think Paul was right when he described God as that in which "I live and move and have my being." At that place both theism and atheism cease to be real and I walk into the mystery I call God.

John Spong

EVANGELISM AND METHODISTS

The Methodist Church is currently concentrating on evangelism and what it should look like in the modern world. We do tend to talk about "mission" without really defining what we think it should be. So here is a piece from the Methodist Church website to possibly make us think.

Good news has to be shared! Whether it be the birth of a grandchild, a win at football, or passing an exam, people want their friends to know about it so much that sometimes we describe them as 'bursting to speak'.

And what has 'good news' to do with evangelism? Well, that's literally what the original Greek word which we translate as "gospel" means.

Mark's Gospel begins: "The beginning of the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ, the Son of God". Methodists who have encountered the risen Lord Jesus in their lives have not wanted to keep him to themselves. They've wanted to share their good news.

They've found that when the Bible speaks of Jesus dying for the sins of the world, this only really makes sense when we can say "Christ died for my sins – even mine".

When Jesus prays for people to be forgiven, speaks of God's kingdom coming on earth, or talks of heaven as so valuable that nothing else matters – then this means good news for everybody, not just a chosen few.

God is reaching out to all creation. Methodists believe that God's mission is the reason the Church exists, and that **evangelism is at the heart of God's mission.**

Neil Cockling

Well I will probably get sacked for this but I have to be honest and say that the idea of Jesus dying for the sins of the world doesn't make any sense to me. I may be wrong but I think the Methodist Church contains a wide range of members ranging from fairly fundamentalist believers to some who don't really believe in God at all. I think that this is a good thing but it's something that is never addressed we just pretend we all believe the same things.

FOR ALL THE SAINTS by Edward Dodman

When I put things in as editor everyone assumes that I am either being frivolous or just saying outrageous things to arouse controversy. So this piece is under my "Sunday" name so that you know that it is entirely serious.

By the time you read this we should have just endured "Halloween", an import from the States which we could well have done without. But of course it is also All Saints Day when we are supposed to commemorate all those saints who have gone before us.

One thing that we have ceased largely to do in The Link over the past years has been to publish News from the Pews and tributes to departed members and friends. There are reasons for this but I think that it is very sad that we have not publicly recognised how grateful we are to some of the wonderful people who we have loved at Lidgett.

I have not been a member at Lidgett for all that long but in that time I have been inspired by many people who we have now lost. I am sure that all of you are equally grateful for having the love and friendship of such beautiful people. We can't name them all here but it seems an appropriate time to remember them and be thankful that we have known them.

Edward Dodman

THE SPACE FILLER

We still need it. So this month it's a movie quiz. What movies do the quotes come from?

We're going to need considerably bigger buns.

Is it still raining? I hadn't noticed.

You came in that thing. You're braver than I thought.

I'll be back

I know I have a heart because I feel it breaking.



for the month. I'm sorry but I go without paying tribute to the wonderful Leeds Rhinos. They continue to confound their critics – and even their supporters.

The next issue is the Joint Christmas and New Year issue so send in your joyful contributions as speedily as possible. I thought you might like an early reminder of Christmas. I know that preachers love to go on about it starting earlier each year and the "commercialization of Christmas" let's not be so miserable. It's a time for